

Clients should be 18 years of age (or emancipated minors) and meet one of the following criteria in order to be eligible. Criteria include People Living with HIV/AIDS who:

- Are newly diagnosed with HIV
- Were lost to care, which could be defined as having at least one primary care visit in the past two years at the facility and not having any primary care visits for the past nine months at the facility
- Have difficulty keeping appointments, receive sporadic or irregular care, or have never been in care
- Have indications of ART challenges for example
 - » ART naive and starting treatment AND have one or more of the following associated factors:
 - High pretreatment or baseline viral load measures of HIV-1 RNA (depending on the specific regimen used), defined as > 100,000 copies/mL
 - Low pretreatment or nadir CD4 T-cell count < 200 cells/mm
 - Prior AIDS diagnosis
 - Comorbidities (e.g., depression, active substance use)
 - Presence of drug-resistant virus
 - » ART experienced and re-starting ART with one or more of the factors listed above OR one of the following:
 - Prior treatment failure, with development of drug resistance or cross resistance
 - Earlier calendar year of starting therapy, when less potent regimens or less well-tolerated ART were used
 - » On ART and experience recurrent virologic rebound after successful suppression
 - One definition of virologic failure is having two sequential viral load measures of HIV-1 RNA >1,000 copies/mL

Note: *Lost to care, appointment adherence, and ART challenges should be defined in collaboration with the medical providers as you are preparing for implementation to prioritize identifying patients at greatest need of STEPS to Care program services. Appropriate appointment adherence is best left to the judgment of the medical provider*

Above text excerpted from: NYC DOHMH HIV Care Coordination Program Manual, version 4.2.