

Texas Health Impact Cohort

Impact Report 2023-2025



TEXAS PRIDE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

The community-led Texas Health Impact Cohort is making a significant impact by strengthening HIV response across Texas

Texas continues to face deep disparities in HIV prevention, care, and advocacy particularly in communities that are under-resourced, underserved, and too often overlooked by traditional funding systems.

Many of the populations most impacted by HIV also face barriers including poverty, housing instability, limited healthcare access, stigma, discrimination, and growing social and political hostility toward marginalized communities. These challenges increase vulnerability to HIV while making it harder for individuals to access prevention services, remain connected to care, and achieve long-term health stability.

Yet despite their critical role in the HIV response, many grassroots organizations operate with limited infrastructure and little access to flexible, sustained funding. Without intentional investment in these trusted community voices, gaps in outreach, linkage to care, housing stability, mental health support, and health equity will continue to widen.

Initiatives like the Texas Health Impact Cohort (THICohort) are essential because they invest directly in local leaders already doing the work on the ground—building trust, expanding access to care, and strengthening community-driven solutions that create a more equitable HIV response across Texas.

Grassroots leaders and community-based organizations are often the first, and sometimes only, trusted point of connection for people navigating these realities.



Expanding the impact through strategic partnerships

Over the past three years, the THICohort has demonstrated the power of community-led solutions to address disparities in HIV prevention, care, and advocacy across Texas. It could not have been achieved without the support of two partnerships for which we are extremely grateful.

ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action AMP grant

This grant program invests directly in grassroots organizations and emerging leaders expanding outreach, strengthening networks, and improving linkage to care in communities most impacted by HIV. The AMP Grant model represents a critical shift in how community leadership is resourced. Rather than relying on traditional funding pathways that often overlook smaller or emerging organizations, the initiative empowers trusted community partners to regrant funding and cultivate networks that strengthen the HIV response locally.

Through this initiative, Texas Pride Community Foundation serves as a regional incubator and resource hub, providing micro-grants, mentorship, training, and network support to grassroots leaders and organizations across Texas. Over its first three years, the THICohort has helped leaders working at the intersection of HIV care, health equity, housing stability, and community wellness incubate innovative programs, expand community engagement, and strengthen support for communities that have historically faced barriers to care.

The Dallas Foundation's Racial Equity Fund grant

The success of the THICohort has also been strengthened through additional philanthropic investment. Support from The Dallas Foundation, through a Racial Equity Fund grant, enabled Texas Pride Community Foundation to bring additional community organizations from the North Texas region into the THICohort network.

This investment expanded the program's geographic reach and ensured that grassroots organizations serving communities disproportionately impacted by HIV in North Texas had access to funding, technical assistance, and peer learning opportunities through the cohort model.

These partnerships demonstrate the power of collaborative philanthropy to build stronger community-led solutions.

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About the THICohort Program

The THICohort centers on three interconnected pillars designed to strengthen community-driven HIV responses:



Networking – Creating opportunities for peer learning, collaboration, and shared leadership among organizations across Texas.



Linkage & Engagement – Expanding community-based outreach and improving connections to HIV prevention services, testing, treatment, and supportive care.



Advocacy – Amplifying the voices and leadership of people living with HIV while addressing stigma and structural barriers to care.

Through these focus areas, the program works to advance outcomes including:

- Increased engagement in HIV prevention and care
- Greater trust in healthcare systems
- Reduced stigma around HIV and sexual health
- Stronger community leadership and advocacy

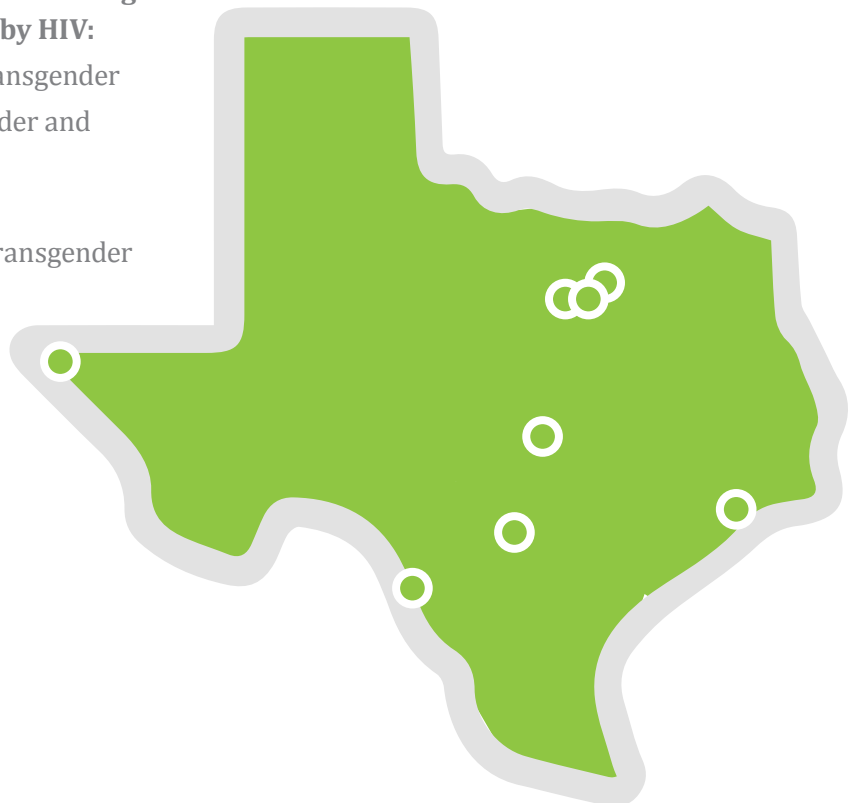
Additionally, the program prioritizes outreach among communities disproportionately impacted by HIV:

- Black men who are gay, bisexual, queer, or transgender
- Black, Latinx, and Indigenous women (cisgender and transgender)
- Young people living with HIV
- Latinx men who are gay, bisexual, queer, or transgender

AIDS Walk South Dallas | Dallas
allgo | Austin
Borderland Rainbow Center | El Paso
Eagle Pass SAFE | Eagle Pass
Elevate North Texas | Plano
Hardheaded Foundation | Dallas
Living Positive SA | San Antonio
Montrose Grace Place | Houston
SA Fighting Back | San Antonio
The Normal Anomaly | Houston
The Velvet Arts Project | Dallas
Village Unlimited | Arlington



By investing directly in trusted community organizations, the program ensures culturally responsive outreach and services that meet people where they are.

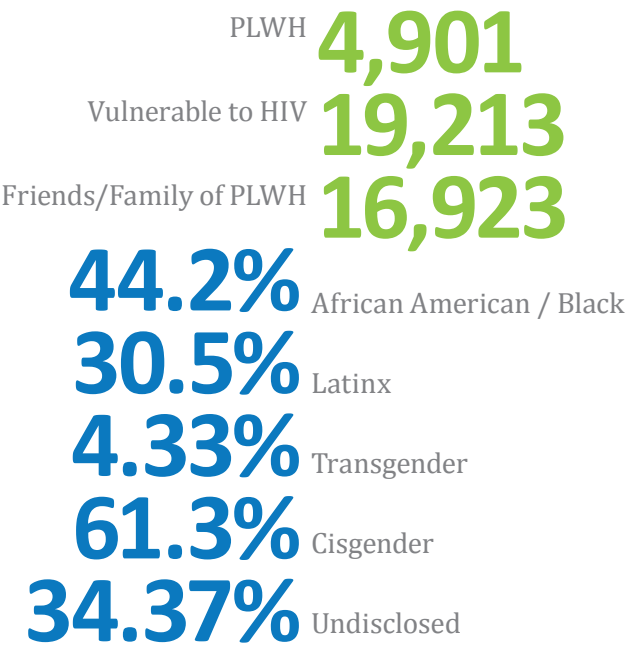


The THICohort impact on community

Cohort impact by the numbers (2023-2025)



Nearly 59,000 Community Members Reached



Strengthening leadership through connection

In 2024, cohort members gathered for the first-ever in-person THICohort convening, a transformative two-day event focused on knowledge sharing, collaboration, and strengthening collective power among community leaders.

Participants heard from D'Metris Welters, Community Liaison with ViiV Healthcare, who shared strategies for enhancing community service while reducing HIV-related stigma.

Additional sessions led by TPCF staff and cohort members focused on storytelling, mission-driven communication, and understanding organizational purpose—equipping grassroots leaders with tools to amplify their impact and advocate more effectively for their communities. Participants described the convening as a powerful opportunity to connect with peers from across Texas, strengthen relationships, and build a shared vision for community leadership in the HIV response. The gathering underscored the vital role of community, collaboration, and collective power in advancing health equity.

THICohort 2. first in-person convening in Dallas, Texas
April, 2026



The THICohort impact on building capacity

When community organizations have the resources, skills, and support to grow, entire communities benefit. Through the THICohort, grassroots leaders are building stronger organizations, expanding their reach, and creating meaningful change. These four stories demonstrate the difference that investment in community leadership can make.

Through collaboration

The Normal Anomaly Initiative

“Being a part of the Texas Health Impact Cohort (THIC) helped us dream a lot larger than before as it relates to our impact around HIV. Being around other grassroots organizations across Texas doing fantastic, innovative work—many without access to a metropolitan area — inspired us to do more with the privilege we have. This included partnering with cohort members, local clinics, and Community Based Organizations to carry out our testing campaigns, initiatives, and linkage services, which have increased our testing numbers year-over-year by no less than 25% in the last three years.” — Ian Haddock, Executive Director

Through deeper connections

Living Positive San Antonio

“The Texas Health Impact Cohort helped Living Positive San Antonio (LPSA) grow from a small support group into a program that supports individuals with transportation, food, clothing, and digital access. We were able to reach many more people, build strong partnerships, and connect more people to care and community. Most importantly, it helped us create a space where people feel supported, included, and not alone.” — Living Positive SA

Through community building

Eagle Pass SAFE

From lived experience to community leadership, Vanessa A., a Linkage to Care Specialist, shared: “As a person who has lived through this and so many hardships, it means everything to connect people to the resources they need. I’ve helped people access mental health care, supported survivors of sexual violence, and helped people access mental health care, and helped clients stay on track with their medications and labs. I never imagined I would be able to help others in this way.” Her work reflects the power of community-rooted leadership in building trust and improving health outcomes.

— Eagle Pass SAFE

Through providing stability

Elevate North Texas

A young transgender woman aged out of foster care and immediately became homeless. Within her first week on the streets, she was forced into survival sex work to secure food and shelter. When she connected with Elevate North Texas, the first thing she requested was an HIV test. Thanks to resources from the THICohort, we had testing kits available immediately. Her results were negative. She entered the organization’s shelter, secured employment, and within 39 days was approved for Rapid Rehousing. Today, she lives in her own apartment with renewed safety, dignity, and hope. — Elevate North Texas

Behind every number is a person whose life was changed through the support and services made possible by the THICohort.



The impact of a collective effort

The progress achieved through the Texas Health Impact Cohort would not be possible without the dedication of community leaders, partner organizations, and supporters across Texas.

Together, with support from ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action AMP initiative and The Dallas Foundation, we are helping build a stronger, more equitable HIV response rooted in community leadership, lived experience, and grassroots innovation.

But this work is far from finished. Across Texas, emerging leaders and community-based organizations continue to face significant barriers to funding, capacity, and long-term sustainability despite being on the frontlines of HIV prevention, care, advocacy, and support.

The future of this movement depends on continued investment. We invite partners, funders, and supporters to invest in future cohorts, sponsor community convenings, and donate to help expand grassroots HIV leadership across Texas. Together, we can ensure communities most impacted by HIV have the resources, representation, and power needed to lead lasting change.

Building on success: Looking ahead to the next cohort

Building on the momentum of the inaugural cohort, 12 organizations across Texas launched the second Texas Health Impact Cohort in January 2026, bringing together a powerful network of grassroots leaders committed to transforming the HIV response in the communities they call home.

Over the next three years, through December 2028, cohort participants will deepen community outreach, strengthen cross-sector partnerships, and expand leadership rooted in lived experience. Through virtual learning sessions, mentorship opportunities, and annual in-person convenings, these leaders are not only building skills and connections they are building a stronger future for Texas.

As the Texas Health Impact Cohort grows, so does its vision: a Texas where community-led solutions drive lasting change, stigma is dismantled, access to care is expanded, and every person affected by HIV has the opportunity to thrive.





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