



VIRTUAL  
**2020 NATIONAL**  
**RYAN WHITE**  
**CONFERENCE ON**  
HIV CARE & TREATMENT

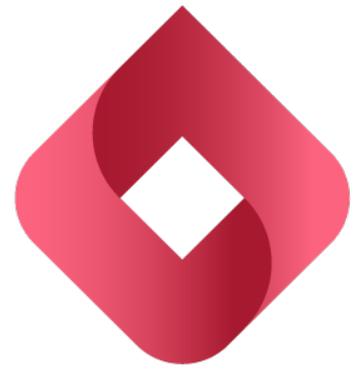
# Bridging Prevention and Care:

The Impact of Starting STI Treatment in a Patient-Centered HIV Medical Home

# Learning Objectives



1. Participants will understand the benefit of providing STI testing and treatment combined with HIV prevention in order to impact early identification services.
2. Participants will learn the key components that need to be addressed when building STI testing and treatment for prevention clients within an HIV medical home.
3. Participants will learn strategies to replicate STI testing and treatment models within their own community.



**vivent**health

Removing  
Stigma:  
Changing  
Our Name

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AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

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Rocky Mountain Cares

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St. Louis Effort for AIDS

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AIDS Services of Austin

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Additional expansion planned

A black and white photograph of a man with short, curly hair and glasses, smiling broadly. He is wearing a dark-colored shirt. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting with other people.

THE NEW  
FACE  
OF HIV  
IS THRIV-  
ING

# Thriving. Together.



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- Viv: to live
- Ent: prevent





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thrive. together.



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## Vision:

Vivent Health envisions a world without AIDS and strives to ensure everyone with HIV lives a long and healthy life.

## Mission:

To be a relentless champion for people affected by HIV and do all we can to help them thrive, because we believe every person has value and should be treated with respect.



# OPTIMISM

E

+

M

M



# People

Every person has  
value and should  
be treated with  
respect



# VIVENT HEALTH HIV MEDICAL HOME



**PATIENT-CENTERED CARE**



**LEARN MORE AT**

[viventhealth.org](http://viventhealth.org)



The Vivent Health HIV Medical Home features our full-service pharmacies, and integrates medical, dental and mental health care with case management and social services provided by a team of professionals dedicated to patient care. We are pleased to provide all this care to you directly or in collaboration with our key partners.

## MEDICAL

High-quality, integrated primary care and HIV treatment customized to meet individual needs of people living with HIV to ensure the best clinical outcomes.

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Inclusive individual and group therapy, psychiatry, drug treatment and neuropsychological testing to improve quality of life and overall wellness.

## PHARMACY

Full-service pharmacy where all prescriptions are filled, regardless of ability to pay, in addition to in-depth education, adherence counseling, home delivery and financial assistance.

## DENTAL

Full range of dentistry services to restore the health, smiles and confidence of people living with HIV.

## LEGAL

Dedicated representation to make sure people living with HIV are treated fairly and their rights are protected, including appeals of the denial of public and private benefits, cases of discrimination and advance directives.

## CASE MANAGEMENT

Assist people living with HIV with access to quality health care, affordable medications, enrollment in benefit programs, housing, food, legal and other community resources.

## HOUSING

Provide residential housing, rent and utility assistance to people living with HIV so they can have safe, stable and affordable options.

## FOOD

Access to healthy and delicious food to ensure good nutrition for people living with HIV so they can thrive.

# HIV Medical Home



- Created in 2011
  - Only HIV medical home in America recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Outstanding health outcomes
  - More than 92% of patients achieving durable viral suppression
  - Racial disparities in viral suppression have decreased from 14% in 2014 to less than 6% today
  - 94% of patients are retained in regular care
  - 99% of patients have been prescribed ARV's

# Access - 2019



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## In Wisconsin

4,634 people with HIV

## In Colorado

1,488 people with HIV

## In Missouri

2,719 people with HIV



# Quality of Life Outcomes

- Center for Health Systems Research and Analysis found that Vivent Health patients have:
  - 52% lower hospitalization rates
  - 48% lower unnecessary use of the emergency room
  - 10% shorter hospital stays



# Financial Outcomes

State of Wisconsin  
Medicaid program  
annually saves  
approximately \$4  
million because of  
the quality of care  
patients receive at  
the Vivent Health  
Medical Home



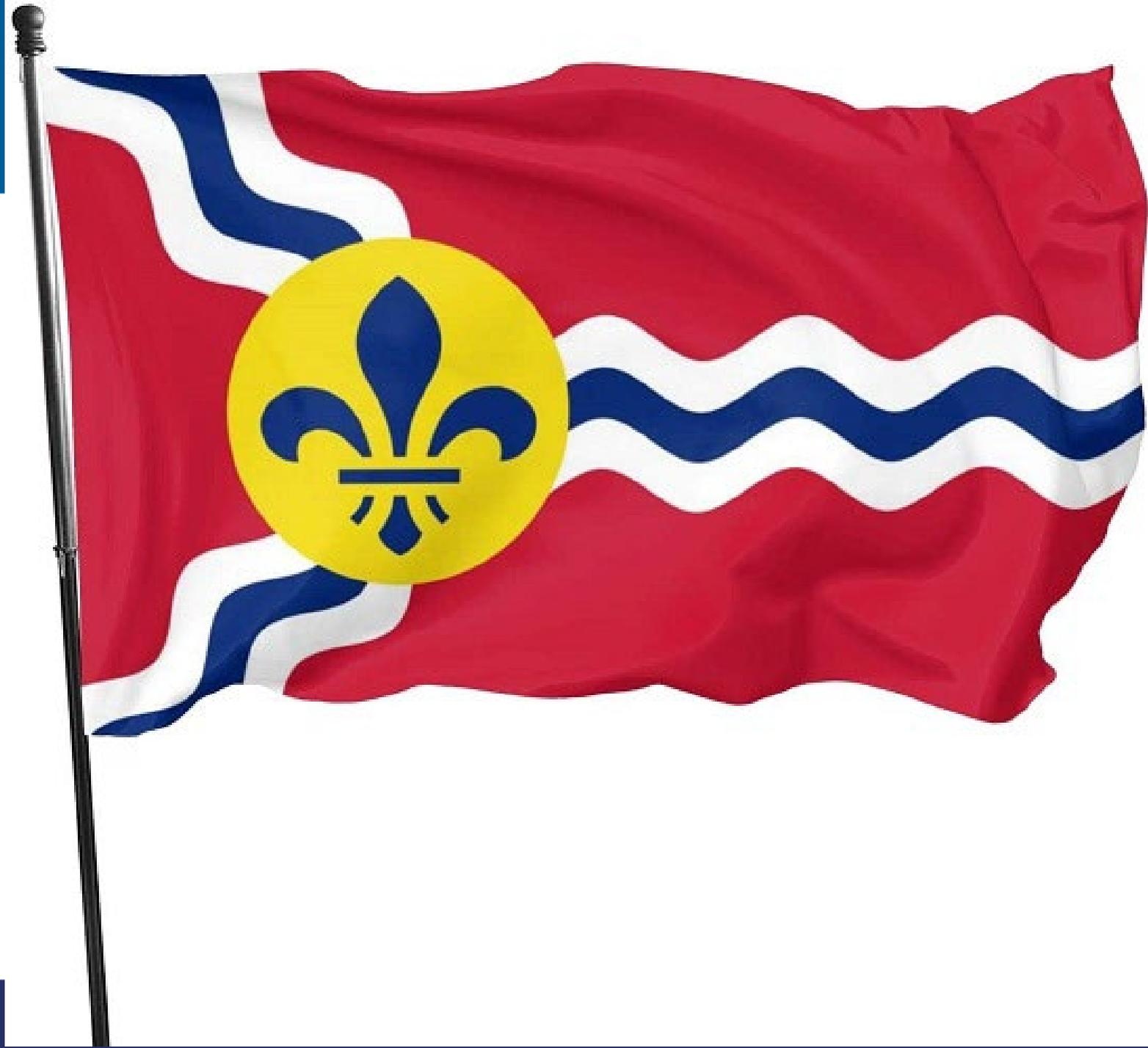
# Learning objective 1



- Participants will understand the benefit of providing STI testing and treatment combined with HIV prevention in order to impact early identification services.

# STIs in St. Louis

- According to a 2019 CDC report, STL is ranked #1 nationally in rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia, #4 for syphilis (...sort of)
- Limited access to free/affordable STI treatment



# Vivent Health St. Louis's STI Treatment Program



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- **Free STI treatment for all**
- **Collaboration between Prevention Services, Clinic, and when needed, Case Management**



# Vivent Health St. Louis's STI Treatment Program



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- **MOU with Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)**
- **DHSS will provide free medication; Vivent Health will maintain storage and usage logs, submit reports, and have site visits from DHSS auditors**



# Vivent Health St. Louis's STI Treatment Program



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- Elected to work out a workflow and treatment algorithm before accepting the free medication and policies/procedures specified by the State
- Currently we are self-funding the program
- In less than 4 months we have treated 182 patients for STIs



# We Offer:

- **STI treatment for known contacts and those with positive test results**
- **Presumptive treatment based on signs/symptoms**
- **Expedited partner therapy**
- **HIV rapid test administered before patient receives STI treatment (if appropriate)**



# Outcomes



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- **Prevention staff is now integrated into the work of the clinic**
- **Improvements in staff's STI knowledge and ability to provide effective, client-centered risk reduction counseling**



# Outcomes

- **Dramatic increase in HIV positivity rate**
- **In less than 4 months we have found 5 new cases of HIV by testing STI treatment patients (2.75% positivity rate)**
- **4 linked to HIV care onsite on the same day, 1 linked onsite within 3 days**
- **Ensures we meet Prevention grant deliverables and allows us to write more persuasive grant applications for Prevention and EIS funding**



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## Outcomes

- **Even self-funding STI treatment we recoup costs of the program**
- **All 5 of the STI treatment patients who tested positive for HIV became regular patients of our clinic and fill their prescriptions at our pharmacy**
- **15 STI treatment patients who tested negative for HIV have become PrEP patients at our clinic and use our pharmacy**



## Outcomes

**Most important are the benefits patients receive**

- **Patients are returning for future HIV/STI testing...and STI treatment**
- **The convenience of receiving care at a one-stop shop**
- **Seamless transition from HIV/STI testing to STI treatment to PrEP or linkage to HIV care when needed**



# Learning objective 2



- Participants will learn the key components that need to be addressed when building STI testing and treatment for prevention clients within an HIV medical home.

# Key components

- Multi-disciplinary partnerships
- Financial support
- Logistical work flow
- Communication
- Training, implementing and re-evaluating
- Unanticipated barriers



# Multi-disciplinary partnerships



- External to Vivent Health
  - Wisconsin Department of Health Services
  - City of Milwaukee Health Department
- Internal to Vivent Health
  - Prevention team
  - Medical providers
  - Nursing team
  - PSRs

# Financial support



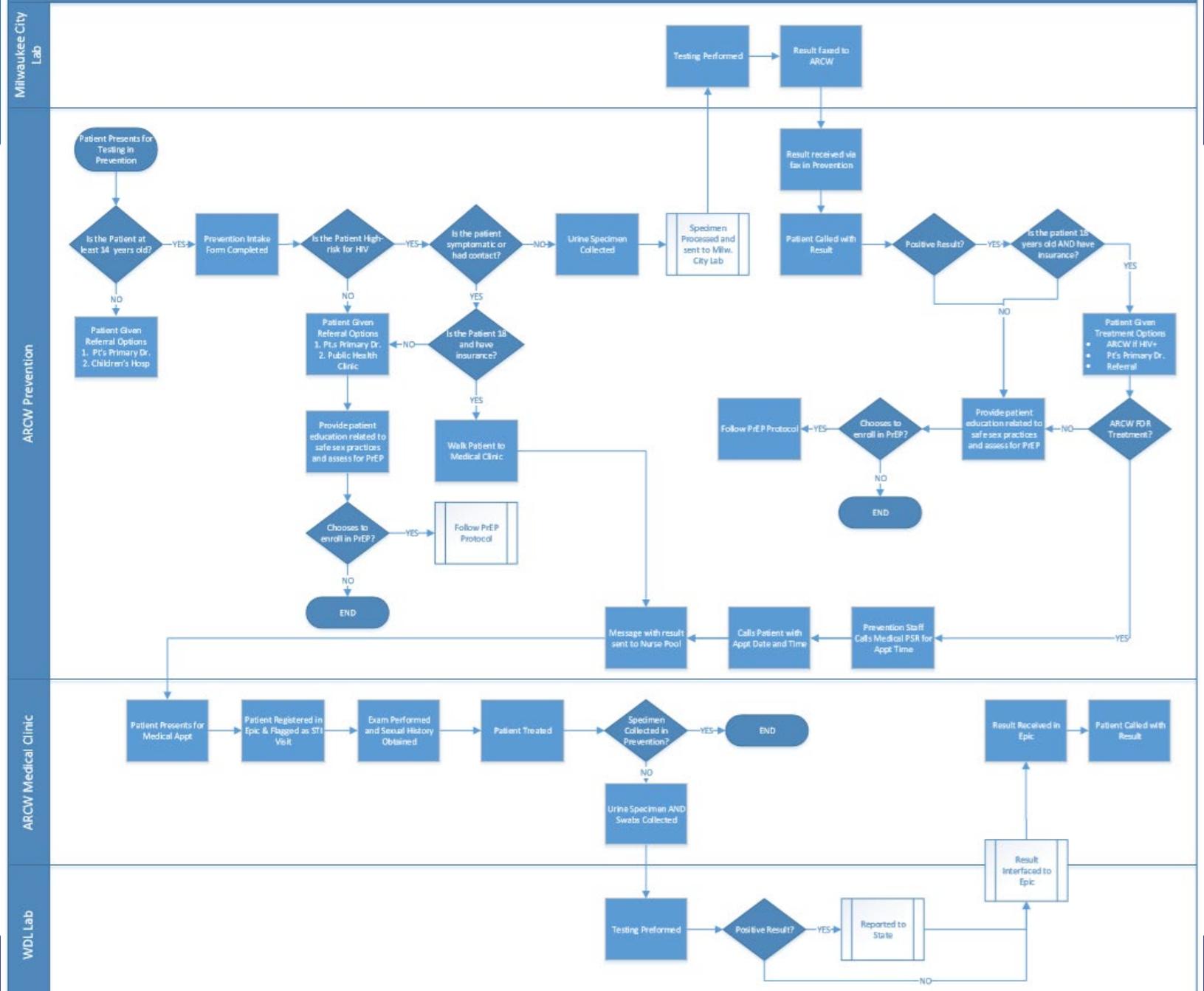
- External partners cover the cost of testing
- Internally insurance covers the cost of treatment
  - Over the age of 18
  - Currently insured

# Communication is critical



- Engagement from all departments is important
- All players need to understand the why
- All players need to understand the process
- All players need to know the implementation date
- All players need to know who to go to if/when challenges arise

# Logistical work flow



# Work flow key components



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- Eligibility
  - HIV risk
  - Over the age of 18
  - Insured
- Positive test results
- Symptomatic patients
- PrEP
- Communication processes across departments
- Lab process in prevention and medical



# Training, Implementing, Re-evaluating



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- Determine if/what additional training is needed
- Test the new work flow and collect information
- Review data collected and re-evaluate



# Unanticipated challenges



- Insurance
  - A picture of insurance needs is now submitted with their initial test results
- Test results vs symptomatic
  - Test results sent to the “Nurse pool” email
  - What happens for those who are symptomatic and do not have a test result?
- Ongoing communication among all departments – not our “usual” programming

# Learning objective 3



- Participants will learn strategies to replicate STI testing and treatment models within their own community.

# Key components

- Explore your community's needs
- Identify current gaps in STI/HIV services within community
- Explore your internal needs and readiness
- Create a plan!
- Evaluate and re-evaluate to determine improvements needed



# Community needs in Denver, CO



- STI rates are increasing in the United States and in Colorado. The latest HAN indicated a sharp increase in STI's compared to 2018 data will indicated: 32.5% increase in the rate of syphilis (all stages), a 6.4% increase in the rate of chlamydia; and a 3.3% increase in the rate of gonorrhea in Colorado from 2017 to 2018. Preliminary data indicates dual diagnosis with STIs and HIV, especially for syphilis.
- Limited number of free STI testing sites throughout Colorado
- Identified need of individuals seeking STI and HIV testing at same visit
- The Colorado Department Public of Health and Environment released funding to expand triple site STI testing and linkage to treatment and care

# New funding opportunity for STI testing in Denver



- Two Prevention Specialists at .5 FTE
- One nurse at .25 FTE
- One Data Analyst at .10 FTE
- Social media marketing \$; ads to run on Grindr, Facebook, Instagram
- Materials are in-kind
- Using the state's laboratory to run specimen

# Checklist



1. Community needs assessment; data, data, data
2. Internal agency assessment to determine capacity and infrastructure

# ...Checklist



### **3. Identify key players and partnerships to implement the program and gain input and insight**

- Assess your partnerships
- Establish needed partnerships
- Ask the community for their input



### **4. Explore funding opportunities**

# ...Checklist



## 5. Determine staff training needs and create a training plan

- Swab testing: pharyngeal and uranalysis
- STI knowledge
- Community resources

## 6. Identify your data needs

- What data do you need and want collect?
- What might be helpful for future funding?
- Do you need an electronic system? Will you keep paper charts?

## 7. Identify laboratory to run specimen

# ...Checklist



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8. Plan to test on-site or within community *or both!*

- Will you test at your site?
- Will you test off-site at a shelter, treatment facility, bar, university?
- At events?
- Mobile unit?

9. Create testing workflow as needed

- How will specimen get to lab?
- How will specimen be transported by staff off-site?



## ...Checklist

10. Create internal or external linkage-to-care process

- Who will you refer out to? Create warm hand-offs for your clients

11. Determine how you will market services

- Grindr, Facebook, Instagram – set your cost, demographics, zip codes
- Social networking strategy
- Community partners
- Printed materials, website update, social media pages
- Canva.com is a great, free/low-cost option for creating ads and flyers



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# Key take-aways



**ASSESS HOW THIS WILL FIT INTO  
YOUR CURRENT PROGRAM & ASSESS  
COMMUNITY NEEDS**



**CONNECT WITH YOUR PARTNERS,  
GAIN INSIGHT FROM COMMUNITY,  
SECURE NEEDED FUNDING**



**CREATE A PLAN**



**EVALUATE AND RE-EVALUATE**



# Thank you

- Kristen Grimes, Director of Wisconsin Prevention Services, [Kristen.grimes@viventhealth.org](mailto:Kristen.grimes@viventhealth.org)
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