

1 | What is the health equity intervention?

The health equity component involves partnering with a local community-based organizations in intervention communities to leverage or build coalitions which will be supported to design and implement mobilization and advocacy strategies to address locally relevant social and structural barriers to HIV prevention and treatment for Black MSM. Coalitions will also work to shape community social norms within the local service sectors to be supportive of wide-scale adoption of HIV testing, PrEP use and treatment engagement to reduce HIV inequities among Black MSM.

2 | Who will be included in the health equity intervention?

Local partner community-based organizations will be selected through a competitive process in each pilot intervention communities (Dallas and Montgomery). The organizations will work to build a multi-sector coalition in their community.

3 | How will the health equity intervention work?

Local community coalitions will be established in each participating community. These local coalitions will work to develop locally relevant strategies to advocate and mobilize around social and structural issues affecting Black MSM which present barriers to HIV prevention and treatment. Coalitions will also inform their local communities about HPTN 096 messages/objectives, while helping to shape local social norms through advocacy, community outreach, and engagement with other local service areas.

4 | Why is the health equity intervention important?

Health equity is required to end the HIV epidemic. The health equity intervention in HPTN 096 promotes fairness and justice and is based on the abundance of scientific evidence that community coalitions and intersectoral collaborations working together to develop locally driven and relevant solutions are an effective means of addressing enduring structural barriers driving HIV inequities among Black MSM in the South. Health equity interventions with the highest impact on reducing racial disparities in health requires collaborations with governmental and non-governmental partners inside and outside of the health sectors.

