

Quick Reference Handout 4.1: Needs Assessment—Putting the Pieces Together

The Purpose of Needs Assessment

Learn about PLWH who need services, what services they need, their experiences in seeking care, and their barriers to care



Learn about HIV core medical and support service providers in the service area, where they are located, what services they can provide, and what PLWH groups they target and serve



Use what you have learned to determine gaps, make data-based decisions that improve the availability, accessibility, and appropriateness of services for PLWH in your service area—and to work towards equal access to quality care for all PLWH regardless of who they are or where they live

Putting the Pieces Together: Needs Assessment Components

I. Information You Receive from State or Local Surveillance Staff and Use in Assessing Needs

What do you need to find out?	What is this part of the needs assessment called?
Number of people in your service area (EMA or TGA) who are living with HIV disease	
- Who they are—age, race/ethnicity, gender, risk factor, year of diagnosis	Epidemiologic Profile
 Where they live 	
Number of people living with HIV in your service area who know their status but are not receiving HIV medical care	
 How many people are out of care 	Estimate of Unmet Need
 Who they are and where they live, based on surveillance data 	
Number of people living with HIV in your service area who are unaware of their status	
 Estimate of how many people have HIV but are unaware 	Estimate of PLWH Who are
 Who we think they are—age, race/ethnicity, gender, risk factor—and where we think they are most likely to live based on surveillance data 	Unaware of their Status

II. Information You Obtain through Your Needs Assessment

What do you need to find out?	What is this part of the needs assessment called?
For all PLWH in your service area:	Assessment of Service Needs and Barriers
 Their service needs 	
Their experiences in getting care	
 What barriers they face 	
 What needed services they haven't been able to get 	
• For people living with HIV who know their status but are not in care:	
 Why they are not in care 	
 What is needed to help them enter and stay in care 	
Provider Information—for All HIV-related Core Medical and Support Service Providers in Your Service Area	
 Who they are 	 Resource Inventory
 What services they provide 	nessure inventory
 Where they are located 	
Provider Information—for All HIV-related Core Medical and Support Service Providers in Your Service Area	Profile of Provider Capacity and Capability
 Who they serve 	
 How much of the services they can provide 	
 How easy is it for PLWH to access their services—location, hours, disability-accessible facilities 	
 How appropriate the services are for various groups of PLWH—based on race/ethnicity, language, gender/gender identity, sexual orientation, age 	

III. Review and Analysis of Information from All Sources

What do you need to find out?	What is this part of the needs assessment called?
Assess service needs and gaps by reviewing and comparing the data from:	Assessment of Service Needs and Gaps
Surveillance-related data from recipient/surveillance staff:	
— Epi Profile	
 Estimate of Unmet Need 	
 Estimate of PLWH Who are Unaware of their Status 	
 Information gathered by the PC/PB: 	
 Assessment of PLWH Service Needs and barriers 	
 Resource Inventory 	
 Profile of Provider Capacity and Capability 	
Other data on service utilization and client characteristics	

What do you need to find out?	What is this part of the needs assessment called?
Provider Information—for All HIV-related Core Medical and Support Service Providers in Your Service Area	
Who they are	Resource Inventory
What services they provide	
Where they are located	
Provider Information—for All HIV-related Core Medical and Support Service Providers in Your Service Area	
Who they serve	
 How much of the services they can provide 	Profile of Provider Capacity and Capability
 How easy is it for PLWH to access their services—location, hours, disability-accessible facilities 	
How appropriate the services are for various groups of PLWH—based on race/ethnicity, language, gender/gender identity, sexual orientation, age	

This resource was prepared by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. and EGM Consulting, LLC, and supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number U69HA30795: Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Planning Council and Transitional Grant Area Planning Body Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.





