HIV Self-Testing Pre-Implementation Planning Tool
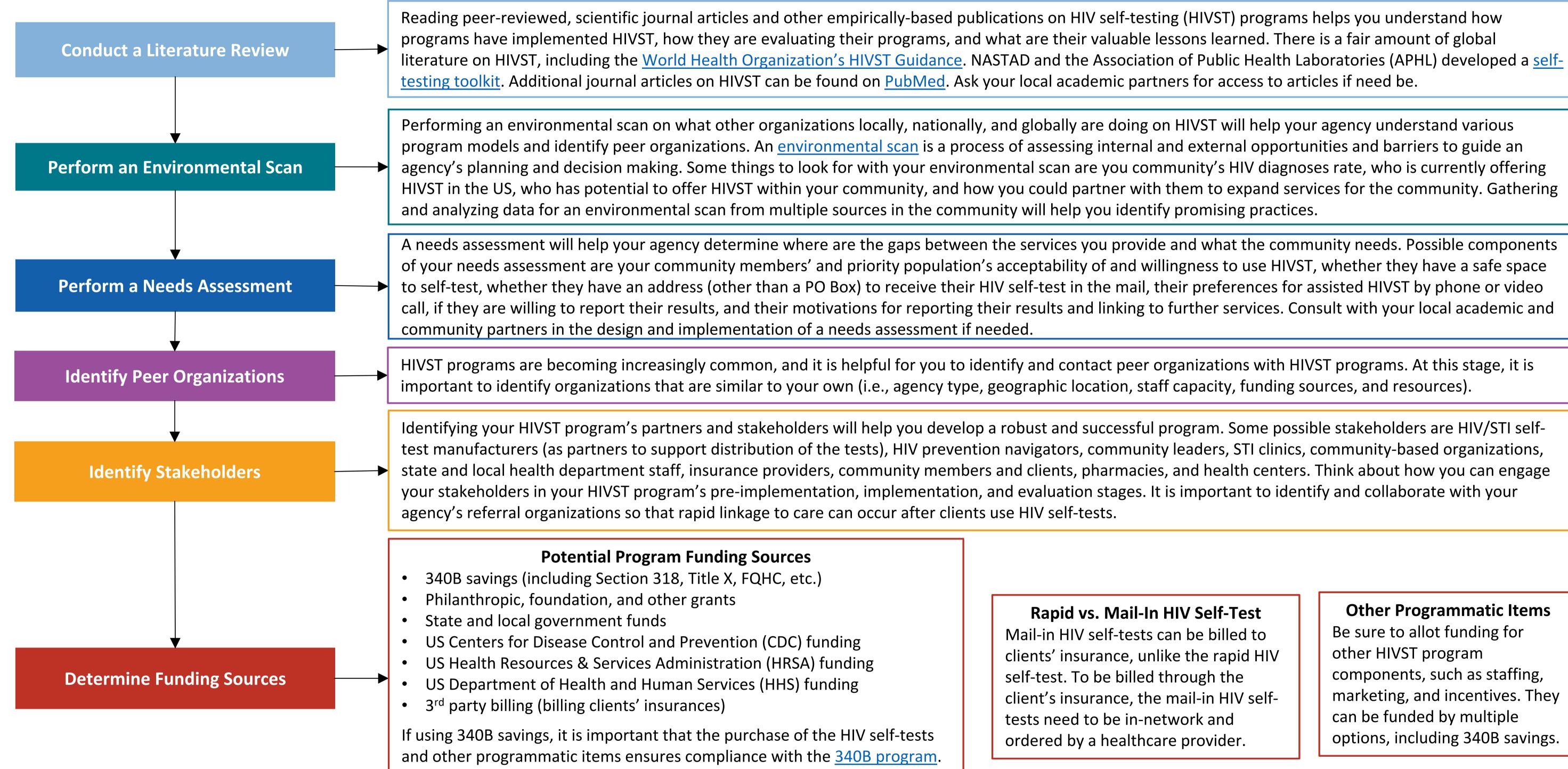## Pre-Planning Considerations for Program Managers for Implementing an HIV Self-Testing Program

Washington University in St. Louis SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

CPN BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF THE NATION'S HIV PREVENTION WORKFORCE — Funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Conduct a Literature Review

Reading peer-reviewed, scientific journal articles and other empirically-based publications on HIV self-testing (HIVST) programs helps you understand how programs have implemented HIVST, how they are evaluating their programs, and what are their valuable lessons learned. There is a fair amount of global literature on HIVST, including the World Health Organization's HIVST Guidance. NASTAD and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) developed a self-testing toolkit. Additional journal articles on HIVST can be found on PubMed. Ask your local academic partners for access to articles if need be.

Perform an Environmental Scan

Performing an environmental scan on what other organizations locally, nationally, and globally are doing on HIVST will help your agency understand various program models and identify peer organizations. An environmental scan is a process of assessing internal and external opportunities and barriers to guide an agency's planning and decision making. Some things to look for with your environmental scan are you community's HIV diagnoses rate, who is currently offering HIVST in the US, who has potential to offer HIVST within your community, and how you could partner with them to expand services for the community. Gathering and analyzing data for an environmental scan from multiple sources in the community will help you identify promising practices.

Perform a Needs Assessment

A needs assessment will help your agency determine where are the gaps between the services you provide and what the community needs. Possible components of your needs assessment are your community members' and priority population's acceptability of and willingness to use HIVST, whether they have a safe space to self-test, whether they have an address (other than a PO Box) to receive their HIV self-test in the mail, their preferences for assisted HIVST by phone or video call, if they are willing to report their results, and their motivations for reporting their results and linking to further services. Consult with your local academic and community partners in the design and implementation of a needs assessment if needed.

Identify Peer Organizations

HIVST programs are becoming increasingly common, and it is helpful for you to identify and contact peer organizations with HIVST programs. At this stage, it is important to identify organizations that are similar to your own (i.e., agency type, geographic location, staff capacity, funding sources, and resources).

Identify Stakeholders

Identifying your HIVST program's partners and stakeholders will help you develop a robust and successful program. Some possible stakeholders are HIV/STI self-test manufacturers (as partners to support distribution of the tests), HIV prevention navigators, community leaders, STI clinics, community-based organizations, state and local health department staff, insurance providers, community members and clients, pharmacies, and health centers. Think about how you can engage your stakeholders in your HIVST program's pre-implementation, implementation, and evaluation stages. It is important to identify and collaborate with your agency's referral organizations so that rapid linkage to care can occur after clients use HIV self-tests.

Determine Funding Sources

Potential Program Funding Sources
- 340B savings (including Section 318, Title X, FQHC, etc.)
- Philanthropic, foundation, and other grants
- State and local government funds
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funding
- US Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) funding
- US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funding
- 3rd party billing (billing clients' insurances)

If using 340B savings, it is important that the purchase of the HIV self-tests and other programmatic items ensures compliance with the 340B program. If using grant funding, it is important to verify that HIV self-tests and other programmatic items are covered by the grant.

Rapid vs. Mail-In HIV Self-Test
Mail-in HIV self-tests can be billed to clients' insurance, unlike the rapid HIV self-test. To be billed through the client's insurance, the mail-in HIV self-tests need to be in-network and ordered by a healthcare provider.

Other Programmatic Items
Be sure to allot funding for other HIVST program components, such as staffing, marketing, and incentives. They can be funded by multiple options, including 340B savings.

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