



## ENDING THE EPIDEMIC PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “ENDING THE EPIDEMIC”?

Many community leaders across the United States are calling for an end to the HIV epidemic in their cities, their counties, and their states through the development of Ending the Epidemic (EtE) plans. We now have the tools to effectively do just that— from PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) which allows people to remain HIV-negative and much-improved medications that allow PLWH to enjoy the same life expectancy as people without, to proof that Undetectable=Untransmittable (U=U) allows PLWH to prevent the transmission of HIV to intimate partners. We are in a position to create ambitious and bold plans to improve health outcomes for all people living with and vulnerable to HIV, reducing its impact and bringing new infections below epidemic levels.

### WHY ARE WE “GETTING LOUD”?

We thought a lot about what we want this plan to accomplish and about what ties us together. We see this as an opportunity to do something different! We want to step out of the box to create something truly bold and innovative. We want to start talking more about HIV, STIs, Hep C, and sexual health. We want to break down the stigma and misconceptions that surround HIV, Hep C and STIs. We want to lift up the voices of those who are living with HIV and those who are impacted—and make sure they are the ones leading the way.

### GET LOUD! GOALS



## OUR PLAN IS CENTERED AROUND **FIVE** PRIORITY AREAS:

- **COMMUNITY BUILDING WITH PLWH AND ALLIES**
- **PREVENTION EDUCATION AND STIGMA**
- **ACCESS TO CARE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**
- **SMALLER CITIES AND RURAL COMMUNITIES**
- **DATA DRIVEN POLICY AND ADVOCACY**



### **COMMUNITY BUILDING WITH PLWH AND ALLIES**

#### **How are we getting loud?**

One of the goals of Get Loud Louisiana is to strengthen our community and lift our voices, together. We want to live in a Louisiana where all people—regardless of who they are, where they live, who they love, or their health status—feel supported and heard. We want to see PLWH leading the charge when it comes to creating supportive spaces and advocating for their health and human rights.



### **PREVENTION EDUCATION AND STIGMA**

#### **How are we getting loud?**

Throughout the process of gathering input to create this plan, no matter who we talked to, three things were clear - we need to do a lot more to **Educate** our communities and service providers, **Reduce Stigma**, and **Prevent** new cases of HIV. The more education and knowledge we share about HIV (such as Undetectable = Untransmittable, or U=U) and how it is transmitted, the more we begin to chip away at the stigma and fear that many people have around getting tested or sharing their status -- and the more likely people are to engage in safer sex and drug use practices that reduce their risk.

By 2025, we want to significantly decrease the number of people without reliable access to Prevention, Treatment, and Supportive Services.



### **ACCESS TO CARE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

#### **How are we getting loud?**

Our goal is to make it easier for people across Louisiana to get into care, stay in care, and stay healthy. To us, this doesn't mean just making sure that people are staying on their medication. It means having access to client-centered treatment and providers that clients feel comfortable with, not only for HIV services, but also for achieving optimal whole-person health.



We will work with providers and community-based organizations to:

- Promote person-centered services
- Expand treatment options that work for clients no matter where they live and what modes of transportation they have access to
- Support night and weekend service availability and welcome children who may accompany parents
- Work to create inclusive spaces where all are welcome regardless of gender expression, sexual orientation, housing status, employment status, drug use, language spoken, or immigration status



## CENTERING SMALLER CITIES AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

We know that people living outside of our major cities face unique barriers to accessing care and services, maintaining confidentiality, and dealing with stigma and discrimination.

### How are we getting loud?

We want to make sure that rural voices are heard and that their needs are prioritized. We want to raise awareness about how to prevent HIV and what it means to live with HIV (and what it doesn't). We want to break down the misconceptions, fear, and stigma around HIV so that we can build community, capacity, and power across the state to improve the lives of those most impacted.

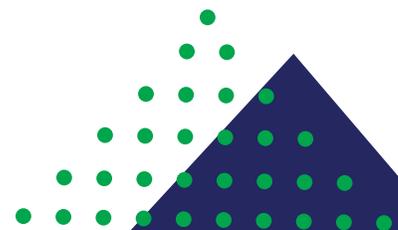


## DATA DRIVEN POLICY AND ADVOCACY

We believe that public health funding, resources, policy and programs should be informed by both the data and the community. We need to improve data sharing and utilization, while maintaining and respecting confidentiality for our clients and residents.

### How are we getting loud?

We want to go beyond ending the criminalization of HIV. We want to end the criminalization and marginalization of poverty and vulnerable populations. In order to end stigma and the epidemics of HIV and Hep C, we need to put an end to discrimination based on race, sexuality, gender and gender identity, socio-economic status, immigration status, and HIV status. Because we recognize the lives of PLWH are often impacted by people not working in HIV, some of our strategies seek to expand non-traditional stakeholder engagement.



# WHAT COMES NEXT?

**NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION!  
OUR GET LOUD LOUISIANA PLANNING  
BODY IS NOW WORKING TO  
BRING OUR PLAN TO LIFE, BUT  
WE KNOW THAT WE CANNOT  
DO IT ALONE.**

## **CALL TO ACTION: GET LOUD WITH US!**

Ending the HIV epidemic in Louisiana is less about ending HIV than it is about addressing the intersections and social determinants of health which drive the epidemic. Today, HIV is a manageable chronic condition and those taking effective treatment live long, healthy lives.

The barriers we face can no longer be solved by science alone, or by the small but mighty community of advocates, providers, and public health workers in the HIV sphere, alone. Our Ending the Epidemic strategies depend on engaging others and finding allies across different spaces in our communities. We will need to expand our partnerships and work hand-in-hand with policymakers, educators, law enforcement, primary care and mental health providers, housing advocates, disability rights activists, faith leaders, community gatekeepers, and everyone in between to address stigma, racism, poverty, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, ageism, education reform, policing and criminalization, reproductive justice, immigration reform, HIV criminalization, and so much more.

**So, as we move forward with implementation of our plan,  
we are going to need you to come along... AND GET LOUD ABOUT IT!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED, VISIT [GETLOUDLOUISIANA.ORG](http://GETLOUDLOUISIANA.ORG)  
OR GET IN TOUCH AT [GETLOUDLOUISIANA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GETLOUDLOUISIANA@GMAIL.COM)**

