End AIDS Washington

On December 1, 2014, World AIDS Day, Governor Inslee issued a proclamation to end AIDS in Washington. He set ambitious goals: reduce new HIV diagnoses by 50 percent in 2020 and reduce disparities in health outcomes for people living with HIV (PLWH). He also tasked the HIV Planning and Steering Group (HPSG), a statewide HIV treatment and prevention planning body, with developing recommendations on how the state can achieve these goals.

Recommendations

Building on the existing HIV treatment and prevention efforts in Washington’s public and private sectors, the HPSG focused on developing new End AIDS Washington (EAW) recommendations that would expand on existing efforts. The recommendations depend on continuing current efforts and will not replace HIV programs and interventions currently in place.

The five goals that will end AIDS in Washington:

1. Reduce by 50 percent the rate of new HIV diagnoses.
2. Increase to 80 percent the percentage of PLWH who have a suppressed viral load.
3. Reduce by 25 percent the age-adjusted mortality rates for PLWA.
4. Reduce HIV-related health disparities among PLWA.
5. Improve quality of life for PLWH.

To achieve these goals, we will:

1. Identify and reduce HIV stigma
2. Reduce HIV-related disparities
3. Implement routine HIV testing
4. Increase access to pre-exposure prophylaxis
5. Create health care that meets the needs of sexual minorities
6. Improve HIV services for substance users
7. Remove barriers in insurance and increase health care affordability
8. Increase access to safe, stable, affordable housing
9. Deliver whole-person health care to PLWH
10. Launch Healthier Washington for Youth
11. Include meaningful community engagement

Successful implementation of EAW requires collaboration with many partners, including:

- PLWH and communities affected by HIV
- Governor’s Office and Executive Agencies
- Washington State Legislature
- Healthcare Organizations and Systems
- Offices of Statewide Elected Officials
- Affordable Housing Sector
- Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJ), Local Governments, and Service Providers

Conclusion

We are positioned to end AIDS in Washington. By maintaining our state’s present efforts, prioritizing communities of color and other underserved populations, and galvanizing communities to put these EAW recommendations into action, Washington will cut the HIV diagnosis rate in half by 2020, reduce HIV-related disparities, and significantly improve the health and well-being of PLWH.

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