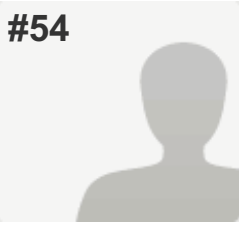


Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

#54



COMPLETE

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Q2: Title of your recommendation

Establishing Safe Injection Facilities (SIF) in New York State

Q3: Please provide a description of your proposed recommendation

The Governor should establish a pilot program exploring the development of a safe injection facility (SIF) in the state of New York, which can then lead to the development of a system of SIFs statewide funded through the state.

Q4: For which goal outlined in the Governor's plan to end the epidemic in New York State does this recommendation apply? (Select all that apply)

Identifying persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and linking them to health care

Linking and retaining persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and getting them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission

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Q5: This recommendation should be considered by the following Ending the Epidemic Task Force Committee (Select all that apply)

Prevention Committee: Develop recommendations for ensuring the effective implementation of biomedical advances in the prevention of HIV, (such as the use of Truvada as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)); for ensuring access for those most in need to keep them negative; and for expansion of syringe exchange, expanded partner services, and streamlined HIV testing by further implementing the universal offer of HIV testing in primary care, among others. The Committee will focus on continuing innovative and comprehensive prevention and harm reduction services targeted at key high risk populations, as well as grant-funded services that engage in both secondary and primary prevention.

Care Committee: Develop recommendations to support access to care and treatment in order to maximize the rate of HIV viral suppression. The Committee will promote linkages and retention in care to achieve viral suppression and promote the highest quality of life while significantly decreasing the risks of HIV transmission. Recommendations will also ensure a person centered approach is taken and that access to culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention and health care services is available.

Housing and Supportive Services Committee: Develop recommendations that strengthen proven interventions enabling optimal engagement and linkage and retention in care for those most in need. This Committee will recommend interventions that effectively address complex and intersecting health and social conditions and reduce health disparities, particularly among New York's low-income and most vulnerable and marginalized residents. These interventions will diminish barriers to care and enhance access to care and treatment leaving no subpopulation behind.

Q6: Does this recommendation require a change to an existing policy or program, or the creation of a new policy or program?

New policy

Q7: Would implementation of this recommendation be permitted under current laws or would a statutory change be required?

Statutory change required

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Q8: Is this recommendation something that could feasibly be implemented in the short-term (within the next year) or long-term (within the next three to six years)?

Within the next year

Q9: What are the perceived benefits of implementing this recommendation?

New York State has drastically reduced HIV transmission among Injection Drug Users (IDU) through the success of needle exchange programs. While needle exchanges are necessary components to prevention for HIV positive and negative IDU's, there is no support or supervision for active injection drug users, which can put the health of both HIV positive and HIV negative at risk.

SIFs are controlled health care settings where people can more safely inject drugs under clinical supervision and receive health care, counseling and referrals to health and social services, including drug treatment. SIFs – also called safer injection sites, drug consumption rooms and supervised injecting centers – are legally sanctioned facilities designed to reduce the health and public order issues often associated with public injection by providing a space for people to inject pre-obtained drugs in a hygienic environment with access to sterile injecting equipment and under the supervision of trained medical staff.

Q10: Are there any concerns with implementing this recommendation that should be considered?

TBD

Q11: What is the estimated cost of implementing this recommendation and how was this estimate calculated?

TBD

Q12: What is the estimated return on investment (ROI) for this recommendation and how was the ROI calculated?

TBD

Q13: Who are the key individuals/stakeholders who would benefit from this recommendation?

Active injection drug users at risk for HIV and living with HIV/AIDS

Q14: Are there suggested measures to accompany this recommendation that would assist in monitoring its impact?

TBD

Q15: This recommendation was submitted by one of the following

Ending the Epidemic Task Force member