



The MetroHealth System
2500 MetroHealth Drive
Cleveland OH 44109-1998

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 14, 2015

CONTACT:

Tina Shaerban Arundel
216-778-5370
tarundel@metrohealth.org

The MetroHealth System's Compass Services Awarded \$1.2 million Grant to Create an App for Young People Living with HIV

(Cleveland) – The MetroHealth System's Compass Services is the recipient of a \$1.2 million grant from The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create an app for young adults living with HIV. MetroHealth is one of ten organizations across the U.S. to be awarded the funding.

The demonstration projects were chosen based on proposals outlining innovative social media methods to identify, link, and retain HIV positive underserved, underinsured, hard-to-reach youth and young adults (ages 13-34) in HIV primary care and supportive services.

Compass Services, a support program offered at MetroHealth for people living with HIV/AIDS, will use the funding to create the Positive Peers App which will provide health management tools and a virtual community to connect people ages 16-34 living with HIV. The app will feature information, social networking and self-management tools to support HIV-related holistic care. Positive Peers will be made available to this young adult population at MetroHealth as a password-protected application, accessible only through a confidential registration process.

MetroHealth is partnering with two local Cleveland companies, Blue Star Design and Blackbird, to create the application architecture, content and tools for the Positive Peers app, which will support and improve retention in care and clinical outcomes for young patients living with HIV/AIDS. An evaluator from Kent State University's School of Public Health will investigate the associations of user engagement and activation with self-management behavior, perceptions of stigma and retention in HIV care.

For more information about the grant and other winners, visit <http://hab.hrsa.gov/abouthab/special/socialmedia.html#5>.

For more information about Positive Peers, visit www.positivepeers.org

About The MetroHealth System

The MetroHealth System is an essential health system committed to providing health care to everyone in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and improving the health of the community overall. Its 6,700 employees deliver care to everyone at its main campus, just west of downtown Cleveland, and at more than 20 other MetroHealth locations. It also provides health care at

more than 20 additional sites in Cuyahoga County through community partnerships such as the School Health program.

MetroHealth is home to Cuyahoga County's only verified Level I Adult Trauma Center and Level II Pediatric Trauma Center, and it is the only adult and pediatric burn center in the state of Ohio verified by the American Burn Association and the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons. In the past year, MetroHealth provided more than one million patient visits in its hospital and health centers. MetroHealth also is an academic medical center committed to teaching and research; each of its active physicians holds a faculty appointment at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. MetroHealth has earned Magnet status, which places it in the top 6 percent of all hospitals nationwide for nursing excellence.

MetroHealth's mission is, "Leading the way to a healthier you and a healthier community through service, teaching, discovery and teamwork." For more information, visit metrohealth.org.