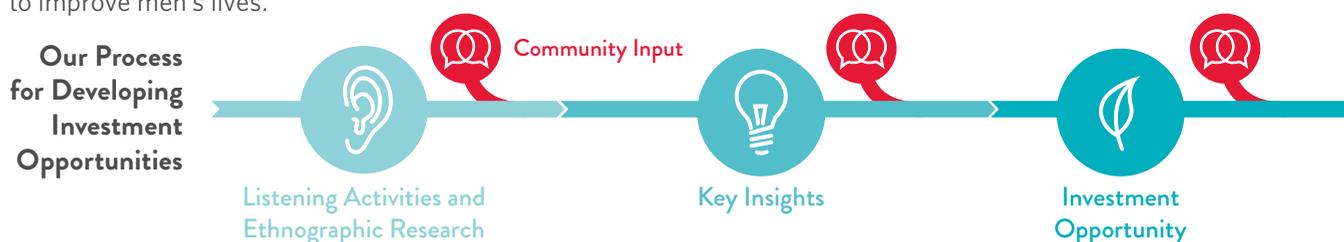


# ACCELERATE!

Activating Insights: Community Investments to Boost Empowerment and Strengthen Networks.

Aligned with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, ACCELERATE! is ViiV Healthcare’s four-year, \$10 million commitment to fund innovative projects that support the health and well-being of Black gay men in two cities hardest hit by HIV—Baltimore, Maryland, and Jackson, Mississippi.

ACCELERATE! investment opportunities are rooted in community insights gained from deep listening activities. We want to hear men’s experiences and prioritize their perspectives on how to create person-centered solutions to improve men’s lives.



Through local listening activities with HIV+ and HIV- Black gay men, advocates, health care providers, AIDS service organizations, and national advisors—several insights emerged around the importance of identifying safe spaces and improving healthy connections in Jackson and Baltimore.



## 1 The importance of supportive relationships to achieving personal goals, as well as social and public health outcomes.

A lot of people go into isolation when they find out their diagnosis. We teach patients to identify supports—a pastor, an old boyfriend, etc. We ask, who is your support base, and who can you discuss this with?"

— Service provider

My dad will occasionally come on doctor’s visits, because he wants to check in and make sure I’m doing okay.... My mother is constantly like, ‘When are you going to take your medicine?’... Everybody’s just waiting on me.”

— Research participant



## 2 Supportive relationships, faith, and a sense of purpose helped men remain engaged in their health and HIV prevention, care, and treatment.

[My mother is] the only reason I continue to keep pushing because I want to make myself something for her. She’s been the main one who has helped me. That’s why I want to prove myself to show her I’ll be good.”

— Research participant

I don’t need a name [for my religious practice]. [At the end of each day] the day is done, and I thank Him for letting me see another day. I want to show gratitude.”

— Research participant



## 3 Feeling empowered and in control helps them advocate for the care they want and keep them engaged.

Empowerment... does not require you to go through red tape. If you are empowered and understand process and decisions you can make, it’s a heavier interaction with people. It’s community mobilization. It’s the most important thing folks are doing right now.”

— Convening participant

Through investment opportunities during the next several years, ACCELERATE! will provide a platform for new projects and collaborations and will support enhanced, community-driven efforts. The first investment opportunity—Boost Empowerment and Strengthen Networks—will break down isolation and stigma, connect men to networks of support, and expand delivery of HIV prevention, care, and treatment.

## Investing for Empowerment and Networks

ACCELERATE! aims to catalyze individual, community and organizational empowerment through a mix of investment tactics—local grants to community organizations and ongoing learning communities. Our intention is to support activities that help men meet their goals and aspirations. Projects will:

1. Connect men to both formal and personal networks of support;
2. Increase social support and break down stigma; and
3. Expand men's knowledge and understanding of how to access and advocate for high-quality HIV prevention, care, and treatment.

### Our Commitment

#### » Local Grantees

ViiV Healthcare is providing grants through ACCELERATE! to creative organizing and engagement projects in Baltimore and Jackson to:

- Connect men to networks of social support for positive health and self-care
- Cultivate community leadership, visibility and organizational capacity
- Facilitate education and engagement through film, arts and cultural programs

#### » Learning Communities

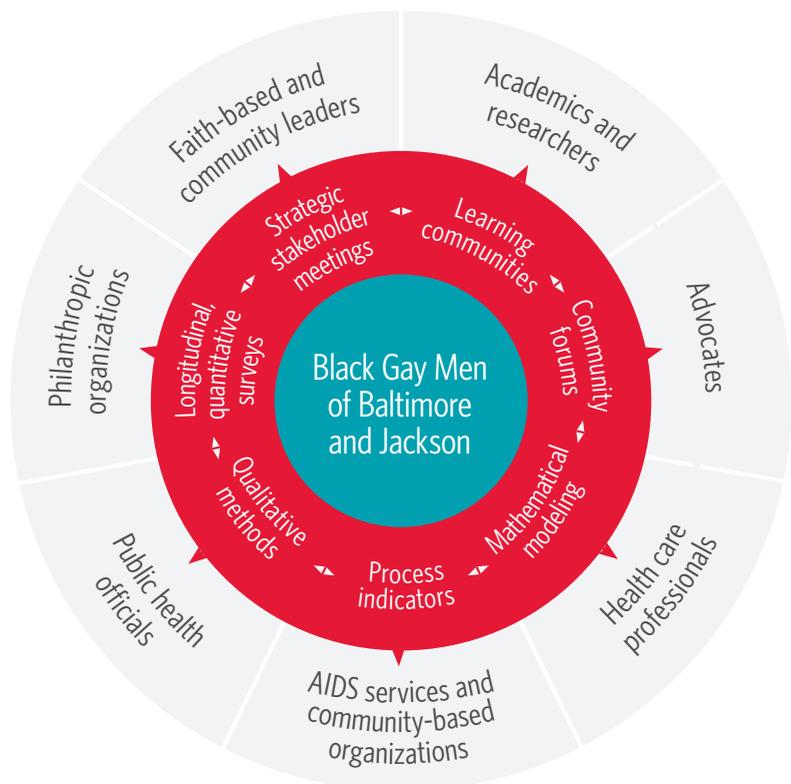
Learning Communities connect all grantees across ACCELERATE! to build community leadership, strengthen knowledge around the standard of HIV care, and encourage connectivity to enhance partnerships and collaboration.

#### » Community Listening Forum

ACCELERATE! provides an ongoing forum for men to bring community issues and solutions forward to improve the work of the initiative. Forums are informal and facilitated by men from the community. Themes from the discussion are captured for evaluation and program improvement.

### Assessing Progress

At ViiV Healthcare, we see ourselves as part of the solution in advancing the response to HIV in Baltimore and Jackson. An external evaluation team from academic institutions in Baltimore and Jackson will help define and measure the progress and impact of the programs supported by ViiV Healthcare's ACCELERATE! We will share the findings from ACCELERATE! nationally with the goal of helping Black men throughout the U.S. thrive in their communities.



ViiV Healthcare was established to take an innovative approach to the challenge of HIV—and we do. It's who we are.

An innovative approach means we go beyond developing new medicines. We seek insights to better understand the unmet needs of people living with HIV. We connect individuals and communities to help drive solutions focused on providing the same standard of care for all people living with HIV. We develop and support community programs that focus on HIV prevention, care, and treatment. The voice of the HIV community informs everything we do.

As the only company solely focused on HIV, we think differently, act differently, and connect differently to improve the lives and outcomes for all people affected by HIV.

To learn more, visit [viiVhealthcare.com/us](http://viiVhealthcare.com/us) and follow us  @ViiVUS

