

# A Solution to Halt Further Isolation of People Aging with HIV During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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## BACKGROUND

In a PCORI-funded project on HIV and aging engagement that was co-led by the study team –

- 50.0% of people living with HIV (PLWH) are experiencing anxiety
- 41.3% reported feeling significantly socially isolated
- 20.0% reported difficulty paying for basic needs like food, electricity, and rent
- 26.6% reported missing  $\geq$  one dose of their HIV medication

The “Virtual Village” will connect PLWH –

- to needed medical & social services (improved continuity of care)
- will connect aging PLWH to each other (reduced social isolation)

## METHODS

### Aim #1: Focus Groups & Interviews

Hold focus groups & interviews with adults 50+ LWH in Palm Springs, CA, Los Angeles, CA, and Tampa, FL, to further characterize issues related to depression, isolation, and basic needs of older PLWH during the COVID-19 pandemic

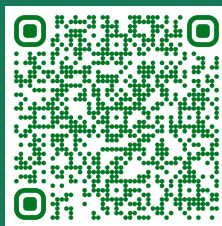
### Aim #2: Conjoint Analysis

Co-develop ideas for what to include in a virtual village with stakeholder involved in HIV care (CAB members, HIV researchers, PLWH, HIV care providers)

### Aim #3: Pilot the Virtual Village

Create and pilot the Virtual Village in a low-cost platform with a group of people aging with HIV in Palm Springs, CA

We are developing a “Virtual Village” for older PLWH, so they can remain socially connected during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

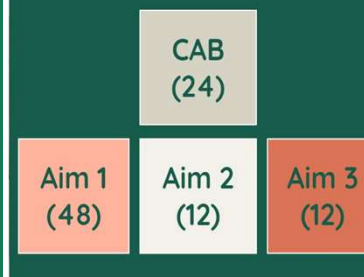


Scan the QR code to visit the study page on [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://ClinicalTrials.gov)

## RESULTS & NEXT STEPS

- Currently no results
- Two Community Advisory Board meetings conducted
- Developing focus group and interview questions for Aim #1
- Preparing participant recruitment materials
- Developing a project name and logo for the Virtual Village

## Participants



## Community Advisory Board

meets once a month



is comprised of PLWH  $\geq$  50 years old



will provide input on what to include in the virtual village platform

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have other researchers dealt with barriers to recruiting and retaining older adults in digital interventions?
2. What are some successful methods of virtually engaging diverse groups of older adults who may be less proficient in technology/digital platforms?
3. How might the Virtual Village be tailored or enhanced to meet the needs of PLWH in areas with a smaller population base and with fewer community services and resources on which to draw?



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