

# Southeast Practice Transformation Expansion Project (SEPTEP)

## Advancing Primary Care HIV Integration at Health Centers, Overview

HRSA-funded health centers are a key health care safety net and medical home for America's most vulnerable populations. Nearly 1,400 health centers operate approximately 12,000 service delivery sites that provide primary health care services to more than 27 million people in every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Basin.<sup>1</sup> Integration of HIV testing, prevention, and care into primary care enhances access and improves outcomes for vulnerable and underserved communities.

The Southeast Practice Transformation Expansion Project (SEPTEP) 2018-2019 is funded by the Health Resources & Services Administration's Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) [Health Center Program](#) in collaboration with its HIV/AIDS Bureau's (HAB) [AIDS Education and Training Centers \(AETC\) Program](#). SEPTEP's goal is to advance HIV testing, linkage to care, and prevention at HRSA-funded health centers in the Southeast United States, which has the nation's highest rates of HIV diagnoses.<sup>2</sup> To build participating health centers' capacity for HIV care delivery (care for patients living with HIV and/or those at highest risk for infection), the Southeast AETC offers training and technical assistance (T/TA) to providers and staff, as well as support for practice transformation.

### SEPTEP Strategy

SEPTEP leverages lessons learned from BPHC's [Partnerships for Care \(P4C\)](#) demonstration project and HAB's AETC Program practice transformation projects to enhance primary care HIV integration at HRSA-funded health centers.

- **P4C:** In 2017, BPHC completed the three-year P4C demonstration project in which 22 HRSA-funded health centers worked in partnership with four CDC-funded state health departments in Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New York. P4C expanded HIV services within communities disproportionately impacted by HIV, especially among racial and ethnic populations, by supporting health centers that were not dually-funded with Part C of HAB's [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program](#). Data from the three-year project demonstrated improved trends in HIV patient outcomes. Delivery of patient-centered HIV care at health centers required intensive planning, training, and practice transformation at each step of the HIV care continuum.
- **AETC Program Practice Transformation Projects:** Part F of HAB's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program supports quality, locally based, and tailored HIV T/TA to health care professionals and organizations. The AETC Program is a national network of HIV experts across three national centers, eight regional centers, and 130 local affiliated sites. Regional AETCs assist clinics in transforming their practices to improve patient outcomes by integrating principles of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model, as well as HIV care and behavioral health services.

For SEPTEP, BPHC and HAB are collaborating through the Southeast AETC at Vanderbilt University Medical Center to provide intensive, high-quality, and tailored HIV T/TA and practice transformation support at 16 HRSA-funded health centers. The Southeast AETC offers health centers evidence-based T/TA strategies in a geographical area where racially and ethnically diverse populations are at high-risk for HIV. SEPTEP health centers have achieved PCMH recognition and are not dually-funded with Part C of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.



April 2019

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Health Resources and Services Administration



## SEPTEP Health Centers

State	Health Center (City)
Alabama	Southeast Alabama Rural Health Associates (Troy)
Florida	Health Care Center for the Homeless, Inc. (Orlando); Care Resource Community Health Centers, Inc. (Miami); I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless (Jacksonville); Broward Community and Family Health Centers, Inc. (Hollywood)
Georgia	Southside Medical Center, Inc. (Atlanta); First Choice Primary Care, Inc. (Mason)
Kentucky	Family Health Center, Inc. (Louisville); Healthpoint Family Care (Covington)
Mississippi	Central Mississippi Civic Improvement Association, Inc. (Jackson); Family Health Care Clinic, Inc. (Pearl)
North Carolina	Caswell Family Medical Center (Yanceyville)
South Carolina	Rural Health Services, Inc. (Clearwater); Carolina Health Centers, Inc. (Greenwood)
Tennessee	Memphis Health Center (Memphis); Tennessee State Department of Health (Cookeville)

## SEPTEP Health Center Training and Technical Assistance

SEPTEP health centers identified at least two HIV champions to support, guide, and facilitate primary care HIV integration activities at their health center. The Southeast AETC is assisting HIV champions in advancing PrEP prescribing and implementation, patient-centered routine HIV testing, linkage to care, and prevention. Here are some examples of Southeast AETC's services:

- **Coaching for practice transformation leadership for HIV champions to promote planning and implementation.**
  - The Southeast AETC Practice Transformation and Culture Change Workshop (1) built participants' core leadership skills in communication and strategic planning to overcome implementation barriers and (2) taught them best practices for HIV testing, PrEP prescribing and implementation, prevention, and motivational interviewing.
  - Communities of practice offered champions a mechanism for presenting cases, discussing lessons learned, and sharing strategies for overcoming barriers to HIV practice transformation.
- **Individualized and tailored T/TA with health centers to set goals and support clinic-level changes.**
  - One-on-one coaching to troubleshoot challenges.
  - On-site trainings in HIV testing, motivational interviewing, and cultural competency.
  - Clinical mentorship and preceptorship opportunities.
  - Individual clinical case consultations or chart reviews.

[Learn more about SEPTEP.](#)

For more information about HRSA HIV technical assistance resources and programs, visit:

- [HRSA Bureau of Primary Health Care: HIV and Health Centers](#)
- [HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau](#)

<sup>1</sup> Health Resources and Services Administration (2017). [Health Center Program](#).

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017). [HIV in the United States by Geography](#).