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**NEWS
RELEASE**

05/ 22/ 2024

City of El Paso Public Health Department Receives Top Award

Department's HIV/STD Division Recognized as Best Organization Serving El Paso

El Paso, Texas—The City of El Paso's Public Health Department HIV, STD division has been awarded the **Best Organization Serving El Paso** during the 2024 National LatinX Conference on HIV, HCV and SUD.

"This recognition is a reflection of our commitment to providing exceptional health services to the community," said City-County Local Health Authority Dr. Hector Ocaranza. "This award demonstrates the department's dedication to serving residents by providing essential services, referrals and unwavering assistance to our community."

The National Latinx Conference on HIV/HCV/SUD aims to create opportunities to share information and efforts around health disparities that negatively impact the Latinx population such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis C (HCV) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD), by bridging the varied disciplines of education, advocacy, and clinical care. Thus, creating better health outcomes for the Latinx population.

The HIV/STD program offers the following services:

HIV Prevention Services

- Free Confidential/Anonymous HIV Testing, Confidential Syphilis and Hepatitis C Testing (HIV Prevention offers both the rapid test done by fingerstick and traditional test done by blood draw)
- After-Hour Testing is offered from 5 to 8 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month

Linkage-to-Care Services

- Free Linkage-to-Care navigation services for people living with HIV and/or Hepatitis C needing a healthcare provider.
- Free Linkage-to-Care navigation services for people seeking healthcare providers/clinics who provide PrEP/PEP services in the El Paso region.

—more—



Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

Media contact: Soraya Ayub Palacios
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(915) 212-1040 or (915) 781-4386



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Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with AIDS (HOPWA)

Offering safe and stable housing options for those living with AIDS with the following eligibility requirements:

- People living with HIV who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness
- Must be HIV Positive and residing within the City limits of El Paso
- Low income

Condom Distribution Services

Free condoms and lubricants.

Monthly MFactor Social Networking

Social Networking group of gay/bi and queer-identified men.

- Community building and outreach through fun social monthly events
- Monthly workshops focusing on healthy relationships and safer sex
- Safe space for the LGBTQ+ community and opportunities to get involved in the community.

For more information and tips visit EPHealth.com under [STD/HIV Prevention](#) tab or call (915) 212-6665 for more information on the services listed.

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