Accelerating Implementation Science to End HIV

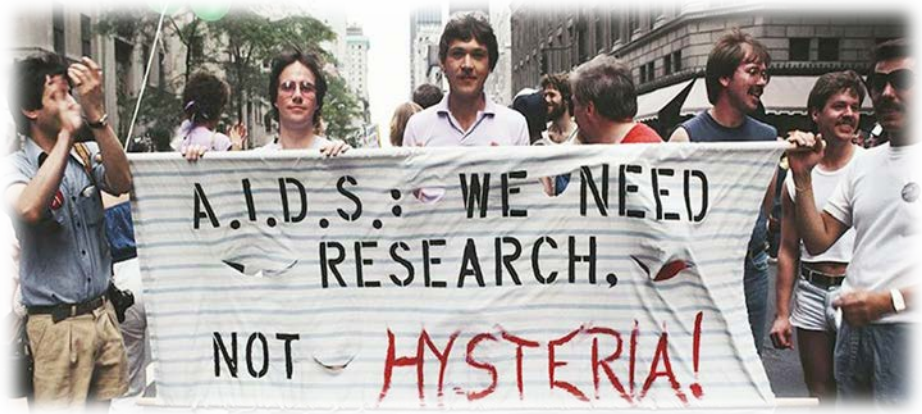
January 29, 2026

Geri R. Donenberg, PhD
Associate Director for AIDS Research
Director, Office of AIDS Research
National Institutes of Health

Overview

- About the NIH Office of AIDS Research
- Current state of the HIV epidemic in the United States
- A role for implementation science
- Expanding implementation science in the NIH HIV research portfolio
- Previewing the *FY26-30 NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and HIV-Related Research*

NIH HIV research is grounded in activism







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OAR coordinates the complex NIH HIV research program



- More than 20 NIH Institutes and Centers award grants with HIV/AIDS funding.
- In FY24, $3.29B in HIV/AIDS funding supported more than 3,800 awards across NIH.

OAR's primary functions



Catalyze science through NIH-wide initiatives



HIV & Women



HIV & Aging



Advancing Technology



Leveraging Pharmacies

Support early career HIV investigators

OAR provides resources and mentoring for the next generation of HIV investigators

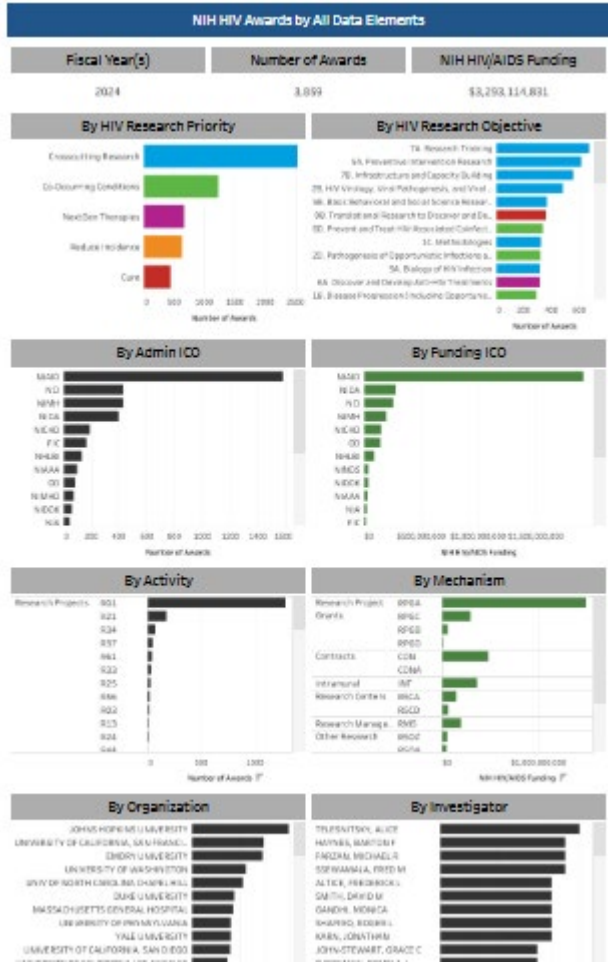
- Fund additional ESI applications
- Host annual professional development workshop



Create tools to explore the NIH HIV portfolio

The NIH OAR Data Hub:

- Allows users to explore the NIH HIV research portfolio
- Promotes scientific transparency and public accountability
- Demonstrates alignment of HIV awards to the Strategic Plan



https://www.oar.nih.gov/nih-hiv-research-program/data-hub/

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Key milestones and successes



1987: First antiretroviral therapy (ART) to treat HIV

1994: First study decreasing perinatal transmission



1997: Highly active ART as new standard of care



2006: First one pill highly active ART

2008-2011: Benefits of early ART evaluated; Treatment as prevention evaluated

2012: PrEP approved



2015: WHO recommends ART immediately after diagnosis



2017: Research data supports launch of U=U

UNDETECTABLE U=U UNTRANSMITTABLE

2019: EHE initiative established by the 1st Trump Administration

Ending the HIV Epidemic

2021: Long-acting injectable approved for HIV prevention



2025

HIV in the United States

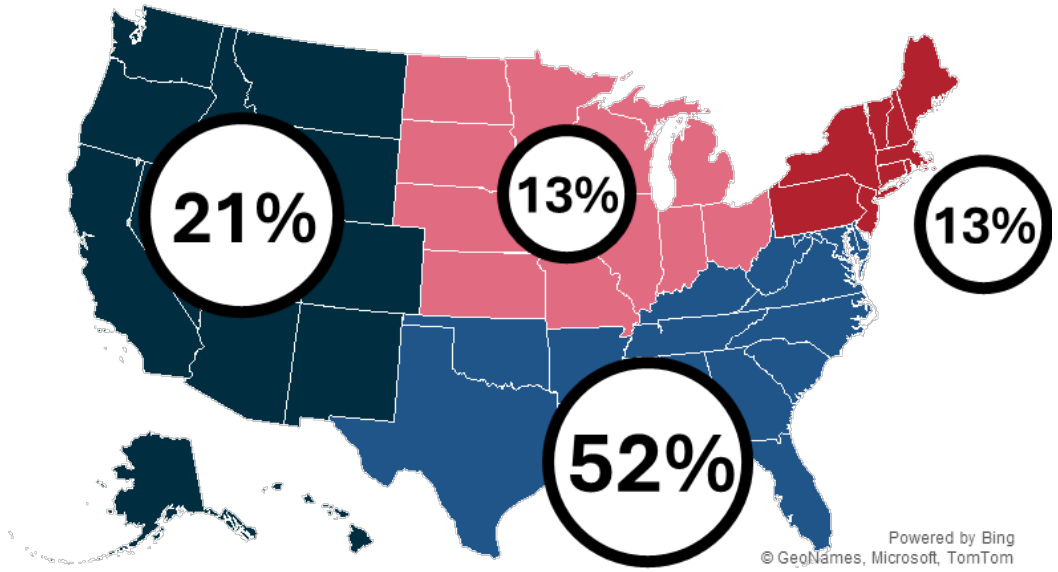


- Despite effective prevention and treatment, **1.1 million** Americans have HIV.
- More than **39,000** were diagnosed with HIV in 2023.

CDC data as of 12/16/2025

HIV affects all communities

New HIV diagnoses by region in 2023

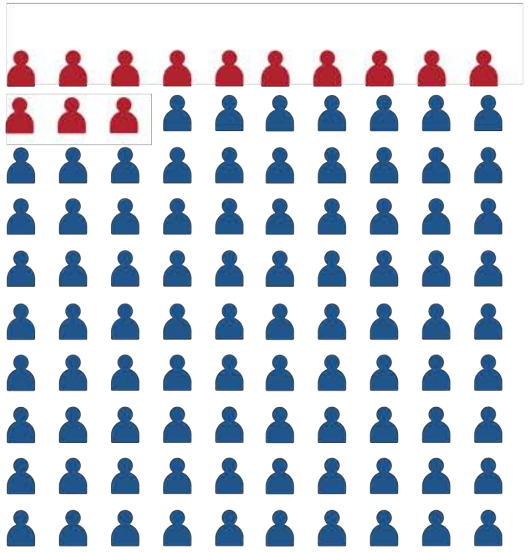


- Disproportionate impact on **Black or African American** populations (12% of population; 38% of new cases) and **Hispanic or Latino** populations (18% of population; 34% of new cases)
- Nearly 1 in 5 new cases of HIV occur in **adolescents and young adults**
- **Heterosexual contact** accounts for nearly 1 in 4 new diagnoses
- Of people living with HIV, nearly 1 in 4 are **women** and more than half are **age 50 or older**

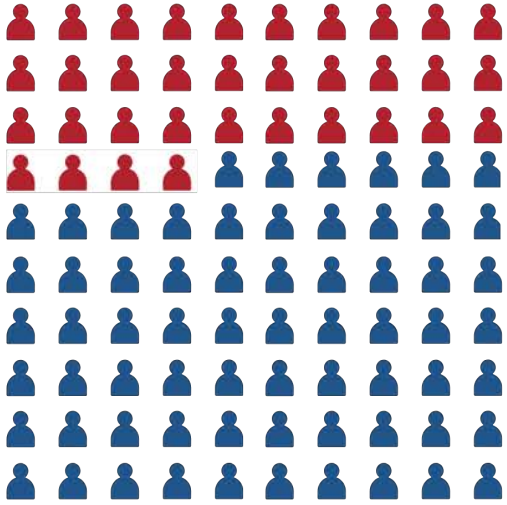
based on 2023 CDC data

Gaps in treatment persist

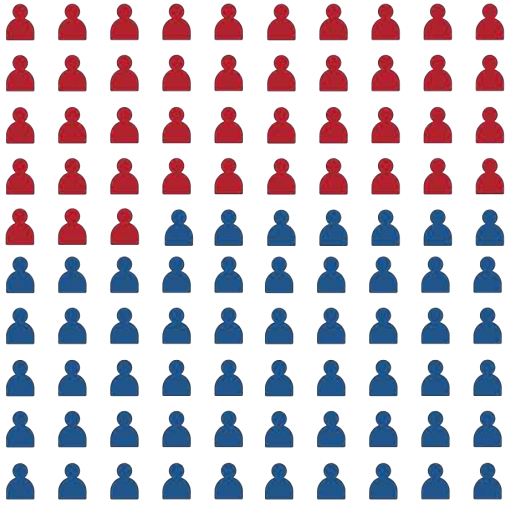
For every 100 Americans with HIV



13 didn't know they had HIV



34 didn't receive HIV care



43 weren't virally suppressed

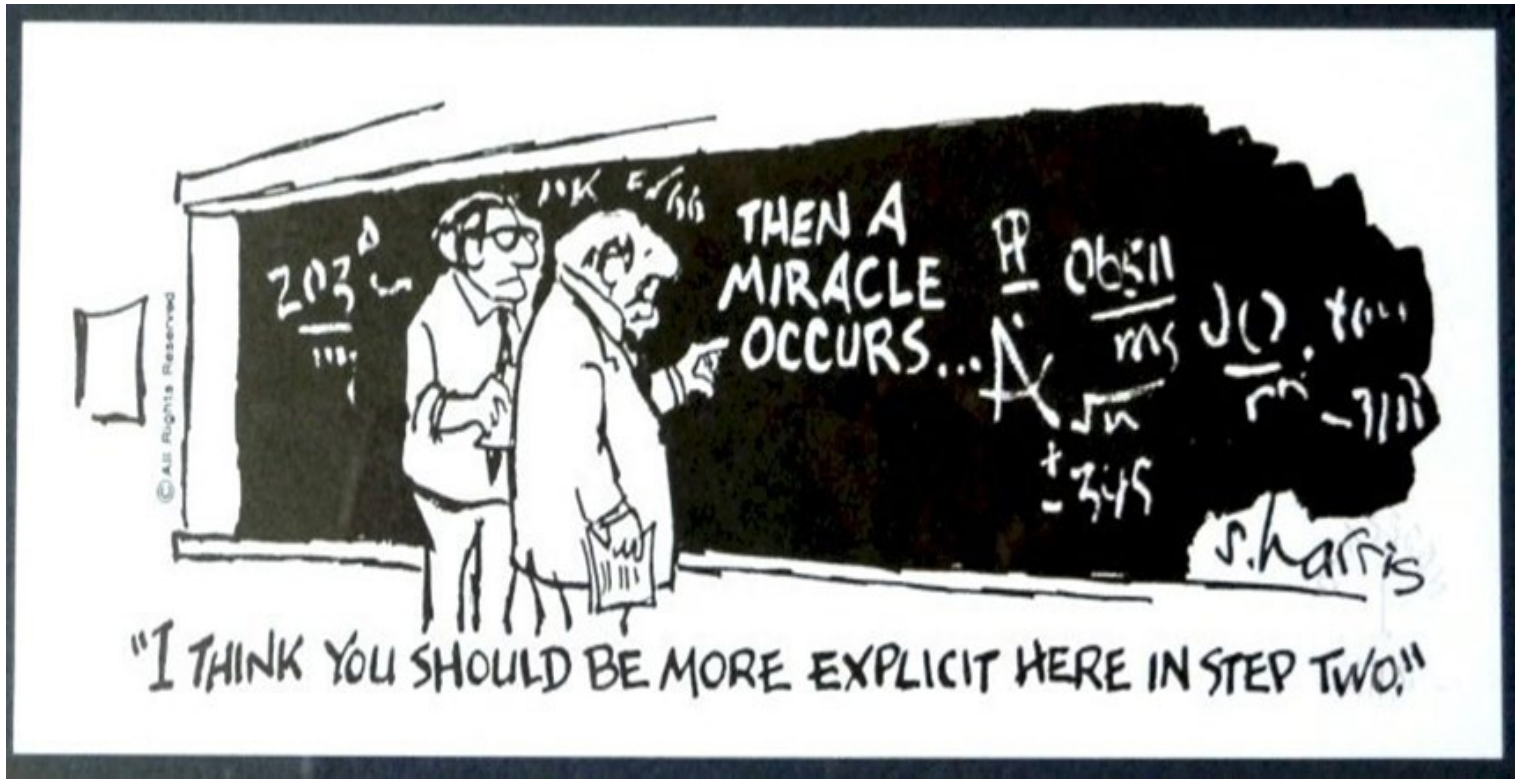
Based on 2022 CDC data

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A role for implementation science





Implementation science

- The intervention/practice/innovation is THE THING.
- *Effectiveness* research looks at whether THE THING works.
- *Implementation* research looks at how best to do THE THING.
  - Implementation strategies are how we help people/places do the thing.
  - Main implementation outcomes are how much and how well they do the thing.

Curran (2020) *Implement Sci Commun*.

Implementation science framework

Who are we trying to impact?

Who can do these methods and techniques?



What are we trying to impact?

What **methods and techniques** might impact these outcomes?

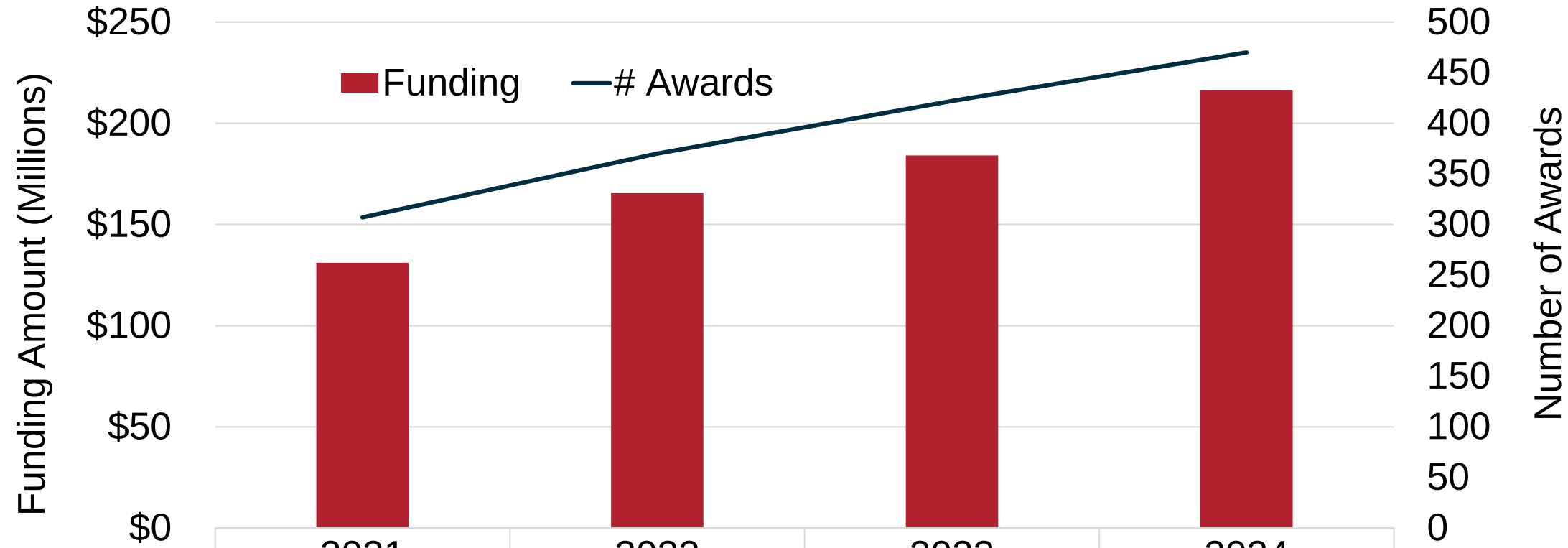
Adapted from Golub et al., JAIDS, 2025

RCDC code: Dissemination and Implementation Research

- Research on the barriers, facilitators, and outcomes of dissemination and implementation strategies for delivering evidence-based practices.
- Implementation research is the study of strategies to adopt and integrate interventions into clinical and community settings to improve outcomes.

https://rcdc.od.nih.gov/

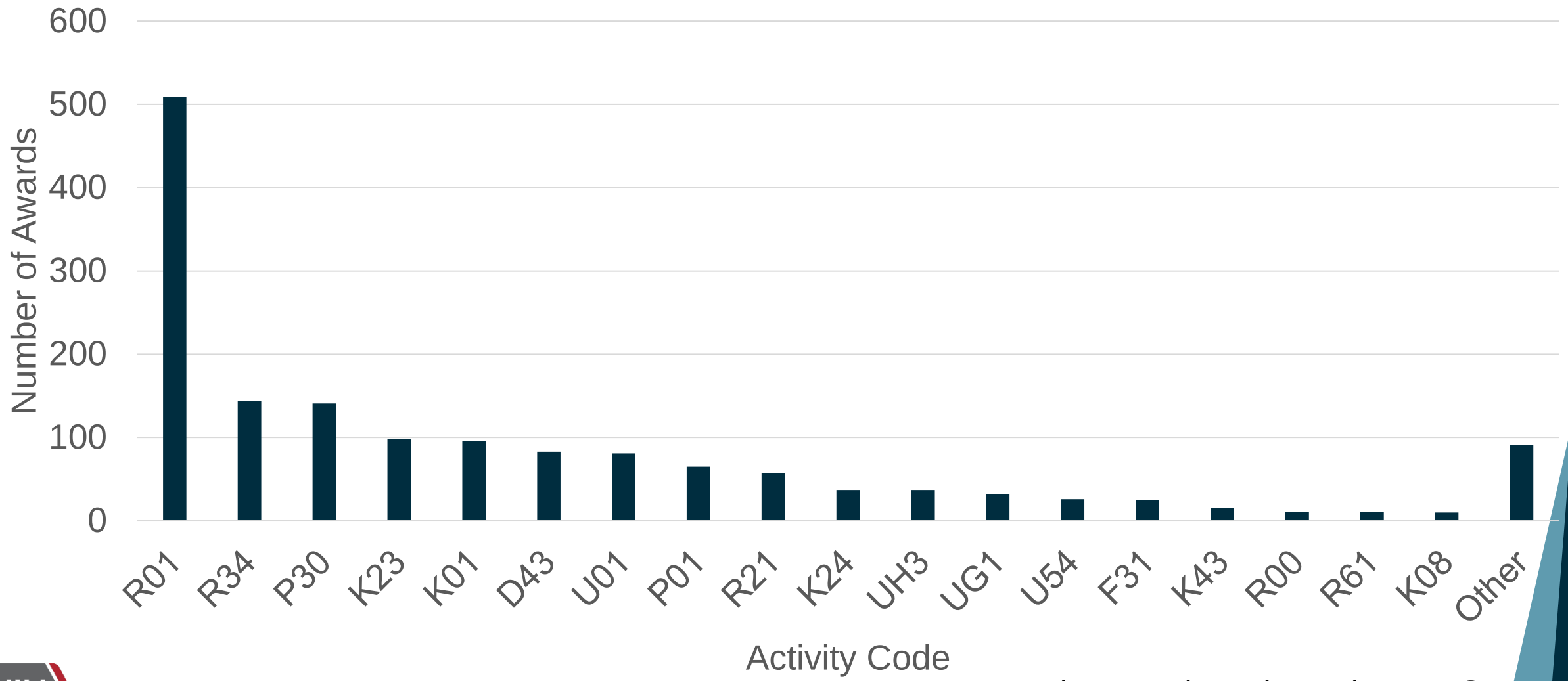
Number of awards and funding for HIV/AIDS and D&IR from FY21-24



	2021	2022	2023	2024
Funding	$131,069,846	$165,505,271	$184,110,145	$216,204,564
# Awards	307	370	422	470

Donenberg et al., under review, JIAS

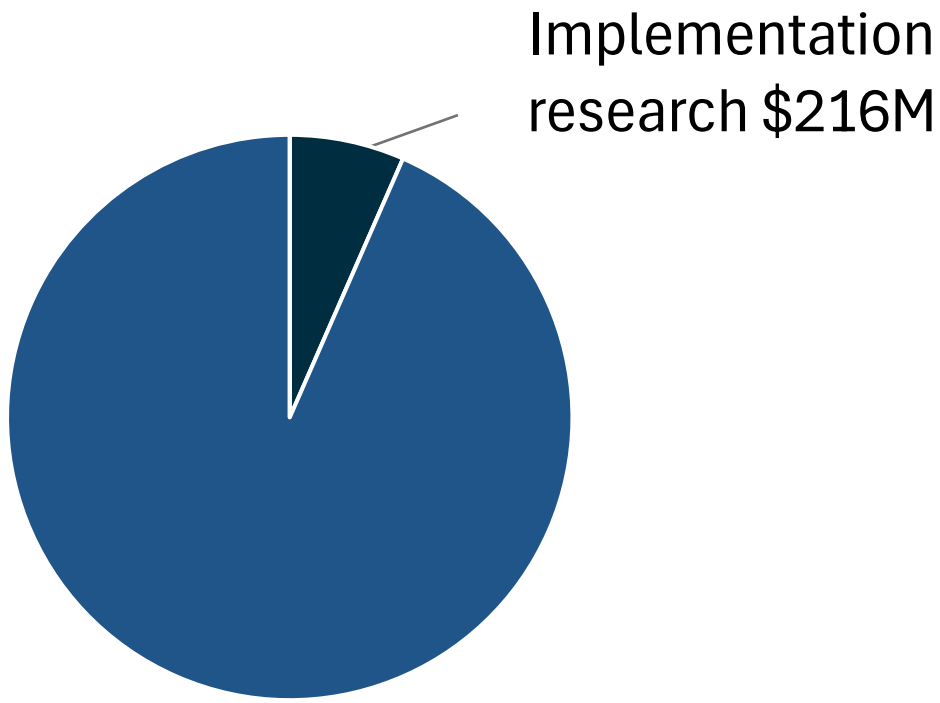
Distribution of grant mechanisms in HIV/AIDS and D&IR funded awards FY21-24 (n=1,569)



Donenberg et al., under review, JIAS

Implementation science in the HIV research portfolio

- 7% of HIV/AIDS funding
- Supported by 14 ICOs
- Opportunity to increase investment

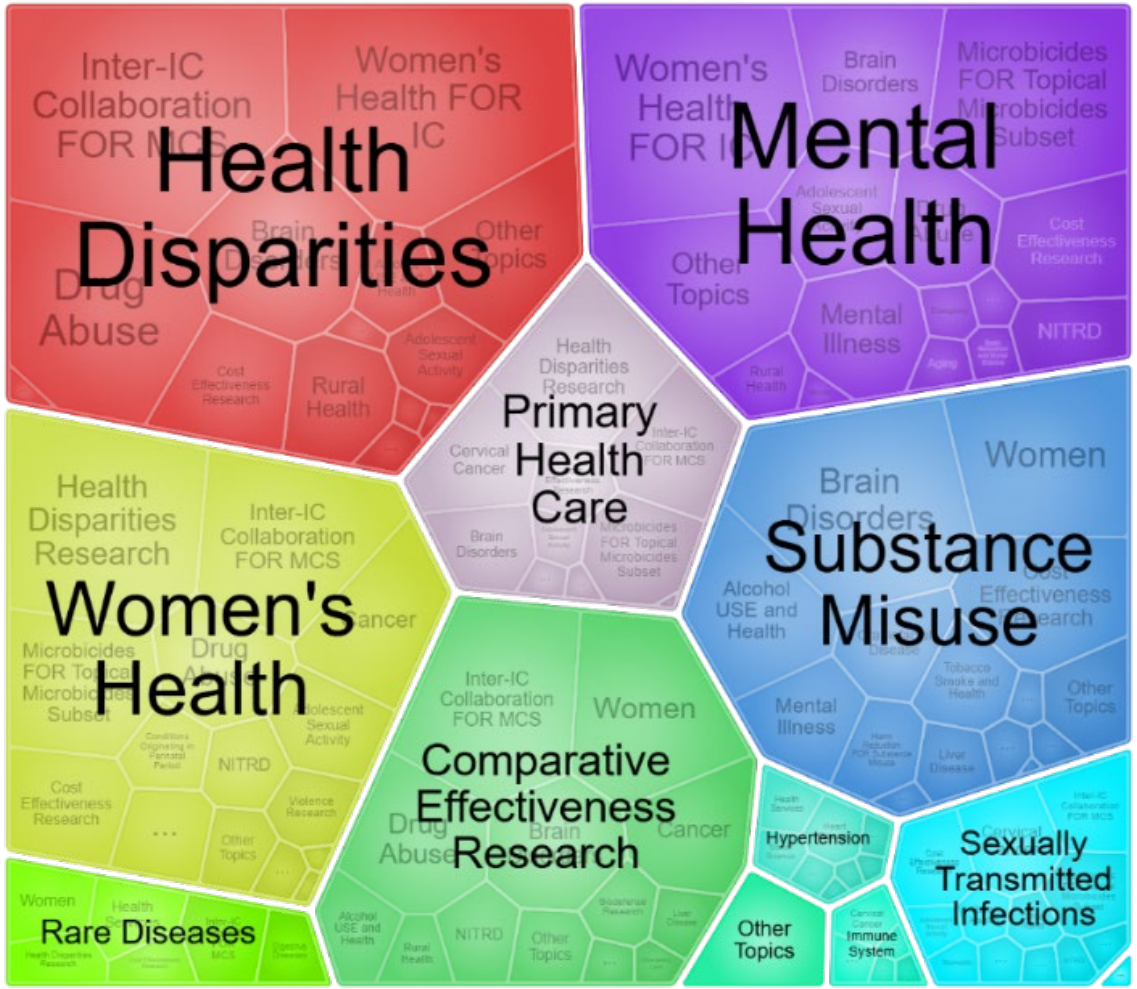


Total FY24 NIH HIV allocation = $3.29B

Funding ICO	% funding of the HIV/AIDS & D&IR portfolio by the ICO (FY21-24)	% of ICO's HIV/AIDS funding spent on D&IR (FY21-24)	% funding of the HIV/AIDS & D&IR portfolio by the ICO FY24	% of ICO's HIV/AIDS funding on D&IR FY24
NIMH	28%	25%	28%	31%
NIDA	17%	11%	15	12
NIAID	17%	2%	17	2
NCI	8%	6%	10	8
NICHD	8%	9%	10	14
NHLBI	6%	12%	5	10
NIAAA	5%	23%	4	26
NINR	3%	34%	4	44
FIC	3%	22%	3	26
NIMHD	2%	14%	2	19

Donenberg et al., under review, JIAS

Co-occurring RCDC Categories with HIV/AIDS and D&IR awards in FY24 (n=470)



Donenberg et al., under review, JIAS

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A new focus on NIH HIV implementation science

NIH will support **implementation science and other research directions** to improve the uptake of and access to existing medical and behavioral interventions that can significantly limit and eventually eradicate HIV infection from the United States. Research on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and cure will continue as needed to support this goal.

- Jay Bhattacharya, M.D., Ph.D., NIH Director

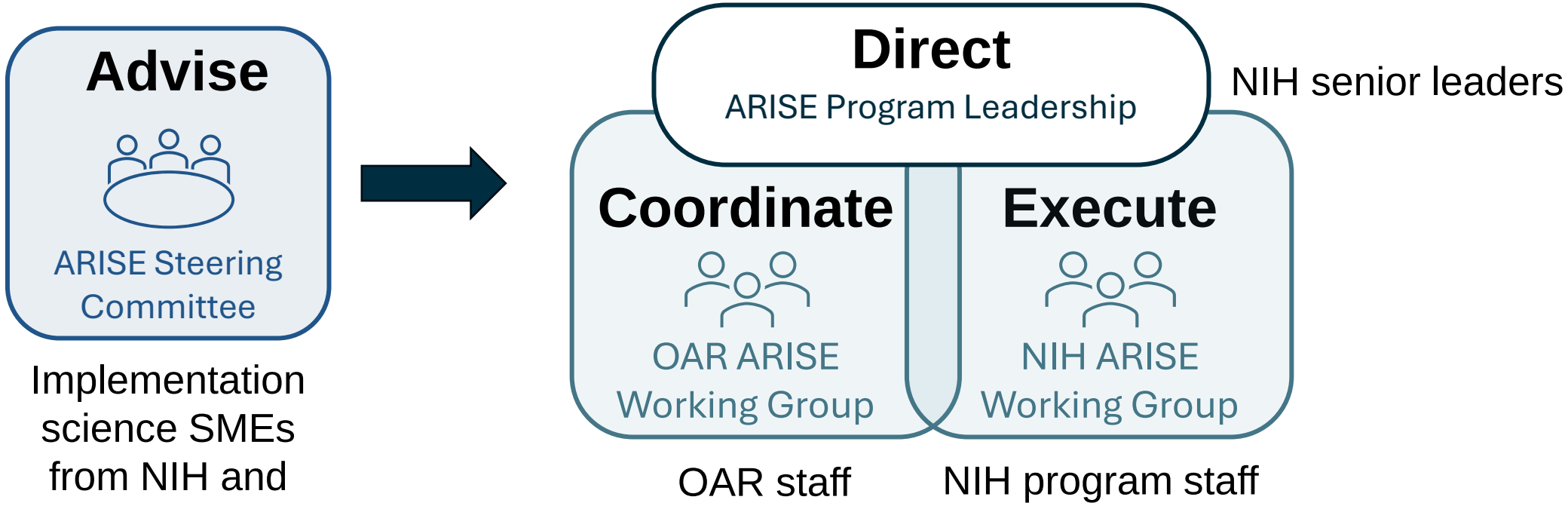
Advancing **R**esearch in **I**mplementation **S**cience to **E**nd HIV **(ARISE)**

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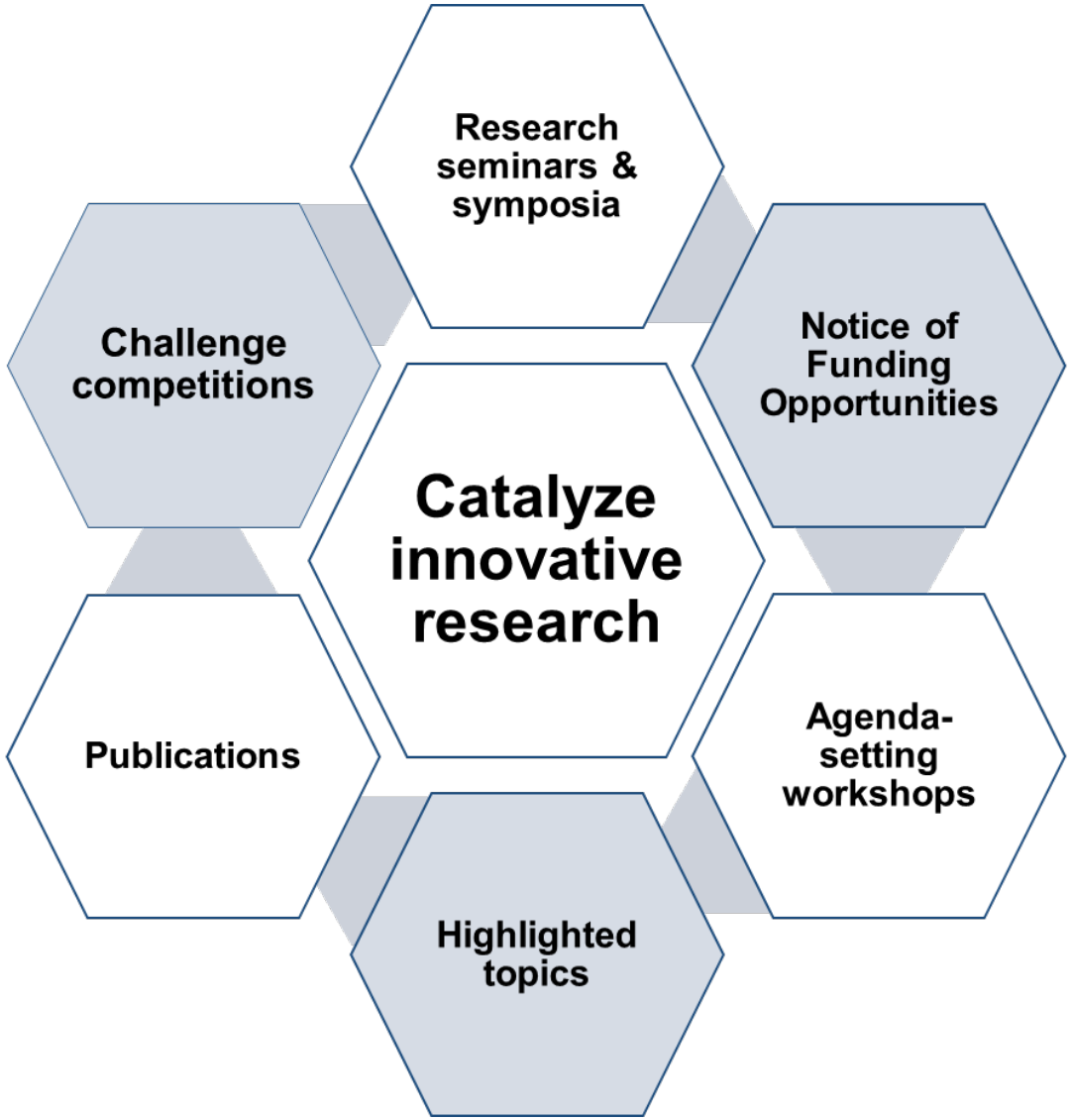
ARISE Program Goals

- Accelerate implementation research to end the HIV epidemic
  - Identify factors that promote the uptake of and access to effective and safe HIV prevention and treatment interventions
  - Determine how to deliver, sustain, and scale evidence-based strategies for HIV prevention and treatment
- Increase training and capacity building in implementation science

ARISE program management structure



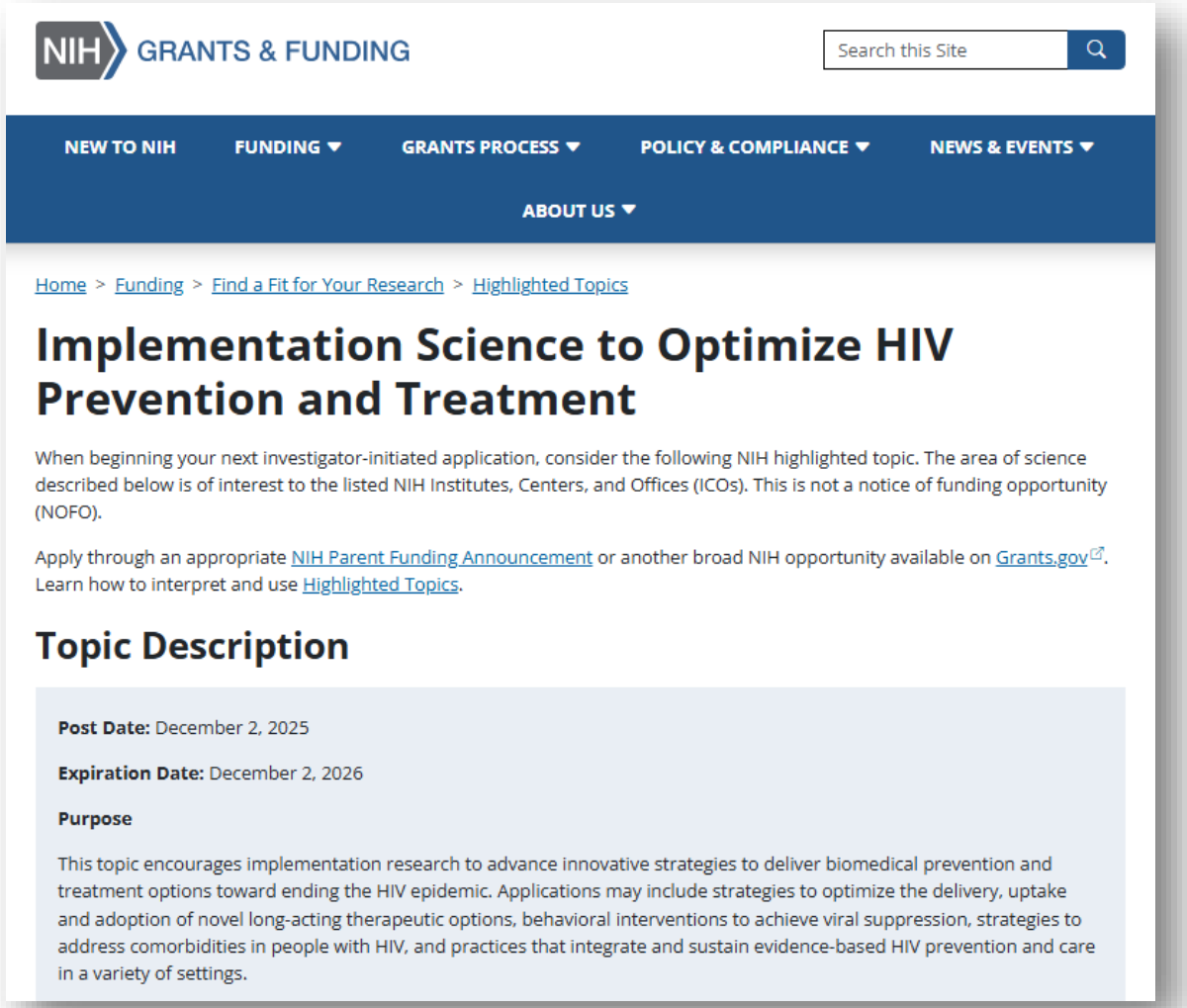
ARISE program activities



Fund research

Generate and exchange ideas

Implementation science highlighted topic



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Home > Funding > Find a Fit for Your Research > Highlighted Topics

Implementation Science to Optimize HIV Prevention and Treatment

When beginning your next investigator-initiated application, consider the following NIH highlighted topic. The area of science described below is of interest to the listed NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices (ICOs). This is not a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO).

Apply through an appropriate NIH Parent Funding Announcement or another broad NIH opportunity available on Grants.gov. Learn how to interpret and use Highlighted Topics.

Topic Description

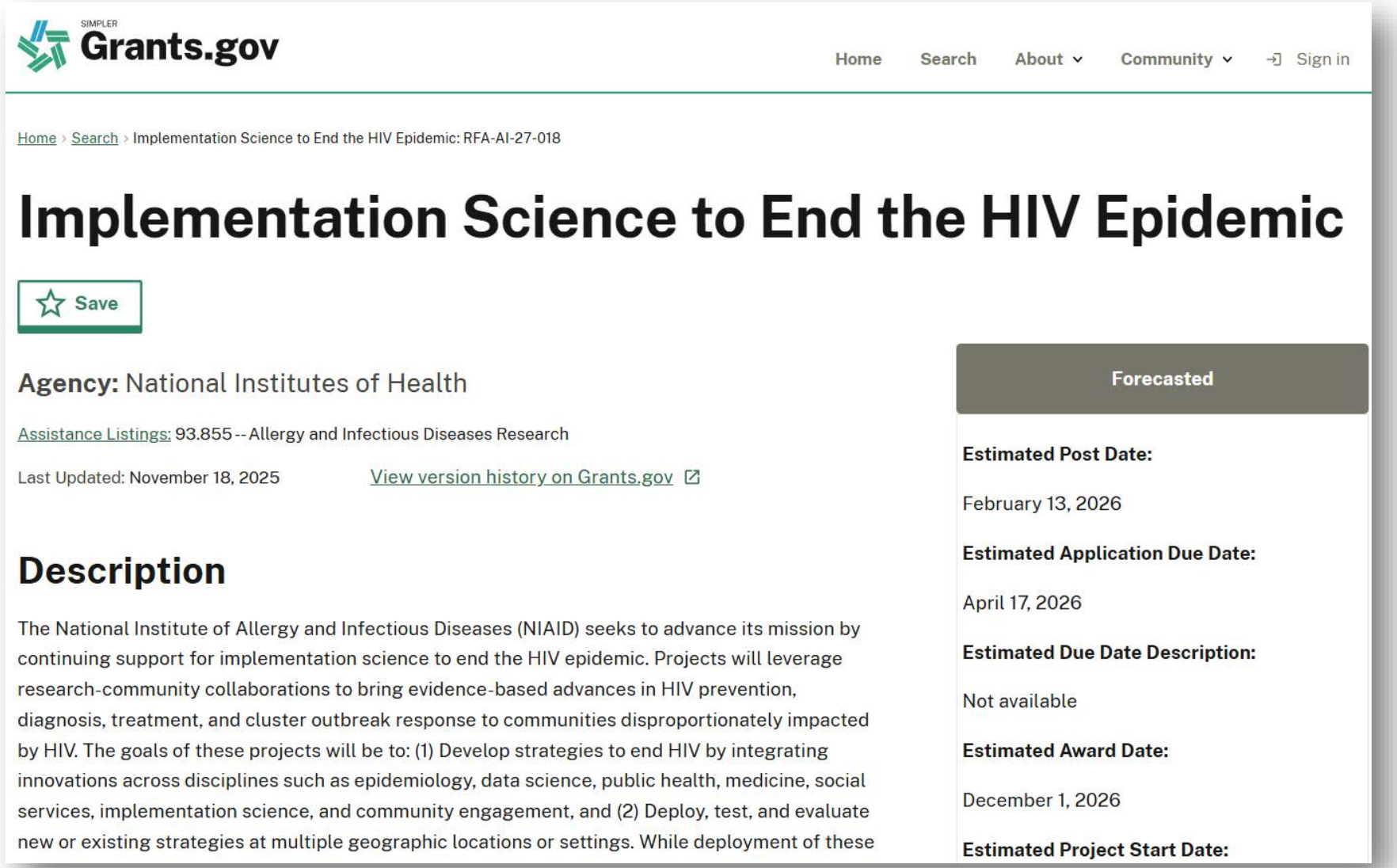
Post Date: December 2, 2025

Expiration Date: December 2, 2026

Purpose

This topic encourages implementation research to advance innovative strategies to deliver biomedical prevention and treatment options toward ending the HIV epidemic. Applications may include strategies to optimize the delivery, uptake and adoption of novel long-acting therapeutic options, behavioral interventions to achieve viral suppression, strategies to address comorbidities in people with HIV, and practices that integrate and sustain evidence-based HIV prevention and care in a variety of settings.

Forecasted funding opportunity



SIMPLER Grants.gov

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Implementation Science to End the HIV Epidemic

Save

Agency: National Institutes of Health

Assistance Listings: 93.855 -- Allergy and Infectious Diseases Research

Last Updated: November 18, 2025 View version history on Grants.gov

Forecasted

Estimated Post Date:

February 13, 2026

Estimated Application Due Date:

April 17, 2026

Estimated Due Date Description:

Not available

Estimated Award Date:

December 1, 2026

Estimated Project Start Date:

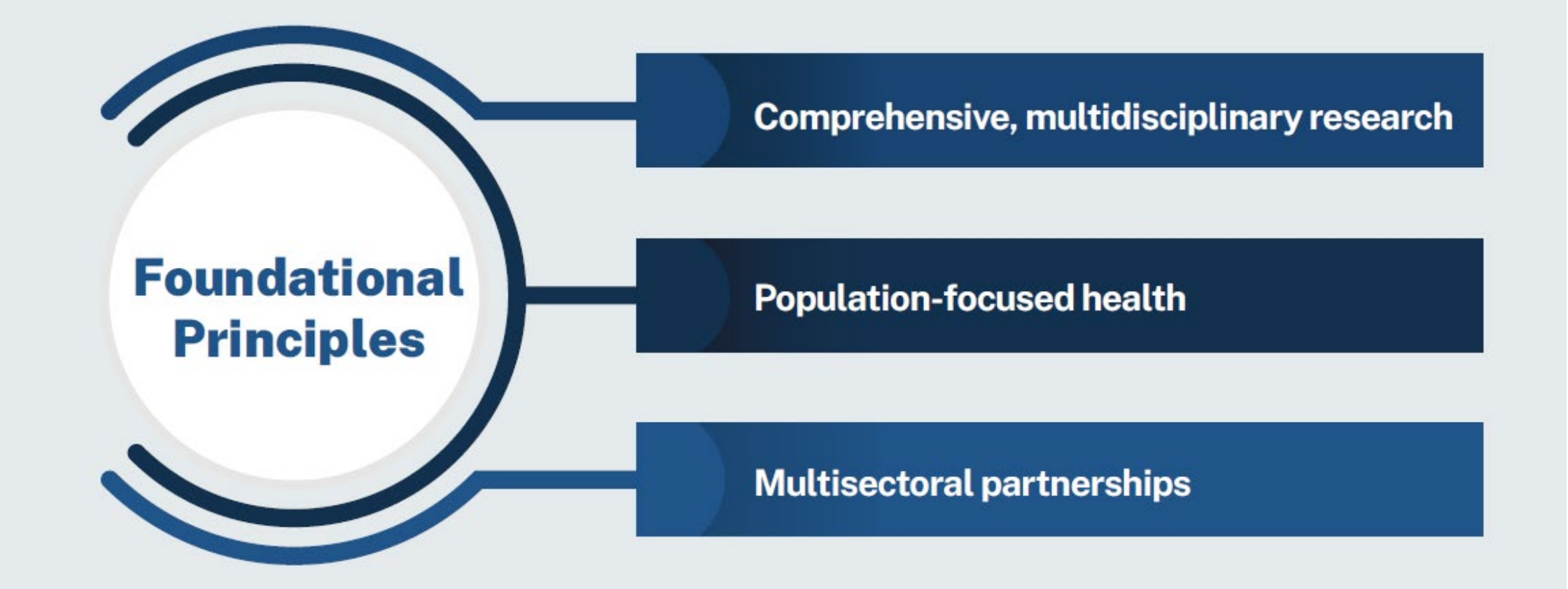
Description

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) seeks to advance its mission by continuing support for implementation science to end the HIV epidemic. Projects will leverage research-community collaborations to bring evidence-based advances in HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cluster outbreak response to communities disproportionately impacted by HIV. The goals of these projects will be to: (1) Develop strategies to end HIV by integrating innovations across disciplines such as epidemiology, data science, public health, medicine, social services, implementation science, and community engagement, and (2) Deploy, test, and evaluate new or existing strategies at multiple geographic locations or settings. While deployment of these

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The Plan is grounded in three foundational principles

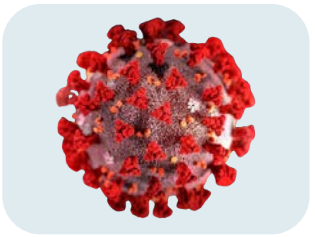


Transformational discoveries lie ahead

Rapid viral load monitoring



HIV cure



Meet EHE goals

2026

Novel antiretroviral formulations to support adherence



Broad access to long-acting treatment and prevention



HIV vaccine

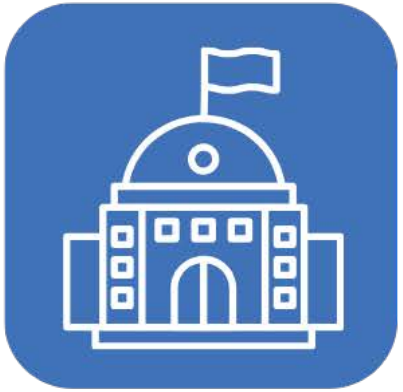
Key collaborations



Private sector



HIV community



Federal partners

Thank you!