



# How San Francisco Will Spend an \$8M Federal Grant to Fight HIV

Hint: Officials say a lack of housing in the city hinders their efforts to get to zero new HIV cases.

November 28, 2018 By [Trent Straube](#)

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San Francisco has made record-breaking strides in its efforts to achieve zero new HIV cases and zero HIV-related deaths, but one population remains particularly vulnerable: homeless people. So when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded the city an \$8 million four-year grant to end HIV, the mayor's office knew exactly where to direct the funds.

[As Mission Local reports](#), the grant will benefit Project OPT-IN, which offers services to people overlooked by regular health care services. Specifically, the funding will help create “one-stop shops” where people can get tested and treated for HIV, hepatitis C and other infectious diseases as well as access mental health services and even charge their phones, explained Darpun Sachdev, a clinical prevention specialist at the city's department of public health.

“The world really wants to see San Francisco get to zero,” Sachdev told the paper, “and we do have a good chance given all the advances we made in the last five years. But once we get to zero, we need to also stay at zero.”

The city plans to work with community-based groups, such as the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, in its efforts to reach the more vulnerable populations, including people who inject drugs but aren't linked to care.

At Ward 86, the city's largest HIV clinic for uninsured residents and those covered by public insurance plans, about a third of clients are affected by unstable housing, Mission Local reports. Ward 86 is not receiving the CDC funding, but its clientele illustrates the growing need to address people with HIV who are marginally housed in the city.

For related news, read “[San Francisco Sees Record Low Number of New HIV Cases](#).”

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