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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ViiV Healthcare Awards \$525,000 to TPIF to Support  
Black and Latinx Transgender and MSM Communities!**

HOUSTON - The Texas Pride Impact Funds (TPIF) Board of Directors is excited to announce that we have received a \$525,000 grant for distribution over the next three years to fuel and incubate grassroots innovations that support the transgender community, primarily Black and Latinx transgender and MSM (gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men) communities in Texas. The grant is part of ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action AMP Grant. TPIF is one of 13 organizations nationwide chosen to fortify emerging talent and programs that disrupt disparities in HIV care and is designed to support individuals and projects that are taking creative, unconventional and urgent approaches to grassroots outreach for people living with HIV by providing micro-grants, mentorship, and network support.

"This grant will allow TPIF to further our mission to inspire giving and investment to secure equitable opportunities that serve and enrich the lives of LGBTQ+ Texans for generations to come," stated Ron Guillard, TPIF Board President. "We are grateful to ViiV Healthcare for their confidence in TPIF and for establishing this grant opportunity that aligns with the funding we strive to bring to our Focus Communities and Populations (TPIF's funding priorities) across our large state."

Studies show that there is a demonstrable need in Texas for programs that support Persons Living with HIV (PLWH), particularly among communities of color. Texas is home to nearly 9% of the U.S. population and ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation in HIV diagnoses and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the number of individuals living with HIV (Elfein, 2020). Texas also has the third largest African American/Black population and the second largest Latinx population in the United States. Although HIV+ related deaths continue to decrease in Texas – down 20% in the past eight years – the advancements in HIV/AIDS treatment and diagnosis have not been equitably distributed.

Due in part to stigma, poverty, lack of access to health care, and racial inequities, Latinx, transgender women, African American women, and African American gay and bisexual men are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. In 2019, the Texas Department of State Health and Human Services found that 91% of MSM living with HIV identify as Black or Latinx, and 62% of deaths of transgender individuals are attributed to HIV. The death rate in the US for PLWH is 1.8 per 100,000, but in contrast, the death rate from HIV for African Americans is estimated at 17 per 100,000 population (Elfein, 2020).

With the ViiV healthcare funding, TPIF is launching the Impact Texas Grant (ImpactTXGR) program, a micro-granting and capacity-building program to activate individuals and organizations across Texas leading grassroots HIV outreach efforts. TPIF will hire a Program Director to help lead the ImpactTXGR and the programs created from it. The position information is available on TPIF's website.

“We made our first public announcement of this award to our Houston donors as part of our program at the Law Harrington Senior Living Center on September 30,” added Guillard. “We are engaging community stakeholders now in the planning and design of this program, and we anticipate the Request for Proposal (RFP) for this three-year initiative will be issued mid- to late- Q1 of 2022. Interested parties can follow our website for updates.”

### About Texas Pride Impact Funds

The Mission of TPIF is to inspire giving and investment to secure equitable opportunities that serve and enrich the lives of LGBTQ+ Texans for generations to come. TPIF was chartered in 2015 as the first LGBTQ+ statewide 501(c)(3) public foundation for Texas.

The Foundation's “focus communities and populations” include underserved geographies; people of transgender experience; People of Color, seniors, youth, people with disabilities; and displaced peoples. Now, in our fourth year of grantmaking, TPIF has Regional Leadership Councils in communities across Texas, advancing a statewide network for local leaders and organizations to share best practices, methodologies, and contacts for collaboration.

Texas is one of the top four most populous states in the nation and home to nine percent of the US LGBTQ+ population. However, funding for LGBTQ+ services and support in Texas ranks last among those states. To date, Texas Pride Impact Funds' donors have made donations and pledges exceeding \$1.6 million with another \$5 million in legacy estate gift intentions. A multi-year donor campaign is underway for supporters who believe in the strategic, long-term purpose of TPIF. The Dallas Foundation is the fiscal sponsor of TEXAS PRIDE IMPACT FUNDS, a component fund of The Dallas Foundation, a 501(c)(3), publicly supported charity, Federal Tax ID 75-2890371. For more information, to donate or volunteer, visit Texas Pride Impact Funds online ([www.txpif.org](http://www.txpif.org)) or email [info@txpif.org](mailto:info@txpif.org).

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