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**Surveillance of HIV-related service barriers among Individuals with Early
or Late HIV Diagnoses (SHIELD)**

Attachment 4a

Model Recruitment Script (English)

Public reporting burden of this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to CDC/ATSDR Reports Clearance Officer; 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS D-74, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; Attn: OMB-PRA (0920-1100)

Model Recruitment Script and Guidance

Project Area Staff Make Initial Contact

This document provides model scripts and guidance for staff making initial contact with a potential participant over the phone. To minimize the chance of an adverse event, you must confirm the potential participant's identity before mentioning HIV or this project. A potential participant may not know their HIV status; therefore, you should know national and local procedures on how to address this before starting recruitment.

After confirmation of identity, if the person meets eligibility requirements and agrees to participate, you should schedule an interview or provide a personalized link to the web survey if the person requests it.

Information Needed Before the Cold Call: To confirm a potential participant's identity over the phone, you should obtain their information before calling them. When you contact the potential participant, you will ask them to provide matching information. Use two or more methods to confirm their identity.

Examples include:

- Full first, middle, and last name (including suffix, if available)
- Date of birth (month, day, and year)
- Phone number
- Current or past address
- Social Security Number

In addition, you should check whether the potential participant is aware of their HIV status by looking into eHARS or other supplementary sources of information. For example, a single report in eHARS with no subsequent visits to an HIV provider and no additional CD4 or viral load tests may indicate that the person may not be aware of their status.

Sample Script

Recruiter: *Hi, may I speak to [first name of person]?*

- > If the person is not available and someone else answers:

Recruiter: *My name is [recruiter's name]. [Potential participant's first name] was chosen to take part in a health survey. Please have them call me back at [phone number].*

- > If you reach their voicemail:

Recruiter: *Hi, I'm trying to reach [potential participant's first name]. This is [recruiter's name] from the [health department name]. You are one of a small group of people in [project area] chosen to take part in our confidential health survey. If you decide to take part, you'll get [amount and type of token of appreciation]. Please give me a call at [your phone number]. Thank you.*

(**Note:** You can also use the voicemail script when texting the potential participant)

> If you reach the person:

PRIVACY

STEP 1: Ensure that the person is in a confidential space
Sensitive questions are asked when confirming identity and eligibility (e.g., HIV status). Ensuring the person is in a location where they cannot be overheard is critical in preventing accidental disclosure of their personal information.




Recruiter: *My name is [recruiter's name]. I'm calling from the [health department name] to let you know that you were selected to take part in our health survey. If you take part, you'll get [amount and type of token of appreciation]. You can schedule an appointment to take the survey with an interviewer over the phone or you can take the survey online at a time that is convenient for you.*

Since only people chosen for this survey can take part, I do need to ask you a few questions to make sure that I am talking to the correct person. To keep your information private, you need to be in a space where no one can hear your answers. Are you in a private space?

IDENTITY

STEP 2: Confirm IDENTITY
If you are unable to verify the person's identity on the phone, try to schedule a face-to-face meeting and request that they bring an ID.



If the person states that they are in a private space, then move forward with confirming their identity:

To confirm the potentially eligible person's identity, you can ask:

- What is your full name (including middle name and/or suffix)?
- What is your date of birth?
- I see you were born in July. Can you tell me the year?
- In my records, I have another phone number for John Doe that begins with (404) 639. Can you tell me the last four digits of that phone number?
- In my records, I have an old address for John Doe with the street number 1437. Can you tell me what street goes with that number?
- I have the first 3 digits of your SS# as 123, can you tell me the last 4 digits?
- Would you please show me an ID card or a driver's license so that I can make sure I am speaking with the right person (**in person or video recruitment**)?

AGE

 STEP 3: Confirm AGE ≥ 18 years

If the person is younger than 18, they are ineligible and should be dispositioned as “Ineligible — <18 on recruitment date.”



Once the person’s identity is confirmed, move to the eligibility questions:

Recruiter: *Thank you for confirming your identity. Next, I'll ask you a few questions to see if you are eligible for the survey. How old are you?*

RESIDENCE

 STEP 4: Confirm CURRENT RESIDENCE

If current residence is Florida, Houston, Louisiana, or Michigan, continue recruitment.

STOP RECRUITMENT if current residence is [states without ORP approval to collect data - to be updated in 2023].

If current residence is any other jurisdiction, check ORP permission and continue or stop recruitment as appropriate.

If recruitment is stopped because state’s ORP does not allow data collection, disposition as “Ineligible – current residence in jurisdiction without ORP permission.”



Recruiter: *What city and state are you currently living in?*

- > If living in a jurisdiction that does not allow data collection:

Recruiter: *Thank you for this information. Based on where you live, we cannot move forward with the survey, but thank you for your time.*

HIV DIAGNOSIS

 STEP 5: Confirm FIRST HIV diagnosis WITHIN PAST 18 MONTHS

If the person tested HIV-positive for the first time within the past 18 months but is not aware of their status, they may be eligible and should be provided counseling and linkage referrals per your health department’s protocol. They **should not be recruited** until they have been informed of their status. *See Section XX of the Protocol for more guidance.*

If the person did not receive their first diagnosis within the past 18 months, they are **ineligible** and should be dispositioned as “Ineligible - No HIV diagnosis in past 18 months” or “Ineligible – previously diagnosed” as appropriate. Ineligible persons should still be informed of their HIV status if they are unaware and should be offered counseling and linkage referrals per your health department’s protocol.



Recruiter: *Thank you for confirming that information. The reason you were selected for this project is because you were diagnosed with a health condition that is reported to the state health department. Can you tell me the condition(s) you have been diagnosed with?*

- **If HIV is mentioned**, ask: *Were you first diagnosed with HIV on or after [month/year representing 18 months ago]?*

(Note: if the participant says they were NOT first diagnosed within the past 18 months, probe to find out if they received a previous diagnosis. If participant says this is their first diagnosis and the eHARS date of diagnosis is within the past 18 months, ask the participant to confirm the date of diagnosis.)

- > If no, move to the [closing step](#) below*. Otherwise, proceed to Step 6.

- **If HIV is not mentioned**, proceed to the next question below

- > If no, ask: *Would it be all right if I listed some health conditions that are reported to the health department? You can tell me whether you have been diagnosed with any of these conditions.* (e.g., meningitis, tuberculosis, HIV, measles)

- If the person still does not identify HIV, **do not proceed with recruitment** and move to the [closing step](#) below*. Then complete the following:

- Follow local procedures for delivering positive HIV test results, post-test counseling, and linking persons to confirmatory testing and HIV care. If the investigation concludes that the person is HIV positive, the focus should be linkage to HIV care.
- Report to your CDC project officer the fact that you have contacted a person unaware of their HIV status and consider whether the event meets the criteria for adverse event reporting.
- Provide contact information so that the person can contact project staff if they want to participate later.

- If the person identifies HIV, ask: *Were you first diagnosed with HIV on or after [month/year representing 18 months ago]?*

- > If no, move to the [closing step](#) below*.

STEP 6: Confirm that potential participant LIVED IN UNITED STATES

If person lived in the United States during the 12 months before their diagnosis, they are eligible. This includes U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

STOP RECRUITMENT if person lived outside the United States **AT ANY TIME** during the 12 months before their diagnosis. The reason for this is because this survey seeks to understand people's experiences with HIV testing and prevention within the United States. If recruitment is stopped because of this reason, disposition as "Ineligible – lived outside U.S."



Recruiter: *Thank you for that information. The last thing we need to know to find out if you are eligible is where you lived in the year before you were diagnosed with HIV. In the 12 months before you received your HIV diagnosis, were you living in the United States?*

If steps 2 to 6 are **NOT** met, the person is **NOT** eligible for participation.
STOP AT THIS POINT and proceed to the closing step below.

***CLOSING STEP:**

***Recruiter:** *Unfortunately, based on your answers, we cannot move forward with the survey. But thank you for your time and I hope you have a great day.*

If steps 2 to 6 are **MET**, then the potential participant is eligible for participation.
PROCEED WITH RECRUITMENT.

STEP 7: REMIND them that sensitive health information will be discussed and then **INTRODUCE** the project

STEP 8: Confirm INTEREST and WILLINGNESS to participate



Recruiter: *Thank you for allowing me to check that you are the right person.*

Let me tell you more about this health survey. Here at the [name of HD] we are interested in speaking with people who received a recent HIV diagnosis to better understand their experiences with medical care in [project area] and how we can improve programs and services.

The health survey is called [local project name]. If you take part in this survey you will be asked questions about your health and medical care. This survey is confidential and will cover some sensitive health

information. Your answers to these questions will be kept private and separate from identifying information such as your name or phone number. You will receive a token of appreciation worth \$50 for taking part in this survey. Does this sound like something you would be interested in doing?"

- > If interested in participating in the project:

INVITE

□ STEP 9: **SCHEDULE** interview or **PROVIDE LINK** to web-based survey



Recruiter: *Great! The survey will take about XX minutes. Would you like to schedule an interview over the phone or take the survey online?*

- If participant chooses phone interview:

Recruiter: *Ok, let's find a day and time that works for you.*

The recruiter will need to input in the scheduling tool:

- a unique identifier for the participant
- date of diagnosis as indicated in eHARS or updated after confirming with the participant during this conversation.
- Stage of infection: Stage 0 or Stage 3

Once the interview is scheduled, inform the participant that they will need to call the interviewer's phone number at the designated time and provide an ID number to the interviewer at the start of the interview. Give the participant the interview phone number and the ID number. Explain that the ID number is used instead of their name to protect their identity. This way the responses they provide to the interviewer will not be linked to their names or contact information. Remind the participant that to keep their information and responses to the survey questions private, the participant should plan to call from a location where no one can overhear. Let the participant know that the interviewer does not have their name or contact information and you will be the one sending them a reminder of their interview. Ask them if they want to be contacted by text or phone call with a reminder about the interview. Ask them if they want to receive a reminder 1 hour, 30 mins or 15 mins before the call.

If the participant has internet access, help them locate the online response cards at XXXXX.cdc.gov. If they do not have access to the internet, ask them for a mailing address where they can receive the response cards. Provide your contact information to the participant and let them know that they can contact you should they need to reschedule the interview or would like to complete the web-based survey. Follow procedures for using the scheduling portal – refer to Section XX in the Protocol.

- If participant chooses web-based survey:

Recruiter: *Great! You can start the survey at any time using the personalized link I will give you. We are asking that you complete this survey within a week from today. You do not have to complete it in one sitting. If you need to stop mid-way and come back, you can save your responses and finish the survey later.*

Ask the participant how they would prefer to receive the link – via text message, email, or over the phone. Provide the link and unique ID. Let them know that if one week has gone by and they have not completed the survey, you will contact them to remind them to complete the survey. Provide your contact information to the participant and let them know that they can contact you if they need the link again or would prefer to schedule an interview. Follow procedures for using the scheduling portal – refer to Section XX in the Protocol.

- If not interested in participating in the project:

Recruiter: *May I ask why you are not interested? Knowing why will help us improve the survey in the future.*

Capture this information. Attempt to address concerns using refusal aversion techniques. If they still refuse, thank the person for their time and end recruitment.