

## 1 | What is the HPTN 096 peer support intervention?

In this component, peer support workers (PSWs) in Dallas and Montgomery are hired and trained to serve as role models and establish a mutual supportive relationship as someone with similar lived experiences. Peer Support Workers will listen and offer support in a respectful and nonjudgmental way; supporting in a way that promotes client empowerment and increased knowledge. They will share information and provide education on HIV-related topics and general health/well-being. Peer Support Workers will also support clients in connecting them to Black MSM-centered health and support services and resources.

## 2 | Who will take part in the peer support intervention?

The peer support component will offer support to African American/Black same gender loving (SGL) men, ages 15 years and older. Up to four peer support workers in each pilot intervention community will offer information, resources, advice, and support to client seeking support.

## 3 | How does the peer support intervention work?

In the peer support component, peer support workers will draw directly from their shared, lived and relatable experiences to offer clients with who they are connected with a safe space and opportunity to engage and provide emotional and practical support. Peer support workers will offer resources to improve self-care and encourage clients to embrace health-seeking behaviors by providing wellness education and promotion. The care and attentiveness provided by a peer support worker can potentially reduce the negative influence presented by discrimination and stigma (often faced by those seeking to engage in care or other support services because of one's race, social status, sexuality/identity, etc.).

## 4 | What makes the HPTN 096 peer support intervention so unique?

Peer Support Workers provide unique insights from a perspective based on real life knowledge. They will share their knowledge and provide emotional support, social interaction, or practical help to their clients. Peers will provide education and work to support linkages to tools and resources, without judgement. The peer support program does not offer traditional peer navigation or case management services. This program is managed centrally and is not directly affiliated with any specific HIV prevention, treatment, or social services facility. The peer support intervention aims to remove power imbalances sometimes seen in clinical settings by is providing service and support to Black same gender loving men by Black same gender loving men. Access to support services will be virtual, flexible, and available during peak need times such as outside standard working hours, weeknights and weekends. This support will be a mutual relationship built together by the peer support worker and their client, with sessions available when needed (by phone or online).

