

# University of Chicago

Chicago, IL

## The Initiative

The Emerging Strategies to Improve Health Outcomes for People Aging with HIV (Aging with HIV) Initiative supports and evaluates 10 demonstration sites as they implement groundbreaking interventions that seek to improve whole-person care of people with HIV ages 50 and older served by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP).

## The Program

The program aimed to expand dementia assessment and management capacity within HIV specialty care clinics by training embedded “Dementia Champions” who provided screening, support, and referrals to memory care services. Through the program, the University of Chicago:

- Trained RWHAP clinic staff as “HIV Dementia Champions.”
- Promoted Dementia Champions within clinical care settings.
- Provided ongoing support to Dementia Champions for complex cases and quality improvement efforts.



## Implementation Lessons Learned

The University of Chicago benefited from a number of facilitators and worked as a team to overcome several challenges.

### Facilitators



**Flexible, proactive, and communicative teams** were paramount to implementing the day-to-day activities and engaging clients.



**Forming partnerships** that align with the goal of the intervention in different geographic areas helped expand the intervention's reach into various platforms (e.g., electronic) and locations.



Staff were motivated by **client engagement and the perceived need** for the intervention.



**Leadership support** from clinical and administrative teams facilitated implementation and resource allocation via dedicated staff time.



Having a **patient liaison and community advisory board** reinforced staff motivation and helped guide the content of project resources and training materials.

### Challenges



**Planning for administrative requirements** (e.g., staff onboarding, scheduling approvals, and funding agreements) caused delays in the timeline. Future projects should plan for this in the overall intervention timeline.



**Staff turnover** impacted continuity and required adjustments in roles and responsibilities.



**Delays in identifying and securing the right staffing** (e.g., qualifications, number of staff, staff bandwidth) caused further delays in developing training content and offering training services.

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