Using the ECHO Model for Implementation of Rapid ART Initiation

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BACKGROUND

- In the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) plan comes a shift in management and care for people with HIV (PWH)

- One pillar of the EHE plan is to treat PWH rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression via Rapid Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) initiation

- Recent programs, nationally and internationally, have changed practices to Rapid ART protocols, also referred to as Test and Treat, which initiate treatment either same day or within a few days of diagnosis or entry into care

- Many clinics have not developed or implemented active protocols due to funding and logistical implementation barriers

- Widespread initiation of such protocols is needed in Harris County, Texas, one of the 48 counties identified with the highest HIV burden in the US (26,385 PWH; greater than 1,000 new HIV infections annually)[1,2]

OBJECTIVE

The ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) Rapid Start program will:

- facilitate the development of HIV Rapid ART initiation protocols

- provide technical assistance during the clinical implementation of these protocols

- assess and share lessons learned among different clinics in implementing Rapid ART

INTERVENTION

The Baylor College of Medicine-Houston South Central AIDS Education Training Center (SCAETC) and the Ryan White Grant Administration, Harris County Public Health, will utilize the ECHO model to help develop and implement Rapid ART initiation protocols among Ryan White Part A clinics in Harris County, Texas

FIGURES

ECHO MODEL FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Adopting ECHO Project Model®

Picture: echo.umn.edu

People need access to specialty care for their complex health conditions.

There aren't enough specialists to treat everyone who needs care, especially in rural and underserved communities.

ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) Model®
ECHO trains primary care clinicians to provide specialty care services. This means more people can get the care they need.

Patients get the right care, in the right place, at the right time. This improves outcomes and reduces costs.

Adopting ECHO Project Model® for Rapid ART Initiation

People newly diagnosed with HIV need to initiate treatment either same day, or within 72 hours of diagnosis / entry into care.

Many clinics lack active Rapid ART protocols due to funding, and logistical implementation barriers.

ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) Model®
BCM-Houston SCAETC ECHO site will provide technical assistance and training to implement Rapid ART protocols.

Patients with HIV will have access to rapid ART. This improves health outcomes, increases HIV viral suppression, and supports the goals of the EHE plan.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Community Health Workers · Providers · Nurse Practitioners · Administrators · Pharmacists · Medical Assistants · Social Workers · HIV Service Linkage Workers · Nurse Professionals · HIV Medical Case Managers

HIV Care Continuum
HIV Diagnosis → Linkage to Care → Engage and Retain in Care → ART Initiation → Achieve Viral Suppression

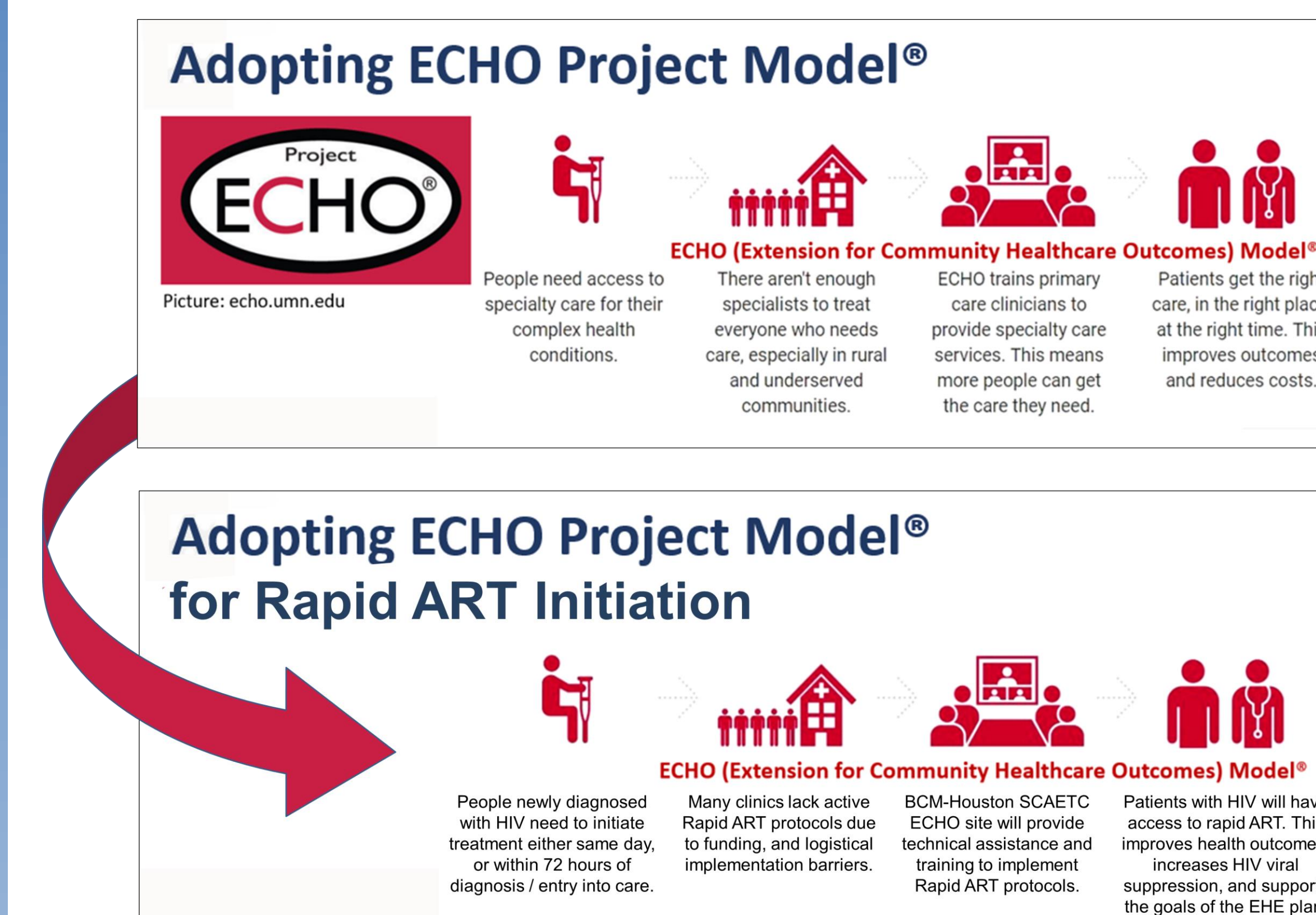### ECHO RAPID ART PARTNER SITES

RESULTS

- The primary goal of the ECHO model will be to provide technical assistance and education during the development and implementation of the Rapid ART initiation protocols in Houston Ryan White Part A clinics

- To achieve this, we will engage and train diverse teams of healthcare professionals through ECHO sessions in the coming year
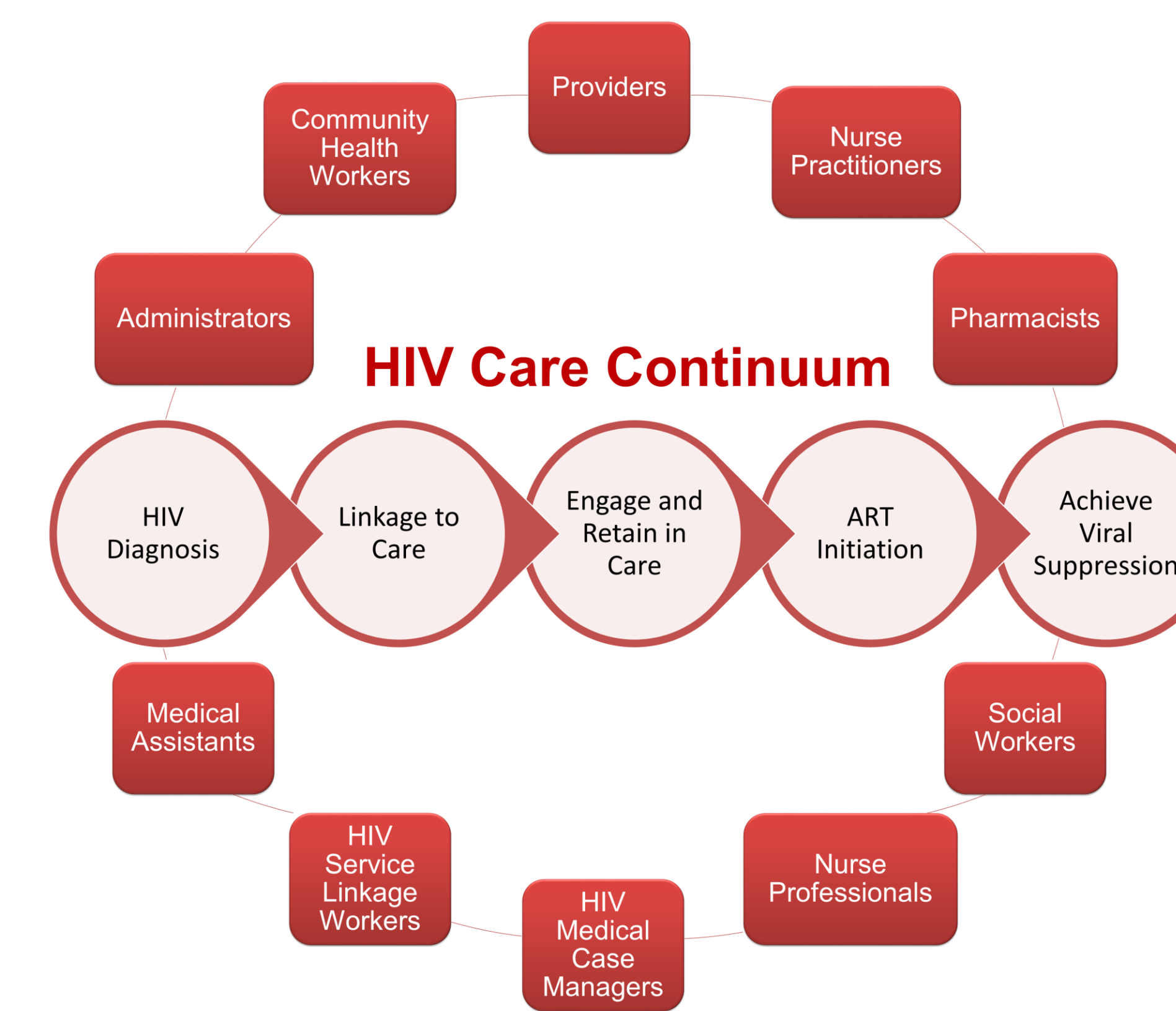
CONCLUSION

- ECHO is a distance-learning telehealth model that increases access to care management and medical education for health professionals

- The ECHO model will engage health professional staff in a continuous learning system for sharing best practices and facilitate telementoring partnerships

- The ECHO model will support the goals of the EHE plan by developing a community of practice to find solutions for barriers to initiating and maintaining Rapid ART programs
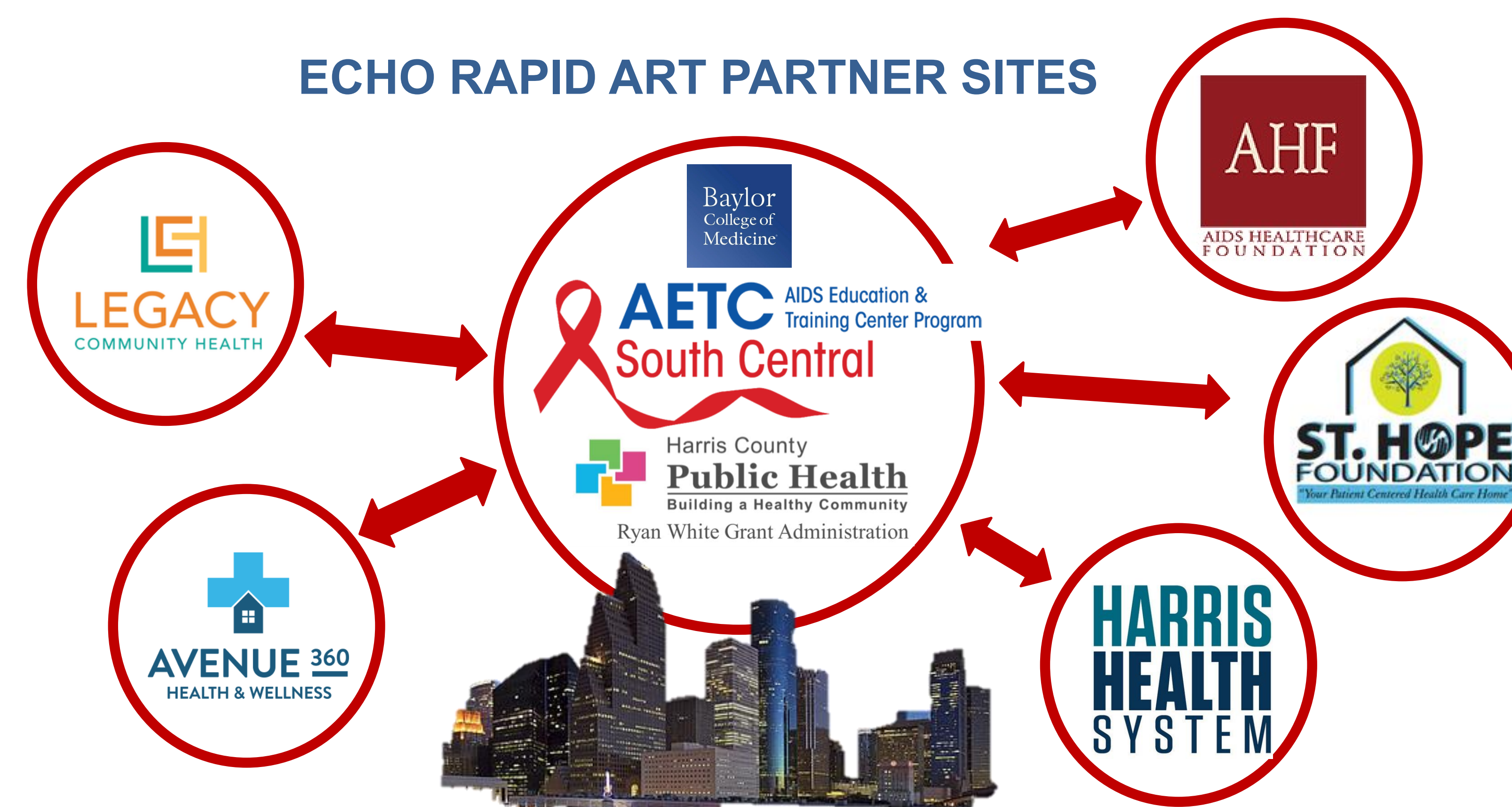
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