

Ending the Epidemic: How Do We Build Sustainable Bridges Between Community Leadership and Health Departments?

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NASTAD's Commitment to EtE

- In 2016, NASTAD's board chair challenged health departments to accelerate their progress in ending the HIV epidemic in their jurisdiction
- NASTAD has since asked our membership to deeply engage in work to EtE:
 - Core Competencies Index – assessed multiple program areas to illuminate opportunities for potential growth and potential improvements

Role of Health Departments

- Health departments are key partners in planning to end the epidemic; however, that role can take many shapes
- Key benefits of health department involvement include:
 - Knowledge of players
 - Surveillance data and capability to provide specific analyses
 - Convening power

Health Department Relationships

- Important to have health department and community in room together
- Must be willing to have difficult conversations
 - Acknowledge past challenges and respect different perspectives
 - Assume positive intent in developing plan
 - Look towards future
 - Learn from organizations unique relationships and networks

Health Department Lessons Learned

- Use existing plans as a starting point
 - Incorporate work plans that have already been developed
 - Include baseline data and milestones
- Build collaborative partnership between community leaders and health department
 - Define role of community members and health department
 - Determine infrastructure and identify resources
- Be inclusive and invite persons beyond traditional HIV players

Health Department Lessons Learned

- Plan enough time to be comprehensive and mindful
 - Be prepared for difficult conversations about drivers of health inequities
 - Can't rush process
- Identify dedicated staff on health department and community side to lead
- Garner interest from political leaders

NASTAD Resources

- [Core Competencies Index](#)
- [DeAnn Gruber Chair's Challenge announcement](#)
- [List of Ending the Epidemic jurisdictional plans](#)
- State of NASTAD's current chair, Jacquelyn Clymore, [*Achieving Health Equity to End the Epidemics: Partnership*](#)
- NASTAD Policy Statement: [*Strategic Community Engagement to End the HIV and Hepatitis Epidemics*](#)