

# Director's Update

Division of STD Prevention | CDC

Dear Colleagues,

As the situation continues to change daily with the COVID-19 pandemic, STD prevention and control will require a flexible and realistic, harm-reduction approach. Many programs are experiencing unprecedented challenges. With clinic closures and program staff at the front lines, many of us are carefully balancing response efforts and continuing our routine tasks.

Our field has always been determined, adaptable, and resilient. These traits are more apparent than ever with STD programs moving to telehealth practices, implementing home or non-clinic-based testing, or using the expertise of disease intervention specialists (DIS) to locate, monitor, and provide social support to COVID-19 contacts. Here, in the Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP), we are continuing to evolve our day-to-day operations, moving to full-time telework and having deployed a fifth of our staff to the response.

As remote learning and business becomes the norm, I'd like to share with you some new initiatives like strengthening STD clinics to support Ending the HIV Epidemic. Additionally, with COVID-19, we have developed clinical guidance for providing effective care and prevention when facility-based services and in-person patient-clinician contact is limited. As always, we will continue to share any further updates and resources with you as they arise.

As a reminder, if you have state and local public health department, tribal, or agency personnel funded in whole or in part through programs authorized under the Public Health Service Act (Section 319(e)) working on COVID-19, they must request temporary reassignment by completing the [Request for the Temporary Reassignment of State, Tribal, and Local Personnel During a Public Health Emergency Declared by the HHS Secretary](#) and submitting it to [TemporaryReassignment@hhs.gov](mailto:TemporaryReassignment@hhs.gov).

Thank you to all who are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and to those who are continuing to support STD prevention and control efforts. Together, we will continue to stem the rising tide of these infections.

Best Regards,



Gail Bolan, MD  
Director, Division of STD Prevention  
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## DSTDP Strategic Direction

### Scaling Up HIV Prevention Services in Specialty STD Clinics

Through our Strengthening STD Prevention and Control for Health Departments (STD PCHD) Supplement, three jurisdictions—Baltimore City, Maryland, DeKalb County, Georgia, and East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana—were awarded \$1.3M to strengthen the infrastructure of STD clinics serving a high proportion of racial/ethnic and sexual minorities to support the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative from September to December 2019. In just a few months, the jurisdictions have implemented innovative, evidence-based approaches to scale up clinic capacity and HIV care services with self-registration kiosks, express visits, virtual visits for PrEP follow-up, and a city-wide health resource directory to connect STD clinic patients with key resources. This endeavor to strengthen STD clinics is continuing with Component C: Scaling Up HIV Prevention Services in STD Specialty Clinics of the [Funding Opportunity Announcement PS20-2010: Integrated HIV Programs for Health Departments to Support Ending the HIV Epidemic in the United States](#). Applications for Component C close May 1, 2020 with an estimated award date of August 1, 2020.

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### Evaluation and Program Improvement Capacity Project

To support the implementation of STD PCHD Strategy Area V Data Use for Program Improvement, our Program Development and Quality Improvement Branch partnered with the National Network of Public Health Institutes and its affiliate, the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center, to provide a professional development opportunity for STD PCHD recipients. Twenty-four STD PCHD recipients participated in the first round of the program from March 2019 to January 2020. Fifteen STD PCHD recipients are currently involved in the second round of the program which started in January and will run for 6 months (though currently paused because of COVID-19). The program is designed to strengthen recipient's skills and capacity in evaluation and program improvement through an in-person learning exchange, individualized coaching with a professional program improvement coach, and virtual peer learning (ECHO series). Evaluation results from Cohort 1 suggest the experience was valuable in many ways for participants. DSTDP hopes to offer a third cohort to meet the demand and need for this kind of professional development. For more information, contact Marion Carter ([acq0@cdc.gov](mailto:acq0@cdc.gov)) or Jennifer McKeever ([jmckeever@nnphi.org](mailto:jmckeever@nnphi.org)).

## Leveraging State of the Art Science

### UPDATED! Community-based Approaches to Reducing STDs (CARS) Community Engagement Toolkit

The new [CARS](#) Toolkit describes the successful 10-step process used by CARS Projects to engage community members in the effective implementation of STD prevention and control interventions. The toolkit includes tools, templates, and valuable lessons learned from the CARS projects. The CARS Community Engagement Toolkit is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). For more information, contact Shauntā Wright ([sswright@cdc.gov](mailto:sswright@cdc.gov)).

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### STD Awareness Week, April 12-18

[STD Awareness Week](#) is here! For those who have the flexibility to promote STD Awareness Week, there are four campaigns to choose from and tailor for your STD prevention focuses and audiences along with a toolkit that includes resources to evaluate your selected campaign(s).

## Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Corner

### Disease Intervention Training Centers (DITC) (PS20-2003) NOFO

The [DITC NOFO](#) supports a network of disease intervention curriculum development and regional training centers to modernize Disease Intervention Specialist training. On April 1, 2020, the National Coalition of STD Directors received funds for Track A: National Online Knowledge-based Curriculum Development and the University of California, San Francisco received funds for Track B Instructor-led Skills-based Curricula Development. Health Research Inc and New York State Department of Health, Health Care Education and Training Inc, Denver Health and Hospital Authority, and the University of California, San Francisco, received funds for Track C: Regional Instructor-led Skills-based Training Centers.

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### National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers (NNPTC) (PS20-2004) NOFO

The [NNPTC NOFO](#) is for a network of STD/HIV expert clinicians to develop curriculum and provide regional training, technical assistance and health care systems-level capacity building to increase availability and accessibility of a trained and skilled clinical workforce to prevent and control STDs according to the STD Treatment Guidelines and the STD Quality Clinical Services recommendations and to increase fellows who remain in academic and/or public health careers. The current funding cycle started April 1, 2020 with one curriculum center (University of Washington) one coordinating center (Denver Public Health), and eight regional training centers (University of Washington, University of California, San Francisco, Washington

University, St. Louis, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Alabama, Denver Public Health, and Massachusetts Department of Public Health).

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### **The Tuskegee Public Health Ethics Program (PS20-2002)**

For over a decade, the Tuskegee Public Health Ethics Program has continued to effectively promote and support ethical public health research and practice that advances health equity through four key strategies: 1) engaging communities, 2) partnering with academic, government, and non-government institutions, and community stakeholders, 3) advancing Public Health Ethics scholarship, and 4) promoting ethical public health practice. Program funds to support Public Health Ethics fellows were awarded to the [Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care](#) for the project period running from January 2020 through December 2024.

Interested in a public health ethics internship or more information about the Public Health Ethics Program and how it started? Visit the [Public Health Ethics Forum](#), [U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study at Tuskegee](#), or the [CDC-Tuskegee University Public Health Ethics Student Internship](#).

### **Coming 2020**

#### **2020 STD Prevention Conference**

Conference registration is now open! The 2020 STD Prevention Conference in Atlanta is still scheduled to take place in person September 14-17, 2020. However, the possibility of a virtual conference is being considered as the situation with COVID-19 continues to change. Please visit the [conference website](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest conference news.

### **Resources**

- [STD Care and Prevention Guidance During Disruption of Clinical Services](#): Providing effective care and prevention when facility-based services and in-person patient-clinician contact is limited
- [Recommendations for Providing Quality STD Clinical Services](#): Highlights the services healthcare settings can offer to provide the highest-quality STD care to their patients.
- [Guidance for Temporary Reassignment of State and Local Personnel during a Public Health Emergency](#)



# Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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