



Gilead COMPASS Initiative® Progress Report 2018-2020

Welcome Letter

In the early days of the epidemic, an HIV diagnosis was a death sentence. Since then, activists and advocates, healthcare providers, industry, government, community and faith leaders and, perhaps most importantly, people living with HIV have made remarkable progress in the fight against the disease. It's thanks to their work that people living with HIV now live long, healthy lives and the end of the epidemic is closer than ever.

As the fight to end HIV has evolved, so too has its domestic epicenter. The disease that was associated with the gay male communities of San Francisco, New York and other urban centers in the 1980s **now disproportionately affects diverse populations of all genders, predominantly in the Southern U.S.** That's why, three years ago, Gilead embarked on a new effort and commitment to focus on addressing the disproportionate impact of HIV on communities of color in the U.S. South. We understood that much more is needed to combat the epidemic in the U.S. South — and that the best ideas come from the creativity and resilience of people on the frontlines, who are both experiencing and working to overcome the inequitable social and economic determinants of health. We embarked on a listening and learning tour, meeting with those most directly affected by HIV.

We heard clearly that there were three areas where deep investments could be made to help end HIV in the U.S. South. This laid the foundation for creating the **Gilead COMPASS Initiative® – the COMmitment to Partnership in Addressing HIV in Southern States:**

1. *Combat stigma and change public perception around HIV.*
2. *Improve access to and quality of resources to support well-being, mental health, substance use treatment and trauma-informed care in the hardest hit areas.*
3. *Increase local leadership and advocacy across the Southern United States.*

Our commitment goes far beyond medicine. The COMPASS Initiative® is a 10-year collaboration with community-based organizations focused on combating HIV among disproportionately impacted communities. Our work with three Coordinating Centers, GLAAD and the Southern HIV Impact



Participants attending a 2019 training at Emory University's PoWER Up Institute in Atlanta, GA.

Fund has allowed us to meet local needs and support scientific endeavors like AIDSvu, all of which are important components of reducing new transmissions, communicating with policymakers and making the COMPASS Initiative® a success.

We're proud of what we've achieved so far but know that much more work remains to be done. For example, the [GLAAD-Gilead State of Stigma HIV survey](#) found that **nearly six in 10 Americans wrongly believe that it's unsafe to be around someone living with HIV.**¹ Negative perceptions like these and related stigma and discrimination must change if we are to end the epidemic.

As we look to the future, we are preparing to announce new collaborations with the faith community while redoubling our efforts to work with local groups and populations. Above all, we are making a difference because of the strength and depth of our partnerships and the leadership and ingenuity of local communities. We know that this is a winning solution.

Thank you for what you're doing to bring this epidemic to an end. We look forward to continuing to work with you.



Korab Zuka

Korab Zuka
VP, Public Affairs, Gilead Sciences Inc.

Introduction

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), “the South now experiences the greatest burden of HIV and deaths of any U.S. region, and lags behind in providing quality HIV prevention services and care.”² Southern states today account for an estimated [44% of all people living with HIV](#) in the U.S., despite only comprising about one-third (38%) of the overall population.³ Nearly [500,000 people](#) in the Southern United States live with HIV – more than the entire population of New Orleans.⁴ As the epicenter of HIV in the U.S., the Southern United States has infection rates comparable to some of the earliest days of the epidemic in the 1980s, accounting for 51% of all new HIV diagnoses in the U.S.⁵

The COMPASS Initiative® is an unprecedented more than \$100 million commitment over 10 years to support organizations working to address the HIV epidemic in the Southern United States. In response to the epidemic, the COMPASS Initiative® focuses on providing concentrated resources to the region to change the public perception around HIV, improve access to and quality of healthcare services for people living with HIV and increase local leadership and advocacy in the U.S. South.

Since the start of the epidemic, the faces of those living with and at risk of acquiring HIV have changed. People of color in the U.S. South are now at the greatest risk. Black people make up [53% of people living with HIV and 52% of new diagnoses](#).⁶ Black women accounted for [67% of all women](#) diagnosed with HIV in the U.S. South in 2018.⁷ Additionally, Latinx

people account for more than [15% of people living with HIV](#) and nearly 20% of new diagnoses in the Southern United States.⁸

We must go beyond treatment and prevention to end the epidemic for all communities. The challenge isn’t just in expanding access to treatment to reduce new transmissions, it’s that persistent barriers exist to raising awareness of the available prevention and treatment resources specifically for communities of color. [Study](#)⁹ after [study](#)¹⁰ finds that Black and Latinx communities feel less comfortable talking about HIV, and this issue is further complicated by cultural and language barriers. These [studies](#) also indicate that the number of Spanish-speaking doctors is decreasing while Latinx populations are expanding.¹¹ Removing barriers and equitably expanding access will better ensure that all people get the high quality care they deserve.



A support group hosted by COMPASS Initiative® grantee Here's to Life in Atlanta, GA.

“There’s a stigma with HIV. People don’t want to talk about it. It’s about educating our community from within.”

– Tatiana Williams, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Transinclusive Group

Partnerships Catalyze Southern Change

In three years, the COMPASS Initiative® has built strategic collaborations with organizations across the country that are essential to reaching communities where they are, sharing best practices for connecting with potential clients and stakeholders, improving access to and quality of care and establishing the next generation of leadership in the fight against HIV. From providing regional statistics to advising on programmatic lineups and connecting organizations with local partners, the COMPASS Initiative® is helping grantees make important strides in ending the HIV epidemic.

Our partnerships coupled with direct funding to local communities are sparking national conversation about HIV and stigma. Some examples of this essential work include:

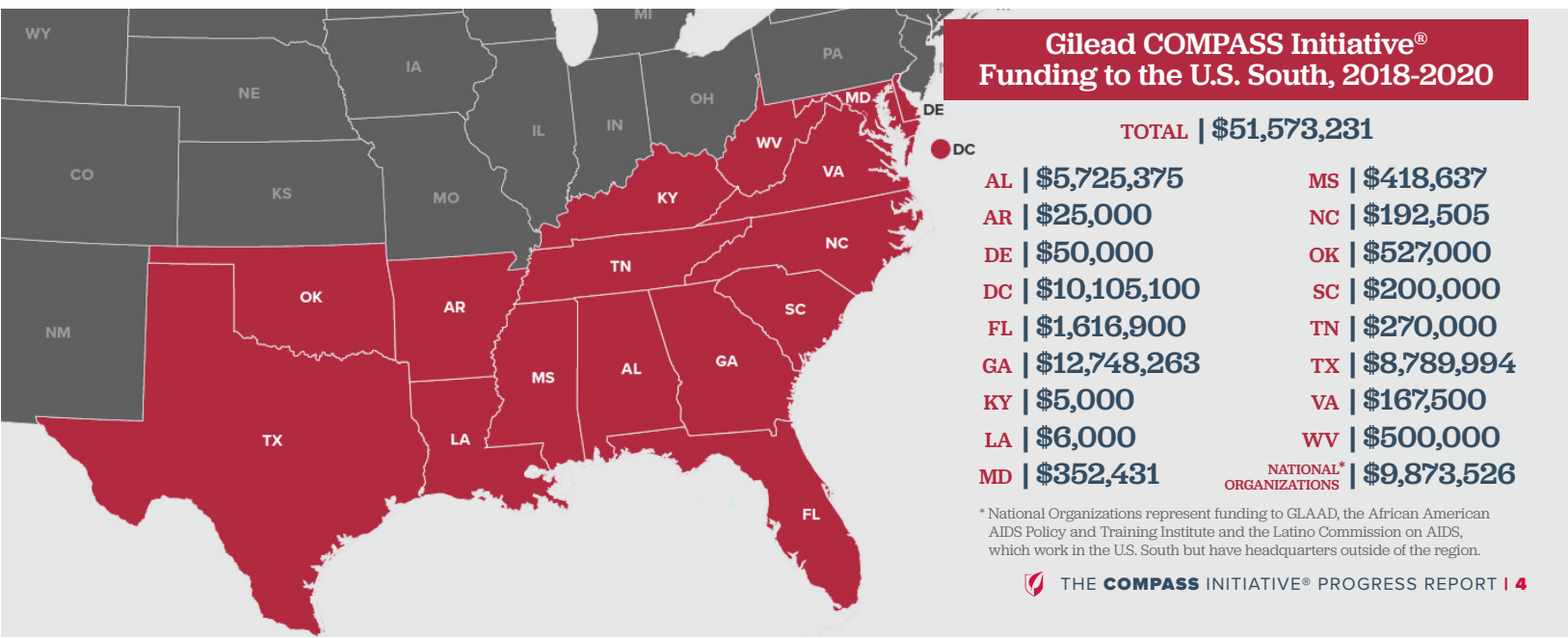
- [GLAAD](#) helps to raise much-needed awareness of the HIV epidemic in the Southern United States, as well as researching attitudes toward LGBTQ+ people and HIV in the region to combat stigma.¹²
- [The Southern HIV Impact Fund](#) works to raise funds, grow partnerships and foster the next generation of leaders to strengthen the fight against HIV in the U.S. South.
- [Gilead Direct Funding to the U.S. South](#) provides robust support for innovative initiatives from local organizations.

MEET THE COMPASS INITIATIVE® COORDINATING CENTERS

At the inception of the program, three Coordinating Centers were identified for their expertise to lead domain areas for the COMPASS Initiative®. The Coordinating Centers are academic institutions or organizations who serve as thought leaders, decide where to allocate funding and determine how to best support local organizations that are committed to addressing the epidemic in the U.S. South.

- [The Emory University Rollins School of Public Health](#) supports organizational capacity-building through a data driven approach.
- [The University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work](#) enhances HIV prevention and care efforts by incorporating wellness, trauma, mental health, substance use and appropriate follow-up care.
- [The Southern AIDS Coalition](#) develops and supports education, public health advocacy efforts and efforts to address HIV-related stigma.

None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of our partners and Coordinating Centers, and we're thankful for all they do to fight the epidemic in the Southern United States. Learn more about their work on the [COMPASS Initiative® website](#).



Changing The Public Perception Around HIV

After witnessing the traumatic suicide of a neighbor, Tarik Daniels suffered from depression for years. His struggles were compounded by an HIV diagnosis, which led to self-doubt and mental health challenges.

A lifelong artist, Tarik saw firsthand the positive impact art therapy could have on mental health. In 2015, he drew from his personal journey and founded [Whatsinthemirror?](#) to connect mental health clinicians of color with those in need of mental health services. The organization also provides arts-based programming that seeks to address social justice issues and eliminate HIV and mental health-related stigma. Since the COMPASS Initiative® launched, Tarik has received two grants from the University of Houston Coordinating Center to help raise awareness and change the public perception of HIV, and another grant from Southern AIDS Coalition to build on his work fighting stigma. These resources have enabled Tarik to substantially expand his work and change even more lives in his community.

We know that expanding access to treatment and prevention resources alone won't end the epidemic. That's why it's crucial to understand the many factors that impact those living with or at risk of acquiring HIV. Stigma is a major barrier standing in the way of ending the spread of HIV, and the COMPASS Initiative® is dedicating resources and bringing people and organizations together to combat its spread and save lives.

Partner Spotlight

SOUTHERN AIDS COALITION

The Southern AIDS Coalition (SAC) is a non-partisan coalition of government, community and business leaders working alongside thousands of individual members to prevent new infections and build a U.S. South inclusive of people living with HIV. SAC does this through capacity building and education, research and evaluation, strategic grant-making and public health advocacy. The SAC Coordinating Center develops and supports education and advocacy efforts to address HIV-related stigma, discrimination and health inequities.

Raising Awareness:

COMPASS STORIES HAVE BEEN VIEWED MORE THAN 30 MILLION TIMES OVER 3 YEARS.¹³⁺



Tarik Daniels,
Founder, Whatsinthemirror?

“Life has taught me that I have to be the narrator of my story and not let stats and data dictate my own personal outcomes.”

– Tarik Daniels, Founder and Executive Director, Whatsinthemirror?

STUDYING STIGMA WITH GLAAD

Understanding the scope of the problem is the first step to solving it. Working with GLAAD, the COMPASS Initiative® launched the first [State of HIV Stigma Study](#) to measure American attitudes toward HIV and the impact that stigma has on people living with the disease. The study found that significant stigma continues to impact the way people work, live and love.¹⁴ Directly addressing stigma alongside national and community leaders has generated a dialogue and engagement that are helping us combat HIV stigma.

GIVING WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THE SKILLS TO TELL STIGMA TO “BUZZ OFF!”

[Let's BeeHIVE!, Inc.](#) used COMPASS Initiative® funds to implement “Stinging Stigma,” a community-based program to help change HIV perceptions among Black women and young people living with the disease. Let's Beehive! empowers at-risk populations disproportionately affected by HIV to make better choices when engaging in sexual encounters to reduce new HIV infections. Reducing stigma, strengthening social support and increasing HIV awareness has been an ongoing effort to improve attitudes around HIV at the community level and among the general public.

SPARKING A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ABOUT HIV STIGMA

Since the COMPASS Initiative® launched in 2017, media stories related to the program have been viewed more than 30 million times, elevating the conversation nationally around the HIV epidemic in the U.S. South, the urgent work that still needs to be done and the [harmful impact of HIV stigma](#) on this effort.¹⁵ The COMPASS Initiative® helped launch the first-ever [Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day \(SHAAD\)](#) to have a national conversation around HIV in the U.S. South and provide an opportunity for grantees to connect with one another. SHAAD not only helped draw national and regional attention to the HIV epidemic in the U.S. South, it allowed dozens of COMPASS Initiative® grantees to network, build crucial frontline connections and share knowledge and best practices.



2019 Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
panel on faith and HIV.

*“It is our vision with our
bee theme philosophy to use
health education as natural
medicine to eradicate HIV
nationwide.”*

*– Dr. Andrea Dunn, Founder and
Queen Bee, Let's BeeHIVE!*

HEALING THROUGH ART

In early 2020, [Whatsinthemirror?](#) launched the [Art Heals Project](#) with the support of a COMPASS Initiative® grant.

The Art Heals Project was designed to highlight the intersection of mental health and HIV prevention. The program's goals include reducing stigma, affirming care and raising awareness through art. Whatsinthemirror?'s

efforts culminated in the Art Heals Festival, which was timed to coincide with SHAAD 2020. The multi-disciplinary arts festival featured prominent speakers, informative panels and the use of art as an educational and healing tool, including the premier of Tarik Daniels' play, "SCHOOLBOY," which highlights LGBTQ+ ballroom culture and works to tell the story of what it is to be a Black LGBTQ+ individual in America.



No single person, organization or awareness day can end stigma overnight. Stigma is rooted in the homophobia that made the early days of the epidemic so challenging, and unfortunately persists in many parts of the country. But when we reach millions of people through days like Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, or help even one additional person accept their status and love themselves through events like the Art Heals Festival, we chip away at the harmful impact of stigma and get that much closer to ending the epidemic.

Improving Access To And Quality Of Healthcare Services On The Frontline

In 1989, Elia Chino's best friend died from an illness she had never heard of. She received the bad news two weeks later when that friend's widow called and said that he had died from a disease called "AIDS." She didn't know anything about it at the time, but she learned more than she would have hoped because of the devastation it caused her community in just a few short years. During the early 1990s in Houston, Elia saw too many people die in their friends' houses from complications related to HIV because they were afraid to talk about it with their families, partners and communities. She knew she had to act.

As a trans woman primarily working with immigrants in Texas, Elia knows just how damaging HIV and the surrounding stigma can be. That's why she started the Fundación Latinoamericana Contra El SIDA, Inc. in Houston 25 years ago, which became Fundación Latinoamericana De Acción Social, Inc., or FLAS,

in 2013. In recent years, FLAS received a COMPASS Initiative® grant for Project Reach, a telehealth program to provide culturally competent care to Latinx people regardless of language, socioeconomic status or location. Elia is helping bring Spanish speaking, judgement-free healthcare to patients across the U.S. South through telehealth with the hope of making culturally competent medical advice accessible to all.

Ensuring care is patient-centric, considerate of diverse backgrounds and LGBTQ+ experiences and coordinated with other health services is essential to caring holistically for people at risk of acquiring or living with HIV. Reaching potential patients can be particularly challenging in rural areas, and creative tactics are needed to identify and connect with those in need. By sharing knowledge and resources across dozens of partner organizations, we help enhance the reach and quality of healthcare at the local level across the U.S. South.

"COMPASS Funding has allowed FLAS to increase and innovate our behavioral health counseling services through technology to serve Latinos and the LGBTQ+ community. By engaging clients in their homes, we reduce stigma and fear related to the use of technology for telehealth counseling."

– Elia Chino, Founder and Executive Director, FLAS

FINDING GENDER AFFIRMING CARE FOR TRANSGENDER WOMEN

[My Sistah's House](#) provides housing support, educational information and transition services to LGBTQ+ people, especially transgender women, with an emphasis on HIV testing and prevention services. For many, healthcare doesn't just mean prescriptions and HIV treatment – it's regular housing and food access, job training programs, mental healthcare and so much more that help keep people healthy and prevent new transmissions in the first place.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE HIV CARE

[Legacy Community Health](#) identifies unmet needs and gaps in health-related services, then develops client-centered programs to address those needs in Houston, Texas. In addition to comprehensive HIV care, they can provide adult primary care, pediatrics, dental care, vision services, behavioral health services, OB/GYN and maternity, vaccinations and wellness support. Since they received their COMPASS Initiative® grant, they've been able to improve care and support services for 2,750 additional people living with HIV.¹⁷

COMBATING HIV THROUGH SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

[Southern Health Commission](#) provides prevention, education, resources on HIV and training on substance use and prevention to people living in the Delta region of Greenville and Washington Counties, Mississippi. The organization leveraged their COMPASS Initiative® training and funding to receive a five year, \$1 million grant from SAMHSA and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention for its Substance Abuse and HIV Prevention Navigator Program for Racial/Ethnic Minorities.

Partner Spotlight

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

The University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work Coordinating Center enhances HIV prevention and care efforts by incorporating attention to the role of wellness, trauma, mental health and substance use, and increasing capacity to conduct comprehensive assessments using evidence-based screenings and appropriate follow-up care.

176,676

NUMBER OF PEOPLE HELPED TO
ACCESS QUALITY HEALTHCARE BY
THE COMPASS INITIATIVE.®16†



A provider at Rural Women's Health Project shares information and resources with a client in Gainesville, FL.

“Projects in the U.S. South are still much needed and we (Southerners) must continue to apply so we may be able to do the work.”

– Easter Courtney, Programs Director, The U.S. Southern Health Commission

STUDYING HIV DATA IN TOWNS, STATES AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

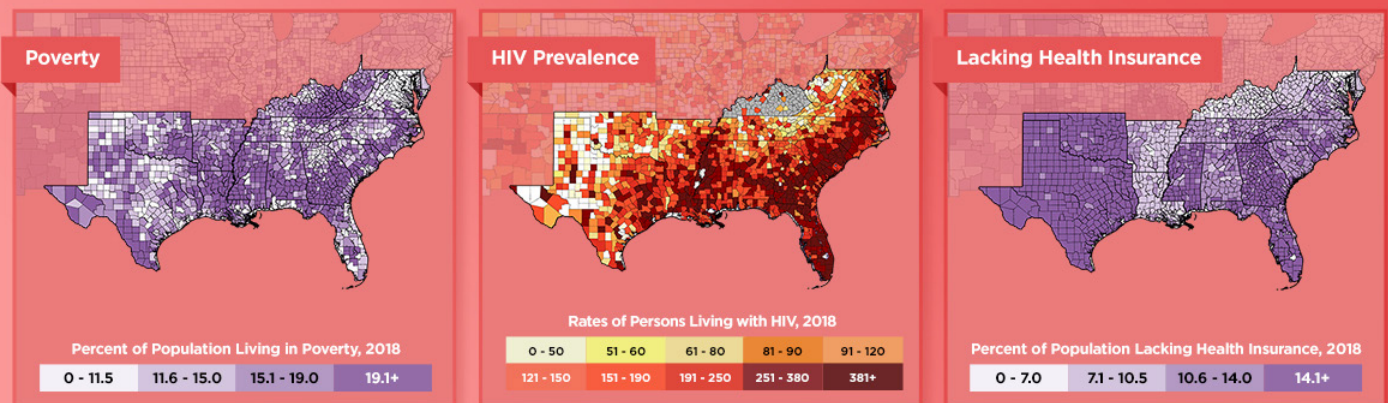
The COMPASS Initiative® supports Emory’s research into local HIV data through AIDSvU, an interactive online mapping tool that visualizes the impact of the HIV epidemic on communities across the United States to increase awareness and promote data-driven public health decision-making. Compared to residents of urban areas, rural residents have higher rates of poverty, less access to healthcare and transportation and are less likely to have health insurance, all of which make accessing sexual health and HIV care more difficult.¹⁸ Reaching communities in rural areas also poses a unique challenge. The U.S. South has a higher proportion of new diagnoses (24%) in suburban and rural areas compared with other regions in the U.S.¹⁹

Patients can use innovative tools on AIDSvU to visualize drive-times for various stigma mitigation services. Many rural areas are service deserts, where

health or HIV care are not available within a 30-minute drive, so maps like these help the local community find care and guide policymakers so they can better allocate healthcare resources to these areas. When patients can find the care that makes them feel comfortable and be honest with their providers, they’re empowered to become more involved with their health. This leads to individuals and communities receiving better treatment plans, catching problems earlier and leading longer, healthier lives – and that is how we can end the HIV epidemic in the U.S. South.

AIDSvU maps visualize HIV-related data by race/ethnicity, sex, age and transmission category, and shows how HIV is related to various social determinants of health, such as being in a rural area, high school education and poverty.²⁰ This helps organizations and healthcare workers on the ground dedicate resources to the populations living with HIV who need it most. Organizations can utilize AIDSvU data to move to diversify funding by advocating for additional resources with policymakers, government agencies and other funders.

The heavy burden of HIV in the **South** is driven partly by social determinants of health, such as **poverty** and **health insurance** coverage.



These factors are associated with worse health outcomes and may contribute to a higher concentration of HIV in the South.

Increasing Local Leadership And Advocacy In The U.S.

The first time Morris Singletary heard of HIV, he was six years old and his mother told him, “this is the punishment that gays get from God for being gay.” When he was diagnosed with HIV in 2006, he struggled with substance abuse and found it difficult to hold down a job. But he wanted to get better – and found a support group within COMPASS Initiative® grantee THRIVE SS to help him find treatment and reconnect with his love for himself and God. When Gilead reached out to THRIVE SS to connect with and support local leaders on the ground, Morris was an obvious choice. Now, as part of his work with THRIVE SS and the COMPASS Initiative®, he’s dedicated his life to reaching young LGBTQ+ Black men with sexual health and prevention information, and helping others living with HIV accept their status and grow.

People like Morris who come from, live and work in the U.S. South are best suited to lead the fight against HIV in the region. Organizations like THRIVE SS train the next generation of leaders to combat stigma, share information about local resources available and advocate for policies that will support people living with HIV.

Partner Spotlight

EMORY UNIVERSITY

The Emory University Coordinating Center uses a data-driven approach to identify geographic areas where organizational capacity building can have the greatest impact. Their extensive history of HIV research, training and technical assistance helps inform priorities for grantees, and improve the quality of the services they offer by sharing best practices. They help smaller organizations improve their capacity to track and treat patients, empower and train new leaders and become more efficient to reach more people in their communities.

12,956

**PEOPLE TRAINED TO BECOME
HIV LEADERS AND ADVOCATES
BY THE COMPASS INITIATIVE®. 21 ‡**



A Southern AIDS Coalition leadership training.

EQUIPPING A NEW GENERATION OF LGBTQ+ LEADERS

The Contigo Fund emerged in response to the Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando, Florida that targeted LGBTQ+ people of color. With COMPASS Initiative® funding, the Contigo Fund was able to offer financial support to grassroots organizations working to heal, educate and empower those directly and deeply affected by the tragedy – particularly LGBTQ+ and Latinx individuals, immigrants and people of color – building an intersectional movement to end all forms of bigotry in Orlando and across Central Florida. The funding for these grassroots organizations supports trainings, seminars and educational opportunities that are equipping a new generation of LGBTQ+ leaders to address HIV holistically.



Marco Quiroga, Program Director of Contigo Fund, in front of the Pulse memorial.

Partner Spotlight GLAAD

GLAAD is the world's largest LGBTQ+ media advocacy organization. As a key COMPASS Initiative® partner, GLAAD is working to reduce stigma in the Southern United States by conducting media trainings with LGBTQ+ and HIV advocates, equipping newsrooms to appropriately cover HIV and LGBTQ+ issues, conducting assessments on HIV stigma and identifying celebrity ambassadors who can amplify the great work done by local organizations.

SUPPORTING LGBTQ+ LEADERS AND ADVOCATES

In partnership with GLAAD, we've worked to train community leaders to become better communicators, organizers and advocates for the HIV community. This includes digital and print media information, public speaking training to better share their stories and key issues with the media and other modes of support to help them reach local leaders. GLAAD has hosted a series of media trainings for 154 local advocates, helping them better reach and share information with their local media.²² Furthermore, we're educating advocates about media strategies and challenges, particularly as they relate to HIV media and the U.S. South – all told, we've trained 1,500 local leaders across seven national and regional programs to foster their media engagement skills, expand local awareness of the epidemic and increase their impact.²³

And we're already seeing results. COMPASS Initiative® grantees aren't just reaching people on the ground and on social media – they're showing up in newspapers, television interviews and more. Several have lifted up their voices and placed



“I didn’t know the magnitude of the COMPASS Initiative®, didn’t know it was going to be the biggest thing of my life.”

– Morris Singletary, Community Advocate and Executive Director, PoZitive2PoSitive

written pieces in local media outlets that [address the disproportionate impact of HIV on the Black community](#), [raise awareness about lingering HIV stigma](#) and [dissect the HIV epidemic among Latinx people](#).

PREPARING LOCAL LEADERS TO AMPLIFY THEIR IMPACT

Leadership trainings can change lives; just ask Morris, who has been able to start his own nonprofit since connecting with the COMPASS Initiative® – in addition to introducing his idol, Beyoncé, at the GLAAD awards thanks to his tireless work in the U.S. South! Building on his work with THRIVE SS, Morris runs the nonprofit [PoZitive2PoSitive](#) to get important educational messaging around HIV to communities of color – often in spite of significant barriers to care due to unemployment, homelessness and persistent stigma. These efforts have been highly successful in engaging young people in Atlanta to get tested, know their status and practice safe sex – and we’re investing in training more people like Morris so they can share important resources across the U.S. South.

Enhancing local leadership is an essential part of ending the HIV epidemic in the Southern United States. Those at the local level know their community best, and are in the best position to reach, connect with and help educate those who might benefit most from HIV education and prevention resources. To end the epidemic, we’re going to need all hands on deck – and that means widening the circle to train and empower future leaders.



Advocate Morris Singletary with Beyoncé at the 2019 GLAAD Awards.

Looking To The Future

In recognition of the vital role that Coordinating Centers have played in the COMPASS Initiative®, we are introducing a fourth Coordinating Center this year to take the cause even further.

Ending the HIV epidemic in the Southern United States will require a cultural strategy that recognizes the influence of faith communities on those impacted by HIV and focuses on shifting the narrative around the intersection of faith, sexuality and health. The overarching aim of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity Coordinating Center is to shift predominant harmful cultural narratives about HIV in the U.S. South toward narratives of justice, healing and hope. Collaborative learning, grant-making and training will help advance social justice, interfaith and LGBTQ+ causes across communities and build strong partnerships that bring innovative solutions to the fight against HIV.

The process starts with faith leaders, and Wake Forest is ready to engage them across religions and regions. In addition to facilitating conversations where leaders and followers of diverse faiths can discuss sex, sexuality, health and the Bible and other sacred texts, they are investing in a robust virtual training program for faith leaders. The training will help educate clergy and lay leaders in HIV prevention and ways to move their congregations along the care continuum, as well as teach effective communication strategies related to HIV in congregational settings, biblical interpretation and sexuality and theologies of inclusion.

Faith communities and leaders have an important and influential role in the U.S. South, and can have a serious impact on people living with or at risk of acquiring HIV. Bringing the Wake Forest University School of Divinity on to manage funding to organizations that engage and work with faith communities and leaders will not only allow them to coordinate the program efficiently, but help them to share knowledge and best practices across the broader community of COMPASS Initiative® grantees.

Coordinating Center Spotlight **WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY** **SCHOOL OF DIVINITY**

The Wake Forest University School of Divinity Coordinating Center will advance the capacity of faith communities to address the HIV epidemic in the U.S. South using a social justice framework, interfaith engagement and inclusion of LGBTQ+ communities. They will collaborate with Christian and interfaith partners, religious institutions and community members, create inclusive faith spaces for LGBTQ+ people and allies seeking to explore faith and spirituality and educate emerging faith leaders to impact how communities perceive and respond to HIV in the years to come.



Rev. Dr. Shonda Jones,
Associate Dean, Wake Forest
University School of Divinity.

***“It’s proven easy for some
to weaponize HIV. But
communities of faith are at
their best when we extend the
hem of God’s healing garment
to whosoever will.”***

***– Dean Jonathan Lee Walton, Wake Forest
University, School of Divinity***

Conclusion

The last three years have taught us a great deal about what is needed to end the HIV epidemic in the U.S. South. The COMPASS Initiative® community and Gilead remain committed to combating HIV, and we will continue to deepen our on-the-ground relationships and collaboration in service of this important effort to end the HIV epidemic in the U.S. South. We have a roadmap that's going to guide us into the future.

INVEST IN FAITH COMMUNITIES

Engaging with the faith community has been a priority for the HIV community because of the important role religion plays in their lives. Faith communities are arguably the best messengers to help communities understand the moral imperative to end the HIV epidemic in the Southern United States given how regularly they interact with at-risk populations, like LGBTQ+ Black men. In fact, [studies](#) show about half of Black men who have sex with men report attending church at least once a month.²⁴ Furthermore, Black and Latinx people who don't [regularly attend](#) services are much more likely to be guided by faith and spirituality, so outreach from faith leaders in and out of religious services would help us make substantial progress in reaching these communities with educational materials and resources.²⁵

BUILD NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TO COMBAT STIGMA AND EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY

The COMPASS Initiative® will expand its partnership with GLAAD as they launch a local media campaign to help grantees leverage their expertise with the media and engage local outlets to improve the quantity and quality of HIV coverage across the Southern United States. They will also develop collaboration with LGBTQ+ celebrities and allies in the HIV space to reach a variety of audiences with information about HIV, raise awareness about local treatment and testing opportunities and fight the harmful impact of stigma.

FOSTER CREATIVITY AND SHARE IDEAS

By reaching over 176,000 community members in the U.S. South, the COMPASS Initiative® has fostered connections and collaboration in the Southern HIV community more than ever before.²⁶ This teamwork between grantees has created opportunities like our annual grantee conference where organizations across the U.S. South can come together to share ideas and best practices that can be implemented at the grassroots level. As we continue to invest in the faith community to support and deepen our partnerships, we know the opportunities are endless, and the creativity of those working on the ground is how we'll realize them.

Time and again, the HIV community has come together to tackle obstacles that once felt insurmountable. We have the resources, partnerships and know-how to get this done. By dramatically reducing the burden of HIV in the U.S. South, we can bend the curve of the HIV epidemic nationwide, change the conversation, save lives – and finally end the epidemic once and for all.

“The story of the U.S. South is one of inequity, but through our collective action we will bring transformation and healing to the most vulnerable.”

*– Linda Dixon, Health Law Director,
Mississippi Center for Justice*

Appendix

Gilead COMPASS Initiative® Funding to the U.S. South, 2018-2020

Alabama	District of Columbia	Florida
<p>AIDS Alabama \$400,000 <i>Birmingham, Alabama</i></p> <p>Collaborative Solutions Inc. \$50,000 <i>Birmingham, Alabama</i></p> <p>Southern AIDS Coalition \$5,206,565 <i>Birmingham, Alabama</i></p> <p>University of Alabama at Birmingham \$9,770 <i>Birmingham, Alabama</i></p> <p>West Alabama AIDS Outreach \$20,000 <i>Birmingham, Alabama</i></p> <p>Selma Air Inc. \$39,040 <i>Selma, Alabama</i></p> <p><u>TOTAL FUNDS TO AL</u> \$5,725,375</p>	<p>AIDS United \$6,000,000 <i>Washington, D.C.</i></p> <p>AI Sura \$20,000.00 <i>Washington, D.C.</i></p> <p>Athletes United for Social Justice \$910,000.00 <i>Washington, D.C.</i></p> <p>Casa Ruby Inc. \$1,200,000 <i>Washington, D.C.</i></p> <p>Community Education Group Inc. \$122,600 <i>Washington, D.C.</i></p> <p>Community of Hope Inc. \$183,000 <i>Washington, D.C.</i></p> <p>One Tent Health \$100,000 <i>Washington, D.C.</i></p> <p>Us Helping Us-People Into Living Inc. \$525,000 <i>Washington, D.C.</i></p> <p>Washington Regional Association of Grant Makers \$850,000 <i>Washington, D.C.</i></p> <p>Whitman-Walker Clinic — \$194,500 <i>Washington, D.C.</i></p> <p><u>TOTAL FUNDS TO D.C.</u> \$10,105,100</p>	<p>Basic NFWL Inc. \$646,000 <i>Panama City, Florida</i></p> <p>Florida International University Foundation Inc. \$29,200 <i>Miami, Florida</i></p> <p>High Impacto Inc. \$35,000 <i>Fort Lauderdale, Florida</i></p> <p>Latinos Salud Inc. \$75,000 <i>Wilton Manors, Florida</i></p> <p>Our Fund Inc. \$450,000 <i>Wilton Manors, Florida</i></p> <p>Prevention 305 Inc. \$175,000 <i>Miami Beach, Florida</i></p> <p>Unity Coalition Coalicion Unida Inc. \$125,000 <i>Miami Beach, Florida</i></p> <p>University of Miami \$81,700 <i>Coral Gables, Florida</i></p> <p><u>TOTAL FUNDS TO FL</u> \$1,616,900</p>
Arkansas		
<p>Linq for Life Inc. \$25,000 <i>Little Rock, Arkansas</i></p> <p><u>TOTAL FUNDS TO AR</u> \$25,000</p>		
Delaware		
<p>AIDS Delaware Inc. \$50,000 <i>Wilmington, Delaware</i></p> <p><u>TOTAL FUNDS TO DE</u> \$50,000</p>		
		Georgia
		<p>A Vision 4 Hope Inc. \$310,000 <i>College Park, Georgia</i></p> <p>Above The Status Quo \$75,000 <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i></p>

Appendix

Gilead COMPASS Initiative® Funding to the U.S. South, 2018-2020

Georgia (cont.)

American Academy of
Family Physicians

\$5,000

Tucker, Georgia

Aniz Inc.

\$175,000

Atlanta, Georgia

Atlanta Harm
Reduction Coalition

\$70,000

Atlanta, Georgia

Emory University

\$8,153,500

Atlanta, Georgia

Equality Foundation
of Georgia Inc.

\$50,000

Atlanta, Georgia

Hearts Everywhere Reaching
Out for Children Inc.

\$125,000

Atlanta, Georgia

Hype to Empower Inc.

\$25,000.00

Atlanta, Georgia

I Am Human Foundation

\$50,000

Ellenwood, Georgia

Interdenominational
Theological Center Inc.

\$750,000

Atlanta, Georgia

Lost-N-Found Youth Inc.

\$250,000

Atlanta, Georgia

NAESM, Inc.

\$344,775

Atlanta, Georgia

Sisterlove Inc.

\$1,315,000

Atlanta, Georgia

Georgia (cont.)

Street Smart Youth Project Inc.

\$36,000

Atlanta, Georgia

The Health Initiative Inc.

\$175,000

Atlanta, Georgia

Thrive SS Inc.

\$788,988

Atlanta, Georgia

TOTAL FUNDS TO GA

\$12,748,263

Kentucky

Kentucky Academy of
Physicians Assistants Inc.

\$5,000

Lexington, Kentucky

TOTAL FUNDS TO KY

\$5,000

Louisiana

New Orleans AIDS Task Force

\$6,000

New Orleans, Louisiana

TOTAL FUNDS TO LA

\$6,000

Maryland

AIDS Action Baltimore Inc.

\$185,000

Baltimore, Maryland

Chase Brexton Health
Services Inc

\$25,000

Baltimore, Maryland

Family Health Centers
Of Baltimore Inc.

\$16,916

Baltimore, Maryland

Johns Hopkins University

\$95,515

Baltimore, Maryland

Maryland (cont.)

Medstar Health Inc.

\$10,000

Columbia, Maryland

University of Maryland Baltimore

\$20,000

Baltimore, Maryland

TOTAL FUNDS TO MD

\$352,431

Mississippi

Jackson Medical Mall Foundation

\$214,637

Jackson, Mississippi

My Brother's Keeper

\$200,000

Ridgeland, Mississippi

St. Mary's Outreach Ministries Inc.

\$4,000

Prentiss, Mississippi

TOTAL FUNDS TO MS

\$418,637

North Carolina

AIDS Leadership Foothills
Area Alliance Inc.

\$74,005

Hickory, North Carolina

North Carolina AIDS
Action Network

\$78,500

Raleigh, North Carolina

University Of North Carolina
At Chapel Hill

\$40,000

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

TOTAL FUNDS TO NC

\$192,505

Appendix

Gilead COMPASS Initiative® Funding to the U.S. South, 2018-2020 (cont.)

Oklahoma	Texas (cont.)	Virginia (cont.)
<p>Guiding Right, Inc. \$150,000 <i>Oklahoma City, Oklahoma</i></p> <p>Health Outreach Prevention Education Inc. \$297,000 <i>Tulsa, Oklahoma</i></p> <p>Regional AIDS Intercommunity Network Of Oklahoma \$80,000 <i>Oklahoma City, Oklahoma</i></p> <p><u>TOTAL FUNDS TO OK</u> \$527,000</p>	<p>Bee Busy Wellness Center \$100,000 <i>Houston, Texas</i></p> <p>Chris Howell Foundation \$50,000 <i>Dallas, Texas</i></p> <p>Coastal Bend Wellness Foundation Inc. \$199,345 <i>Corpus Christi, Texas</i></p> <p>Fundación Latinoamericana De Acción Social Inc. \$227,350 <i>Houston, Texas</i></p> <p>Muhlaysia Booker Foundation \$85,000 <i>Dallas, Texas</i></p> <p>Pwa Coalition Of Dallas Inc. \$100,000 <i>Dallas, Texas</i></p> <p>Positive Efforts \$50,000.00 <i>Houston, Texas</i></p> <p>Southern Black Policy and Advocacy Network \$450,000 <i>Dallas, Texas</i></p> <p>University of Houston \$5,188,000 <i>Houston, Texas</i></p> <p><u>TOTAL FUNDS TO TX</u> \$8,789,994</p>	<p>Novasalud \$25,000 <i>Falls Church, Virginia</i></p> <p>Virginia Academy Of Physician Assistants \$7,500 <i>Charlottesville, Virginia</i></p> <p><u>TOTAL FUNDS TO VA</u> \$167,500</p>
South Carolina		West Virginia
<p>South Carolina HIV Council dba Wright Wellness Center \$200,000 <i>Columbia, South Carolina</i></p> <p><u>TOTAL FUNDS TO SC</u> \$200,000</p>		<p>Community Education Group \$500,000 <i>Charleston, West Virginia</i></p> <p><u>TOTAL FUNDS TO WV</u> \$500,000</p>
Tennessee		National Organizations*
<p>Hope House Day Care Center Inc. \$270,000 <i>Memphis, Tennessee</i></p> <p><u>TOTAL FUNDS TO TN</u> \$270,000</p>		<p>African-American AIDS Policy And Training Institute \$300,000 <i>Los Angeles, California</i></p> <p>GLAAD Inc. \$9,298,526 <i>New York City, New York</i></p> <p>Latino Commission on AIDS Inc. \$275,000 <i>New York City, New York</i></p> <p><u>TOTAL FUNDS TO</u> <u>NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</u> \$9,873,526</p>
Texas	Virginia	
<p>Abounding Prosperity Inc. \$1,980,833 <i>Dallas, Texas</i></p> <p>AIDS Foundation Houston Inc. \$200,471 <i>Houston, Texas</i></p> <p>AIDS Services Of Austin Inc. \$158,995 <i>Austin, Texas</i></p>	<p>Eastern Virginia Medical School \$10,000 <i>Norfolk, Virginia</i></p> <p>LGBT Life Center \$125,000 <i>Norfolk, Virginia</i></p>	<p>*National Organizations represent funding to GLAAD, the African American AIDS Policy and Training Institute and the Latino Commission on AIDS, which work in the U.S. South but have headquarters outside of the region.</p>

Endnotes

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 - ² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "HIV in the Southern United States." <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/policies/cdc-hiv-in-the-south-issue-brief.pdf>. CDC Issue Brief, 2019.
 - ³ AIDSvu, Regional Data: South, 2018. <https://aidsvu.org/local-data/united-states/south/>. Accessed Feb. 8, 2021.
 - ⁴ AIDSvu, Regional Data: South, 2018. <https://aidsvu.org/local-data/united-states/south/>. Accessed Feb. 8, 2021.
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 - ¹⁰ Kaiser Family Foundation. "National Survey of Young Adults on HIV." <https://www.kff.org/hiv/aids/report/national-survey-of-young-adults-on-hiv-aids/>. Published Nov. 30, 2017.
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 - ¹³ COMPASS Initiative® Coordinating Center Data Reporting, Jan 2018 – Dec 2020.
 - ¹⁴ GLAAD and Gilead Sciences. The GLAAD-Gilead State of HIV Stigma Survey, 2020. <https://www.glaad.org/endhivstigma>. Published July 27, 2020.
 - ¹⁵ GLAAD and Gilead Sciences. The GLAAD-Gilead State of HIV Stigma Survey, 2020. <https://www.glaad.org/endhivstigma>. Published July 27, 2020.
 - ¹⁶ COMPASS Initiative® Coordinating Center Data Reporting, Jan 2018 – Dec 2020.
 - ¹⁷ COMPASS Initiative® Coordinating Center Data Reporting, Jan 2018 – Dec 2020.
 - ¹⁸ National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services. "HIV Prevention and Treatment Challenges in Rural America." <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/advisory-committees/rural/publications/2020-rural-hiv-prev-treat-call.pdf>. Published May 2020.
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 - ²⁰ AIDSvu, Regional Data: South, 2018. <https://aidsvu.org/local-data/united-states/south/>. Accessed Feb. 8, 2021.
 - ²¹ COMPASS Initiative® Coordinating Center Data Reporting, Jan 2018 – Dec 2020.
 - ²² COMPASS Initiative® Coordinating Center Data Reporting, Jan 2018 – Dec 2020.
 - ²³ COMPASS Initiative® Coordinating Center Data Reporting, Jan 2018 – Dec 2020.
 - ²⁴ Powell, Terrinieka W et al. "'Let Me Help You Help Me': Church-Based HIV Prevention for Young Black Men Who Have Sex With Men." *International Society for AIDS Education*, vol. 28,3 (2016): 202-15. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27244189/>. Accessed Feb. 8, 2021.
 - ²⁵ Pew Research Center. "What Americans Know About Religion." <https://www.pewforum.org/2019/07/23/what-americans-know-about-religion/>. Published July 23, 2019.
 - ²⁶ COMPASS Initiative® Coordinating Center Data Reporting, Jan 2018 – Dec 2020.
- † Data reflects individuals served through COMPASS Initiative® Coordinating Center grants and learning opportunities, and COMPASS grantee outreach, trainings and service provision.
- ‡ Data reflects individuals served through COMPASS Initiative® Coordinating Center grants and learning opportunities, and grantee outreach, training and service provision.
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