

## Attachment B: PrEP RFP Definitions

**Active Linkage to PrEP Provider:** The process through which a person at risk for becoming infected with HIV is helped to access a healthcare provider who offers evaluation and management of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). This is often an active process (e.g., providing transportation, accompanying the person to the appointment, having multiple contacts with the person to support them in accessing the PrEP provider). Linked to a PrEP provider refers to the outcome of the referral or linkage of a PrEP eligible person to a PrEP provider, as indicated by the person's attendance of the first appointment.

**Active Referral:** This involves efforts beyond passive referral, in which the individual is only given contact information for the service(s) and is left to make their own contact. There are varying types of active referral. Active referral may include but is not limited to activities for the client such as making appointments, providing transportation, using a case manager or peer navigator to help with the access to services, providing the organization to which the client is referred to with information collected about the client (including the professional assessment of the client's needs), a "warm-hand-off" such as "live" three-way conversation (individual/organization making the referral, individual/organization receiving the referral and the client) – in person or by telephone – in which the client is introduced, and providing explanation about what has already been done to assist the client and reason for referral.

**Activities:** The actual events or actions that take place as a part of the program.

**Assessment:** Individual evaluation of an HIV positive individual's medical care and risk status, knowledge of disease, barriers to accessing medical care, and awareness of resources.

**Clinic-based Sites:** Defined here as facilities that provide primary care services, conduct HIV testing, screen for risk for HIV, and prescribe PrEP to their clients.

**Community Clinics:** Defined by the Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers as "nonprofit clinics located in medically underserved areas – both rural and urban – throughout Minnesota. They share a mission of making comprehensive primary care accessible to anyone regardless of ability to pay".

**Contact:** An approach made to an individual to talk about her or his HIV status, risk, and/or access to services.

**Coordination:** Working with other service providers to ensure efficiency and eliminate duplication of efforts.

**Eligibility for PrEP:** Refers to a person's status regarding whether they meet appropriate criteria for using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); specifically, whether or not they are HIV-negative and at substantial risk for HIV, as defined by CDC in its guidelines for PrEP.

**Encounter:** Engagement of an individual in conversation about their HIV risk, status, and access to services.

## ATTACHMENT B: DEFINITIONS

**Engagement:** The process of keeping individuals involved in their PrEP care. It involves individuals' follow-up every three months for lab tests, medication refills, and adherence and risk reduction support.

**Evaluation:** Systematic collection of information about the activities, characteristics, and outcomes of programs (which may include interventions, policies, and specific projects) to make judgements about the program, improve program effectiveness, and/or inform decisions about future program development.

**Hardest to Reach Populations:** People not accessing care due to barriers that may include poverty, health insurance gaps, substance abuse, or mental health problems. Other co-factors such as fear and stigma, low health literacy, and lack of readiness also create barriers to care.

**Health Disparities:** Differences in health outcomes and their determinants among segments of the population as defined by social, demographic, environmental, or geographic category.

**High Risk Populations:** Populations known through local epidemiologic data to be at disproportionate risk for HIV infection.

**HIV Screening:** Testing strategy of all persons in a defined population. It involves testing persons with no signs or symptoms of HIV infection, regardless of whether they have a recognized behavioral risk for HIV infection. This might be accomplished by testing all persons in a defined population or by selecting persons with specific population-level characteristics (e.g., demographic, geographic area).

**HIV Test:** More correctly referred to as an HIV antibody test, a rapid test generally detects antibodies to HIV, rather than the virus itself. Any client with a reactive rapid test must be linked to a confirmatory test.

**Identification:** The process of finding individuals with ongoing substantial risk for HIV infection, who may be potential PrEP candidates. It involves recruiting individuals, assessing their risk of acquiring HIV, and interest or willingness to pursue PrEP therapy with a healthcare provider.

**Linkage:** The process of actively assisting individuals with accessing needed services through a time limited professional relationship. The active assistance typically lasts a few days to a few weeks and includes a follow-up component to assess whether linkage has occurred. Linkage services can include assessment, supportive counseling, education, advocacy, and accompanying individuals to initial appointments.

**Mail-based PrEP Model:** Supplies and resources are mailed directly to participants upon request.

**Matching or cost sharing:** Refers to program costs not borne by the state but by the applicant organization. It may include the value of allowable third party, in-kind contributions as well as expenditures by the recipient.

**Mobile PrEP Model:** PrEP service activities are delivered directly to participants or occur in outreach/mobile settings.

**Navigation:** Navigation for PrEP includes identifying and linking persons in need of PrEP to healthcare systems assisting with health insurance, identifying, and reducing barriers to care,

## ATTACHMENT B: DEFINITIONS

and tailoring education to the client to influence his or her health-related attitudes and behaviors.

**Navigation Services:** The process of helping a person obtain timely and appropriate medical or social services, considering provider preferences, insurance status, scheduling issues, and other factors that may complicate access or utilization of services. Navigation services should be offered at the time of PrEP engagement to guide persons in need of PrEP to clinical PrEP services and to insurance options that will pay for PrEP. If the client does not have insurance, navigators or staff should assist the client in obtaining insurance or access to medication assistance programs.

**Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):** Taking antiretroviral medications after an HIV exposure to reduce the chances of becoming infected.

**Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP):** The daily or regular injection use of an antiretroviral medication to prevent HIV infection by uninfected persons.

**PrEP Education:** The process of increasing an individual's knowledge and awareness of PrEP and nPEP. It involves providing PrEP 101 basic information as well as nPEP 101. It includes educating individuals to differentiate between PrEP and nPEP, to understand that PrEP is evidence-based and proven to work for gay and bisexual men, heterosexual women and men and individuals who inject drugs when taken daily as prescribed by healthcare provider.

**PrEP Eligibility:** Refers to a person's status with regard to whether or not they meet appropriate criteria for using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); specifically, whether or not they are HIV-negative and at substantial risk for HIV, as defined by CDC in its guidelines for PrEP (*U.S. Public Health Service (2017). Pre-exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Prevention in the United States - 2013: A Clinical Practice Guideline. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/prep/cdc-hiv-prep-guidelines-2017.pdf>*)

**PrEP Initiation:** The process of getting an individual on antiretroviral therapy to prevent them from getting HIV infection. It involves conducting individual risk assessment, care access, knowledge, and readiness to initiate PrEP; confirming HIV-negative status and other baseline lab tests; ensuring PrEP access, cost, and starting PrEP therapy; willingness to take a daily antiretroviral (ARV), and ability to follow routine medical monitoring. It also involves the healthcare providers adhering to the National guidelines recommendations on how to prescribe PrEP and monitor persons on PrEP.

**PrEP Screening:** The process of conducting an initial assessment regarding a person's eligibility for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) (i.e., HIV testing and behavioral risk screening) and determining whether or not a more thorough evaluation is warranted. For further discussion on PrEP screening, see *U.S. Public Health Service (2021). Pre-exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Prevention in the United States - 2021: A Clinical Practice Guideline. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/prep/cdc-hiv-prep-guidelines-2021.pdf>*

**Prescribed PrEP:** Refers to a person who has been adequately evaluated and received a prescription for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/prep/cdc-hiv-prep-guidelines-2017.pdf>

## ATTACHMENT B: DEFINITIONS

**Program strategies:** Strategies are groupings of related activities, usually expressed as general headers or as brief statement (e.g., conduct assessments, formulate policies).

**Rapid-Rapid Testing:** Utilizing one rapid point of care test to get a preliminary result, then using a second rapid testing technology to confirm that result.

**Referral:** Refers to directing clients to a service in person or through telephone, written, or other form of communication. Generally, a one-time event. Referral may be made formally from one clinical provider to another, within a case management system by professional case managers, informally through support staff, or as part of an outreach service program.

**Referral to PrEP Provider:** Referral to PrEP providers is a process involving the provision of information on who the providers are, what documents referred person should take with them, how to get to the providers' agency, and what to expect from the referral process. It is important that the agency that provides PrEP screening services tracks the referral and provides the necessary follow-up to verify the person attended the first appointment with the PrEP provider. A person can be referred to a PrEP provider internally (to another unit or person within the same agency) or externally (e.g., a CBO may screen and identify eligible persons, and then refer them to a healthcare provider that offers PrEP services).

**Risk Behavior:** Behaviors that can directly expose persons to HIV or transmit HIV if the virus is present (e.g., sex without a condom, sharing unclean needles). Risk behaviors are actual behaviors by which HIV can be transmitted, and a single instance of the behavior can result in transmission.

**Targeted Testing:** The approach an agency or a person uses when conducting HIV testing to decide who will be tested. Testing strategies include HIV screening that is population-based and targeted testing of subpopulations of persons at higher risk.

**Telemedicine:** The use of electronic information and telecommunications technologies to support and promote long-distance clinical health care, patient and professional health-related education, public health, and health administration.

**U.S. Public Health Service's Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Guidance and the Clinical Providers' Supplement:** (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/prep/cdc-hiv-prep-guidelines-2021.pdf>) and [Preexposure Prophylaxis for the Prevention of HIV Infection in the United States - 2021 Update: Clinical Providers' Supplement \(www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/prep/cdc-hiv-prep-provider-supplement-2021.pdf\)](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/risk/prep/cdc-hiv-prep-provider-supplement-2021.pdf) (or newer updates).