HRSA - Enhancing Engagement and Retention in Quality HIV Care for Transgender Women of Color
Tri-City Health Center
39500 Liberty Street,
Fremont, CA 94538
Phoenix Smith, MSW
HIV Programs Manager
39184 State Street
Fremont, CA 94538
Phone: (510) 456-3524
Fax: (510) 739-1239
Email: psmith@tri-cityhealth.org
http://www.tri-cityhealth.org

RE: PROJECT ABSTRACT
Tri-City Health Center’s (TCHC) TransVision goal is to provide culturally and trans appropriate service delivery within a comprehensive integrated continuum of care, leading to decrease in HIV incidence among transgender women of color and an increase in HIV positive transgender women of color utilizing services. Specifically, TransVision is proposing an innovative program that will address and reduce structural barriers that increase high risk behaviors inhibit transgender women of color from engaging and remaining in HIV prevention and care services.

TCHC’s TransVision program has provided HIV services to transgender people in Alameda County since 2002. Services provided include hormone therapy, outreach, one-on-one risk reduction counseling, agency and venue-based HIV, HBV/HCV, TB and STD screening and HAV/HBV vaccination, one-time and multi-session groups, Comprehensive Risk Reduction Counseling Services (CRCS) and comprehensive HIV Care. TransVision is run by and for transgender women. As a result, services provided are culturally competent and catered to the specific needs of transgender women. Currently, TransVision has enrolled 55 transgender women of color into HIV prevention and care programs. Also, TransVision has a Client Advisory Board (CAB) that provides input to the program. Guided by the CAB, Tri-City Health Center will implement a comprehensive program through TransVision.

The basic components of the program will include: legal services to assist clients in navigating the criminal justice system; a menu of services intended to empower and equip clients with skills and resources to education, housing, and employment; enrollment in health care including hormone therapy, and HIV prevention and care services. To implement the program, peer educators from the target population will be hired to conduct marketing and recruitment. In addition, current TransVision health educators will provide case management to new and existing clients. Also, a trained lawyer (Legal Liaison) will be hired to help in legal issues. We anticipate that the continuum of services catering to each client’s needs will significantly reduce structural barriers, enabling them to enroll and remain in HIV prevention and care services. As their socio economic needs are met and marginalization reduced, their risk behavior will reduce, resulting in decreased HIV incidence and prevalence and overall improved health and quality of life.