

THE TIME IS

NOW

END THE EPIDEMICS

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE (CHII): ADDRESSING HIV-RELATED HEALTH INEQUITIES FOR BLACK GBM



TARGET POPULATION

Community-based organizations and Federally Qualified Health Centers engaging Black GBM in HIV services



LOCATION

Indianapolis, IN



PROGRAM DESIGN

Learning Collaborative



ESTIMATED COST

\$34,749



FUNDING SOURCE

Indiana State Resources

SUMMARY

In response to inequitable HIV outcomes among Black gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBM), the Indiana State Department of Health coordinated a Learning Collaborative called the Community Health Improvement Initiative (CHII) in collaboration with the BU Wellness Network, the Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis, and the Midwest AIDS Education and Training Center. Leaders from counties with the highest prevalence rates of Black GBM were prioritized in the program roll-out, totaling 50 participants from 4 regions of the state of Indiana who mostly identify as White. The Learning Collaborative offered sessions in person and via webinar to bolster best practices and methods to engage and retain Black GBM in culturally responsive and affirming care.

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BACKGROUND

A team of experts at the Indiana State Department of Health, a local CBO, and health foundation serve as faculty and developers of the Community Health Improvement Initiative (CHII). Statewide focus groups were conducted at organizations across Indiana to assess specific HIV prevention and care needs of Black gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBM) and alignment with the services offered with the providers in their respective county. Data were collected, analyzed and used to develop learning session topics to address the needs of Black GBM. Organizations from counties indicating highest prevalence of Black GBM living with HIV were invited to participate in the learning collaborative. Each organizational leader signed an agreement to participate and to develop and implement a quality improvement project throughout the learning collaborative. The collaborative includes 13 sessions both in-person and webinar-based, and all are facilitated by national subject matter experts.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Upon completion, participants will have an opportunity to learn:

- Best practices to increase cultural mindfulness of service providers who work with Black GBM.
- Methods to engage and retain Black GBM in HIV prevention and treatment services.
- Strategies that were used to employ evidence-based practices in Indiana.
- Organizational and leadership behavior change as it relates to addressing health equity.
- Strategies to increase statewide (or multi-regional) collaboration among HIV service providers.
- Development, implementation, and accountability management in quality improvement projects.

Outcomes from the collaborative are forthcoming, as the Initiative is ongoing through August 2020. Capstone projects from participants are grounded in Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) quality improvement methodology. Capstone projects vary by participant site and programmatic need. Results will be made available to the public at the conclusion of the Initiative.

DATA

This initiative includes 50 participants from 4 regions of the state of Indiana who mostly identify as White. The regions include Allen County, Lake County, Marion County, and St. Joseph County. The initiative is 13 sessions, both in-person and webinar-based; One session occurs each month. All sessions are facilitated by national subject matter experts. As of February 2020, participants have completed seven of the 13 sessions.

EVALUATION

At the conclusion of each learning session, participants receive an electronic evaluation form to evaluate the speakers, effectiveness of the session, and the relevancy of the session. The Midwest AIDS Education and Training Center (MAETC) provided the use of their evaluation system for the purposes of evaluating Initiative sessions.

FUNDING AND COST

The Initiative was funded through The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis with funds granted by Indiana Community Action Groups (CAGs). The funding totaled \$34,749. The Health Foundation has functioned as the fiscal agent for the entirety of the Initiative. The largest portion of the funding was used to cover speaker costs for each CHII session. For in-person sessions, the cost of flights, hotel stays, and speakers' honoraria are expensed from the budget. For webinar sessions, only a speaker's honorarium is expensed. All food for in-person sessions is funded by a collaboration with the Midwest AIDS Education and Training Center.

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STRENGTHS

Learning collaboratives are effective methods to aid health practitioners increase provider health literacy. Learning collaboratives facilitate opportunities for sharing ideas, collaboration, and enhanced partnerships to achieve shared outcomes.

LIMITATIONS

Participants in learning collaboratives must develop sustainability plans to work toward providing optimal services. Creating plans to enhance service delivery with Black GBM can be time-intensive and costly; but ultimately beneficial to organizations and most importantly their clients.

STAKEHOLDERS

A team of experts from the Indiana State Department of Health, BU Wellness Network, and The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis serve as faculty and developers of the CHII. Faculty members initially included one White and two Black cisgender gay and bisexual men, and two Black cisgender heterosexual women. Other partners that have been invaluable to this initiative are The Midwest AIDS Education and Training Center, the Black gay and bisexual men living with HIV from the focus group who informed the initiative, and all of the initiative participants and their respective agencies.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

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