

# EAST BAY HIV UPDATE 2016

Tips & Strategies to Improve  
Linkage and Retention:

**Focus on**

**Youth, Transgender,**

**&**

**African American Communities**



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# Why Youth?

- Youth account for more than 20% (1 in 5) of all new HIV Infections in the US
- Developmental, social and structural issues affect HIV prevention and care landscape for youth...services need to be youth-friendly
- Parental/caring adult involvement is a protective factor for youth, but not universally available to all



# Tips to Working with Youth

- You cannot link youth whose HIV is undiagnosed.
  - “Bring the mountain to Muhammad”: novel testing strategies are essential!
  - Frame as part of comprehensive (sexual) wellness
- There’s “no wrong door” for linkage to services, as long as it’s in the right house
  - Low-barrier, flexible intake with high-level of social support from staff
  - Referral to services without at least 1 internal youth champion **≠** linkage
- No retention without an authentic relationship
  - Very sensitive “BS-meter”; be your genuine youth-friendly self
  - Visits are not “all business”: social connection (within boundaries) is useful

# Contact Information

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# Understanding Intersectionality & the Social Context

1. What do we need to understand about the social and political context that youth, trans and black people are navigating?
2. What does anti-black racism, ageism, & transphobia have to do with linkage and retention?

# 5 Tips & Strategies

- Hire US. Invest in US. Promote US.
- Increase your self-awareness and commit to change.
- Meet people where they are.
- Shift the culture in your organizations.
- Recognize how larger social & political dynamics and movements are creating or removing barriers for youth, trans and Black folks.





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# Tips for Working with Transgender Clients

Although there is growing awareness, understanding, and acceptance among health professionals and the public, health issues, negative attitudes and misconceptions concerning transgender individuals still abound.



# Tips & Strategies

- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Application
- Professional Readiness

# Evaluation of components in the continuum of care for Transgender Individuals, the mandate of providers:

- Engender hope and empowerment
- Ensure safe, secure and supportive environments
- Establish trusting relationships between clients and staff
- Promote self-responsibility, self-sufficiency and interdependence
- Strive for gender specific and culturally relevant client driven services
- Eliminate labeling in all respects
- Build the effective linkages and networking required for trans specific programs



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# Resources

- **National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (April 10)**
  - <http://amplifyyourvoice.org/nyhaad/>
- **Bay Area Young Positives**
  - <http://www.baypositives.org/>
- **Downtown Youth Clinic @ East Bay AIDS Center**
  - 510-869-8493
- **Assisted Care / After Care program at Larkin Street Youth Services**
  - Housing, case management, medical care
  - General referral line: 415-749-6976 (ask for case manager)
  - RAPID referral for new HIV diagnosis needing linkage in SF
    - **Page: 415-257-6545**
    - M-F 9:30-4:30, will return page w/in 15 minutes
- **Alameda County Public Health Dept.'s Transgender Resource Guide**
  - [http://www.acphd.org/media/269820/transgender\\_resource\\_guide.pdf](http://www.acphd.org/media/269820/transgender_resource_guide.pdf)
- **Butterfly Project for Transgender Women of Color**
  - 510-285-5500