

Assessing the Feasibility of Conducting a Randomized Community Trial of the *Encontros* Intervention Model among Sex Workers in Brazil

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Project Description

This study will determine the feasibility of conducting a CRCT of a promising multi-component intervention among sex workers in Brazil. Determining study feasibility includes documenting local interest and input from key stakeholders and carrying out an analysis of costs to implement a large intervention trial. This study combines qualitative interviewing of key stakeholders (n=20) and modeling of sample size projections and costs to outline:

- Intervention design
- Study logistics
- Study ethics
- Study location
- In-country collaborators
- Strategies for community participation
- Costs

Significance

Prevention experts have called for multi-component interventions that incorporate the multiple levels of influence shaping HIV risk. However, few multi-component interventions have been conducted that aim to modify structures and social environmental barriers that keep populations from attaining improved HIV outcomes. Even fewer social interventions have included the most rigorous evaluation design for community research: a cluster randomized control trial (CRCT).

The data generated from this innovative grant proposal will provide critical information as to the feasibility and details of study design needed to develop the future intervention trial among sex workers, a trial that could potentially reduce the burden of STI/HIV among sex workers, a population which almost universally experiences extreme social exclusion and are deprived of health services and human rights.