

HHS Awards East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, \$1.5 Million for HIV Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment

East Baton Rouge Parish among three communities to receive funds to jumpstart federal initiative to End the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.

East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, will receive \$1.5 million to jumpstart comprehensive HIV activities to further reduce new HIV infections, as part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' [Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America](#) initiative. The initiative aims to reduce infections by 75% in 5 years and 90% in 10 years.

The initiative will leverage critical scientific advances in HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care by coordinating the highly successful programs, resources, and infrastructure of many HHS agencies and offices, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Indian Health Service (IHS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). [OASH](#) is coordinating this cross-agency initiative.

The other two jurisdictions receiving funds are DeKalb County, Georgia, and Baltimore, Maryland. The lessons learned from these jumpstart areas will provide important insights for all jurisdictions that have been prioritized for phase one, should Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative resources be funded in 2020. If funded by Congress in the 2020 budget, the initiative will achieve maximum impact by first focusing efforts on [areas hardest hit by the epidemic](#) and eventually expanding throughout America. In 2017, more than 150 people were diagnosed with HIV, and as of 2016, more than 3,500 people were living with diagnosed HIV in Baton Rouge.

“The funding announced today will play a critical role in jumpstarting the initiative President Trump announced to end the HIV epidemic in America by 2030,” said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. “Providing East Baton Rouge Parish with additional resources now will allow its health department to expand access to services and begin implementing key parts of the initiative, including providing treatment for those living with HIV, increasing HIV testing, and expanding preventative services, including PrEP. We have the right data, the right tools, and the right leadership to accomplish this historic goal, and look forward to Congress funding the full initiative for FY 2020.”

Through additional support from OASH, CDC also released a separate funding opportunity on June 12 that will support all 57 first-phase jurisdictions in their efforts to develop state and local Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative plans. Resources for both the jumpstart and community planning activities are from the FY19 Minority HIV/AIDS Fund.

“We will be working closely with all jurisdictions to assist in developing their own programs geared to the needs of their communities to ensure the greatest impact,” said HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D. “What we learn from these three areas will help inform efforts as we prepare to expand efforts to every corner of the U.S.”

More information about Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative can be found at www.hiv.gov

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