



# GETTING TO ZERO ILLINOIS PLAN 2.0

## Executive Summary

*"It Ends With Z"*

"Z" marks the end of the alphabet, the last of the basic building blocks we use to tell stories and share our experiences. The Z in Getting to Zero Illinois (GTZ-IL) likewise marks an ending: the end of the HIV epidemic in our state, and the culmination of all the lived experiences, scientific advances, political advocacy, community organizing, and public health work that have built upon each other to get there. **Our goal is to Get to Zero by 2030**, and we have that goal within our reach.

### Some of our goals and objectives include:

- ▶ **Reducing structural and institutional barriers to engaging in care**, including stigma, for people living with and vulnerable to HIV.
- ▶ **Diagnosing all people with HIV as early as possible.**
- ▶ **Increasing housing opportunities and related supportive services** for people living with and vulnerable to HIV.
- ▶ **Increasing educational and employment opportunities** and related supportive services for people living with or vulnerable to HIV.
- ▶ **Increasing the percentage of people vulnerable to HIV who are linked and retained to HIV prevention and supportive services.**
- ▶ **Increasing the percentage of people living with HIV who are virally suppressed** from 62% in 2021 to 95% in 2030.

It is important to note that GTZ-IL's goal of reaching functional zero means that Illinois will report fewer than 100 new cases of HIV annually, the point where the HIV epidemic can no longer sustain itself. **It does not mean the end of support for people living with HIV or erasing the stories and experiences of people who live and have lived with HIV.** While the number zero is a data point marking numerical progress toward ending the HIV epidemic, the letter Z is telling the stories of those who helped us get there. **The lived experience of those at the heart of the GTZ-IL initiative is central to this plan and is central to this project, and it cannot be represented by data alone.** We are building an Illinois in which net transmission of HIV will be zero and where people living with HIV will thrive. When we say, "it ends with Z," we mean that when we arrive at the end of the epidemic, we will honor the stories of those who led us there.

**Recognizing the centrality of human connection and public health progress to our success, we welcome you to the GTZ-IL Plan 2.0.**

