

Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

#287



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Q1: OPTIONAL: This recommendation was submitted by (please provide your first and last name, affiliation, and email address)

First Name	Carmelita
Last Name	Cruz
Affiliation	Housing Works
Email Address	c.cruz1@housingworks.org

Q2: Title of your recommendation

Build networks of service providers and consumers statewide to monitor progress towards goals and re-establish regional relationships between consumers and providers

Q3: Please provide a description of your proposed recommendation

NYS was previously separated into various Ryan White Network regions and each region had its own work groups dedicated to community care and programming for those service providers receiving Ryan White funding. These networks provided a vehicle to support communication between both service providers and consumers of those services in each region. Through this open communication, many issues were addressed to increase the availability and the quality of services provided.

NYS DOH should create separate the state into regions, already established from the Ryan White Networks, and encourage those regions to set-up work groups composed of service providers and consumers. The goal of these groups would be to monitor progress towards the goals set by the Task Force, re-establish relationships between service providers and consumers and provide consumers a voice in this process and a role towards achieving an AIDS-Free NY by 2020. Absent enhanced consumer involvement, the goals of reducing new HIV infections and deaths attributable to AIDS will not be achieved.

Q4: For which goal outlined in the Governor's plan to end the epidemic in New York State does this recommendation apply? (Select all that apply)

Identifying persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and linking them to health care

Linking and retaining persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and getting them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission

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Q5: This recommendation should be considered by the following Ending the Epidemic Task Force Committee (Select all that apply)

Housing and Supportive Services Committee:
Develop recommendations that strengthen proven interventions enabling optimal engagement and linkage and retention in care for those most in need. This Committee will recommend interventions that effectively address complex and intersecting health and social conditions and reduce health disparities, particularly among New York's low-income and most vulnerable and marginalized residents. These interventions will diminish barriers to care and enhance access to care and treatment leaving no subpopulation behind.

Q6: Does this recommendation require a change to an existing policy or program, or the creation of a new policy or program?

Change to existing program

Q7: Would implementation of this recommendation be permitted under current laws or would a statutory change be required?

Permitted under current law

Q8: Is this recommendation something that could feasibly be implemented in the short-term (within the next year) or long-term (within the next three to six years)?

Within the next year

Q9: What are the perceived benefits of implementing this recommendation?

Enhanced communication between service providers and consumers, which is essential to meet the goals to end the AIDS epidemic in NY. Partnerships between regional service providers and consumers will allow for tracking of the goals set by the Task Force. Consumer involvement in program development and tracking ensures that the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS in each region are addressed by people living in that specific region. No one policy or program will meet the needs of all New Yorker's because of the differences in each of our communities statewide.

Reintroducing consumer involvement into HIV/AIDS care in New York also provides leadership opportunities for people living HIV/AIDS to become their own advocates and advocate for the rights of other members of their community.

Q10: Are there any concerns with implementing this recommendation that should be considered?

None.

Q11: What is the estimated cost of implementing this recommendation and how was this estimate calculated?

The cost of implementing this program will depend upon the amount of work the Dept of Health would expect from its members. However, costs would probably be similar to the cost of the Ryan White Networks.

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Q12: What is the estimated return on investment (ROI) for this recommendation and how was the ROI calculated?

Better health care and health outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS. A method for constant tracking of the goals set by the Task Force. Consumer involvement in program development in each region to ensure that programming meets the needs of the people in each region.

Q13: Who are the key individuals/stakeholders who would benefit from this recommendation?

People living with HIV/AIDS. Service providers statewide. NYS DOH/AIDS Institute.

Q14: Are there suggested measures to accompany this recommendation that would assist in monitoring its impact?

Once goals are set, guidelines and methods of tracking progress should be developed. NYS DOH AI staff should be assigned to work with each region to ensure that the groups established have all of the necessary information needed to function effectively as well as a method by which these groups can impact funding/programming for things that are or aren't working in each region through a needs assessment/program assessment each year.

Q15: This recommendation was submitted by one of the following Advocate