

Legacy Project Working Group 2025 Work Plan

Background: The [Legacy Project](#) builds trust and collaboration between HIV research institutions and the communities most impacted by the US HIV epidemic. The Legacy Project works to support the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) [Division of AIDS](#)'s efforts to develop and support the infrastructure and biomedical research needed to end the HIV epidemic by:

1. Reducing HIV incidence through the development of an effective vaccine and biomedical prevention strategies that are safe and desirable.
2. Developing novel approaches for the treatment and cure of HIV.
3. Developing interventions to treat and/or prevent co-infections and co-morbidities of greatest significance.
4. Fostering partnerships with scientific and community stakeholders to develop and implement effective interventions.

The Legacy Project Work Plan 2025 is in line with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, cutting across areas of basic research, health disparities, and training, including research to reduce health disparities in HIV incidence, research in treatment outcomes for those living with HIV/AIDS, research training of the workforce required to conduct high priority HIV/AIDS-related research, and addressing health and social issues that are linked with HIV such as racism, LGBTQ+ antagonism, misogyny, poverty, stigma, and discrimination.

The Director of the Legacy Project is Brian Minalga.

The HANC staff liaison assigned to the Legacy Project Working Group is Cat Banobi.

The current co-chairs of the Legacy Project Working Group are Jorge Benitez and Tyler Adamson. Both Jorge and Tyler will complete their second and final terms as LPWG co-chairs on June 30, 2025.

Aim: To build capacity among community members, researchers, and sponsors to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion in NIH-funded HIV, AIDS, and other infectious diseases research conducted in the US.

Objective 1: *Monitor and promote improved representation of underrepresented populations in clinical trials through collaboration with partners (such as research staff, HANC working groups, external stakeholders, and others)*

- Monitor and promote the collection and reporting of participant gender identity, sex assigned at birth, race, and ethnicity as well as the intersections of these categories.
- Promote, apply, and evaluate the Representative Studies Rubric (RSR) to address systemic barriers to representative study populations in clinical trials.
- Consult with populations disproportionately impacted by HIV and other infectious diseases, as well as those underrepresented in HIV clinical research (Black communities; Indigenous and Two-Spirit communities; Latina/e/o/x communities; gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men; people who use drugs; pregnant and lactating populations;

- transgender and gender-diverse communities; and women) to identify community-level priorities and raise awareness of these priorities among the NIH-funded HIV/AIDS clinical trials networks and sites.
- Engage in collaborative efforts to develop trainings and resources to promote the inclusion of people who use drugs in clinical trials, whether they are seeking treatment for drug use or not.
- Hold meetings/teleconferences with the Legacy Project's various working groups and external stakeholders to continuously facilitate engagement in the mission of the Legacy Project.
- Participate in Network and non-Network meetings and conferences to monitor and promote underrepresented populations' participation in HIV and other infectious diseases research.
- Provide technical assistance to research staff on projects that promote trust and collaboration between underrepresented populations and the HIV/infectious diseases research establishment. In 2025, include greater collaboration with research sites.

Objective 2: *Collaborate with underrepresented populations to increase awareness and knowledge of clinical research and community readiness to engage in trial participation activities.*

- Host or co-host community-focused workshops/presentations/webinars on research conducted by the Networks and related community engagement issues.
- Maintain and promote the Be the Generation (BTG) website on a regular basis.
- Oversee publication of the quarterly Be the Generation e-newsletter in collaboration with the HPTN, HVTN, and IMPAACT.
- Maintain the Legacy Project's presence on social media to disseminate information related to HIV/infectious diseases research and community engagement.
- Develop and maintain partnerships with individuals, institutions, and organizations representing populations that are underrepresented in HIV/infectious diseases research to collaborate on capacity-building projects to increase engagement in trial participation as well as HIV workforce development/research careers.
- Produce, publish, and disseminate resources to address the challenges of health disparities and representation in the response to HIV and other infectious diseases.

Objective 3: *Execute the work plan of the American Indian & Alaska Native Working Group.*

Objective 4: *Provide leadership and support to the DAIDS Cross-Network Transgender and Gender Diverse Working Group, including creation, promotion, and implementation of resources to promote transgender inclusion in clinical research.*

Objective 5: *Execute the work plan of the MSI Working Group and engage HBCU students as part of the Evidence 2 Practice program.*

Objective 6: *Execute the work plan of the Latinx Caucus.*

Objective 7: *Execute the work plan of the New Investigators Working Group.*

Objective 8: *Execute the work plan of the Women's HIV Research Collaborative.*