HIV EARLY INTERVENTION OF HIV TESTING FOR ALL ADULT MALES LIVING IN SAN GABRIEL VALLEY: A GRANT PROPOSAL PROJECT

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### Scope of the Problem

- In San Gabriel Valley, men represent the highest number of those infected with HIV compared with women (CLAPH, 2013).
- Furthermore, 2,773 HIV-positive adult males reside in San Gabriel Valley compared to 490 females (CLAPH, 2013).
- Although the U.S. Census Bureau’s (2013) data on the population of San Gabriel Valley are not exact, an estimated 1.4 to 2 million residents live in this area.
- The CLAPH’s (2013) estimate of 3,263 infected HIV individuals in San Gabriel Valley seems quite low considering how many reside in this area.

### Goals

- HIV/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) interventions are necessary for smaller communities in the United States.
- Rapid HIV testing will be conducted at senior centers and community centers in different cities within San Gabriel Valley as well as county parks, health fairs organized by local health organizations, and homeless shelters.
- Free of charge, OraQuick rapid testing for all adult males willing to participate.

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**Introduction**
• Social workers can provide support to infected individuals and those seeking information on their HIV status.
• Social workers educate these adult men about the risk of having unprotected sex and the importance of consistently monitoring their HIV status.
• Social workers can refer clients, as needed, to programs that provide further education to clients who are not knowledgeable of HIV testing.

• Social work interns and HIV counselors on staff can offer testing as well as providing information on resources available in the community.
• Social workers can build a knowledge base of HIV testing stations by collaborating with a consortium in San Gabriel Valley to direct any individuals in need of this service.
• Collaborating with such a consortium can further expand community resources available for any adult male who needs services from various social services agencies and non-profit organizations.
• HIV is a multicultural issue with which many Americans are still coping today. HIV does not discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or age, and the individuals infected come from different races, genders, sexual orientations, and ages, worldwide.

• According to CLAPH (2013), men face a high risk of being exposed to HIV and account for 85% of those living with HIV, compared to 14% for women and 1% for transgender.

• These results indicate that men, more than any other gender, are the most commonly infected individuals living in San Gabriel Valley; given these high numbers, gender is the focus of this study.

Cross-cultural Relevance
Target Population

• The target population for this grant are adult males living in San Gabriel Valley.

• According to CLAPH (2013), approximately 3,263 individuals are HIV positive, 2,773 of which are males, thereby demonstrating the need to focus on men as the target population for this study.

• The criteria for this grant are to focus on adult males living in San Gabriel Valley, although women and transgender individuals can be tested as well.

Strategies to Select and Identifying Funding Sources

• This search was not limited, and all possible local, state, and federal grants were evaluated.

• Searching for a grant that would make it possible for all individuals to access available resources for rapid HIV testing, providing early intervention HIV testing for underserved individuals, and locating needs in rural and hard-to-reach communities for individuals to be tested.

• Any funding received will enable this program to offer early prevention efforts to all areas of San Gabriel Valley that are difficult to reach for testing.

Methods
### Funding and Needs Assessment

**Source Selected**
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA, 2014) offers a grant from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Part C Early Intervention Services (EIS).
- This grant invests in early HIV intervention programs for small communities. It also provides outpatient HIV primary care.

**Needs Assessment**
- Scholarly literature reviews, the Los Angeles Department of Public Health database, and the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) Economic Partnership website (which include all statistical sources from the U.S. Census Bureau as of 2010) will be accessed.

### Budget Range and Categories

- The comprehensive HIV/AIDS program will require a budget of approximately $400,000 for a 12-month period.
- Funding will include program staffs’ salaries, rapid testing kits, brochures for HIV prevention, office supplies, reimbursable expenses (e.g., mileage), office hardware costs, operating costs, and incentives.
- Operating costs will include costs to operate and conduct the program in addition to facilities-related costs, including rent, utilities, and maintenance.

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**Methods**
Grant Proposal

Program Summary and Description

- HIV counselors and social work interns will provide outreach for individuals, including testing and further services. HIV counselors will perform the OraQuick testing kit for each individual, which will take approximately 20 minutes.
- Once testing has been completed, HIV counselors will read the results to the clients and encourage all clients to follow up with their doctors for physical exams to test for possible sexually transmitted diseases or verify the positive HIV results.
- HIV counselors and interns will encourage all participants to utilize Bienestar’s services and also refer individuals to community resources and HIV-prevention items, such as condoms and lubricants.
- Case managers at the Bienestar agency in Pomona will then provide individuals with information on community resources for further testing at local clinics or hospitals if necessary, at the clients’ discretion.
- Case managers will assess if additional needs require linking participants to low- and no-cost resources in the community provided by other non- or for-profit organizations.

Population Served

- This program is focused on servicing all adult males in San Gabriel Valley to encourage HIV testing at any mobile sites provided by Bienestar.
- Although this program focuses on adult males living in San Gabriel Valley, women and transgender individuals can get tested as well.
- Services for HIV testing will be offered at certain locations in the surrounding areas of San Gabriel Valley twice a week for four hours a day.
- Rapid HIV-testing locations will include various senior centers, community centers in different cities within San Gabriel Valley, county parks, health fairs organized by local health organizations, and homeless shelters in San Gabriel Valley.
Grant Proposal

Sustainability

• The program will be sustained by re-applying for this grant the following year.
• Once this grant expires in a year, Bienestar will highlight this model to gain funds for incorporating rapid mobile testing for San Gabriel Valley via their annual charity gala.
• Bienestar receives funding from the Ryan White Care Act and Los Angeles Health Department as well.

Program Objectives and Evaluations

• Knowledge of their HIV status to empowering them to seek their HIV status consistently in the future.
• Increase participants’ awareness of how males can play a role in sexually risky behaviors by not practicing safe sex.
• Encouraging participants’ of utilizing clinics for further testing of STDs and HIV treatments if needed.

Evaluation

• The process evaluation will monitor the progress of different components of the program and will be in accordance with quantified and time-specific objectives.
• The process evaluation will examine how performance objectives were achieved and will periodically identify the necessary adjustments that should be made to increase the effectiveness of the proposed interventions.
Lessons Learned

• Through the research conducted, the writer discovered the need for rapid HIV testing in San Gabriel Valley based on the low testing numbers.
• The writer researched HIV testing results in service planning area 3 (SPA3) (i.e., San Gabriel Valley) and discovered that it ranks lowest among all other SPAs in Los Angeles County.
• The writer concluded that the need for HIV testing in this service area is overlooked due to the lack of community interventions offering HIV testing sites.

Implications for Social Work

• Social workers help improve the quality of life of those individuals and other groups in need by assisting them with developing early HIV interventions to gain better insights into the social factors that contribute to low HIV testing.
• The development of this program is an important step in addressing the social factors affecting adult men in Los Angeles County SPA3—namely, San Gabriel Valley.
• Social workers must look beyond stereotypes and better understand how HIV/AIDS affects their clients in order to understand how to create and provide cross-culturally competent interventions.
References

