The Status Neutral Approach:
A whole-person approach to ending the HIV epidemic in the US

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The Harmful Effects of Stigma

The harmful effects of HIV stigma are associated with:

- poor mental health
- social isolation
- poor physical health
- depression

The harmful effects of Stigma

A status neutral approach meets people where they are by offering a “whole person” approach to care by putting the needs of the person ahead of their HIV status.

This approach helps improve care and eliminates stigma.
Status Neutral HIV Prevention and Care

Prevention Pathway
- Prevents getting HIV
- High Impact HIV Prevention
- Quality Care
- Newly Diagnosed with HIV
- HIV Test

Treatment Pathway
- Prevents transmitting HIV
- HIV Primary Care
- Effective Treatment
- Culturally Inclusive and Responsive Quality Care

Follow CDC guidelines to test people for HIV. Regardless of HIV status, quality care is the foundation of HIV prevention and effective treatment. Both pathways provide people with the tools they need to stay healthy and stop HIV.

People whose HIV tests are offered powerful prevention tools like PrEP, condoms, harm reduction (e.g., SSPs), and supportive services to stay HIV negative.

People whose HIV tests are positive enter primary care and are offered effective treatment and supportive services to achieve and maintain viral suppression.
The Status Neutral Framework

- It’s called “status neutral” because the same approach is used to engage and retain people in care, regardless of HIV status.
- This continuous, high-quality care provides people with the tools they need to stay healthy and help stop HIV:
  - Maintaining an undetectable viral load
  - Taking PrEP as prescribed
Benefits of the Status Neutral Approach

- Dramatically decrease new HIV infections
- Supports and enables optimal health through continual engagement in comprehensive, “whole person” care
- Increases opportunities for more efficient service delivery
- Improves health equity
How is CDC Advancing Status Neutral HIV Care?
CDC’s Approach

Making HIV testing simple, accessible, and routine.

- Increasing availability and use of PrEP among populations who could benefit most.
- Partnering with other agencies and working with local communities to implement SSPs where they are needed and permitted by law.

Quickly linking people with HIV to care and treatment, and re-engaging those who have stopped receiving care.

Ensuring all jurisdictions have the capacity to identify, investigate, and respond to potential HIV outbreaks quickly.
Ensuring Health Equity is Prioritized + Expanding HIV Testing Efforts + Strengthening Syndemic Collaborations = Status Neutral Approach

CDC’s priorities fit within the Status Neutral Approach
Advancing Status Neutral Care

- **PS22-2209: Transgender Status-Neutral Community-to-Clinic Models to End the HIV Epidemic**
  - This NOFO will fund organizations to work in TG clinics and partner with TG CBOs to develop community-to-clinic models for integrated status-neutral HIV prevention and care services, gender-affirming services, and primary health care.

- **PrEP Program and Ancillary Support Services Guidance for Health Department**
  - This guidance allows flexibility to utilize CDC’s flagship health department funding for program recipients to pay for CDC-recommended clinical care costs related to PrEP as payor of last resort.

- **In Development: Status Neutral Issue Brief**
  - This issue brief describes CDC’s status neutral approach and how jurisdictions across the country are integrating a status-neutral approach into their HIV care services.
Thank you