



Early Intervention Services and Outreach (EISO)

This fact sheet contains highlights from a Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) recipient on the Early Intervention Services and Outreach (EISO) intervention, designed to facilitate prioritization of HIV testing and linkage to care among people with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Oregon.

INTERVENTION OVERVIEW: This intervention seeks to ensure persons with HIV and STIs in Oregon have access to high-quality care, free from stigma and discrimination.

PRIORITY POPULATION: Low-income persons with/at risk for HIV and STIs

ORGANIZATIONAL SETTING: Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs) of 12 Oregon counties and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (Oregon)

FUNDING SOURCE(S): Funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) RWHAP Part B was allocated towards this project

INTERVENTION PURPOSE/GOAL: This intervention aims to eliminate new HIV and STI infections through testing, prevention, treatment, and responding to end inequities.

INTERVENTION SUCCESSES: In 2021, all persons in EISO counties identified with HIV and rectal gonorrhea (n=174), and early syphilis (n=1,900) were enrolled in EISO services.

- 76 percent of persons with a new HIV diagnosis enrolled in EISO were linked to care in 30 days or less.
- 75 percent of EISO clients were linked to HIV case management.
- 62 percent of participants reached viral suppression within six months.
- 22 percent of HIV cases in EISO counties had delayed diagnosis, a decrease from 33 percent from 2013–2017.

SUSTAINABILITY: To ensure the long-term sustainability of the EISO intervention, the following must be considered:

Ensure community needs are met. Work with community partners to ensure that HIV and STI EISO activities meet community needs. Use data to direct staffing, evaluation, and financial decisions related to testing, prevention, clinical, and behavioral services for clients.

Utilize all available funding streams. Examine existing funding streams to identify which can be leveraged to support EISO services. Identify clinical services that may be billed to Medicaid and private payers. Review budgets to ensure that staffing and services are not already funded by other sources.

Consider frontloading capacity building costs. This facilitates rapid infrastructure installation including onboarding and training of staff, and recruitment and installation of laboratory testing vendors and procedures.



INTERVENTION CORE ELEMENTS:

Identify your priority populations and their needs.

Review state and local data to identify populations most impacted by HIV and STIs and assess their current clinical, behavioral, and wraparound service needs.

Assess staff capacity and training needs. Review current staffing levels, identifying internal staff experienced in engaging people with HIV and/or STIs, and recruit new staff as needed. Assess gaps in training to determine whether employees understand the community's needs around linkage to and retention in HIV and/or STI medical care.

Build relationships. Provide complete access and linkage to care for patients by building partnerships across sectors, such as Federal partners, community-based organizations, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).

Develop an outreach strategy. Develop a user-focused outreach strategy, placing advertisements in social media channels, websites, and physical locations frequented by the priority population(s).

Testing. Increase HIV and STI testing hours and locations and leverage existing testing and harm reduction services.

Access and linkage to care/referral services. Link persons who have previously or recently received an HIV or STI diagnosis to health education, medical care, and case management, facilitating engagement in HIV and STI treatment, and PrEP, as appropriate.



INTERVENTION STAFFING:

- **EISO Supervisor/Manager:** Implements policy updates, procedures, and protocols for staff recruitment and training and program monitoring; establishes a Community Advisory Board; recruits and engages community-based partners.
- **Regional EISO Project Coordinator:** Engages community partners to increase awareness and testing for HIV and STIs. Facilitates staff training; creates and manages the program's comprehensive resource manual system; and oversees the program's marketing.
- **Disease Intervention Specialist Public Health Nurse:** Delivers timely HIV, syphilis, and gonorrhea case investigation and partner services, including EISO enrollment and referral services for persons newly diagnosed with HIV or an STI(s).
- **Nurse Practitioner/Prescribing Clinician:** Provides underserved clients diagnosed with HIV and/or STIs enhanced EISO services; assists with provider management; and facilitates onsite testing.

- **Data Analyst (HIV/STI Epidemiologist):** Facilitates data management, quality assurance, and reporting, standardizing data collection methods to bolster program performance.



IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES:

Integrating STI/HIV testing and PrEP referrals. Create a dynamic testing and warm service referral framework through partnerships with community organizations and clinical, behavioral, and wraparound service providers.

Resource-intensive partner services. Partner services can be resource-intensive and vary during times of external stress (e.g., COVID-19 pandemic, weather-related emergencies). Ensure that you and your partner organizations establish uniform service tracking and data collection mechanisms.

Using old technologies. Consider leveraging digital approaches to facilitate access to and tracking of EISO services. Digital partner services (DPS), for example, include websites, texting, apps, and other tools to facilitate HIV/STI case investigations.

Client engagement. Partner with organizations with extensive reach in your communities of interest to increase recruitment. EISO programs with few new HIV or STI diagnoses can leverage their resources to augment and modernize their public health and infectious disease infrastructure.

Resources/inequities. Identify additional gaps and opportunities around HIV and STI testing within your priority population(s). Build internal and partner organization capacity to meet client needs by providing additional technical assistance and training.

RESOURCES:

EISO Logic Model: targethiv.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-10/EISO_Logic_Model_2020.pdf

EISO Strategy Map: https://targethiv.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-10/EISO_Strategy_Map_Overall_Project_2020.pdf

Oregon Health Authority HIV Detection & Response Q&A: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/HIVSTDVIRALHEPATITIS/HIVPREVENTION/Documents/HIVDetectionResponseQA.pdf>

HRSA IHIP EISO Intervention Implementation Guide: <https://targethiv.org/ihip/eiso>