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Background

- ✓ Missouri is one of seven states with highest burden of the epidemic with Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (**Figure. 1**).
- ✓ Despite strengths in world-class universities, significant research, clinical and community-based infrastructure for HIV research in St. Louis, a central framework that unifies this infrastructure is lacking.

Objective

- ✓ Develop a framework for establishment of a Developmental Center for AIDs Research (D-CFAR) in St. Louis.
- ✓ A unified and well-integrated D-CFAR in St. Louis in partnership between Washington university in St. Louis and Saint Louis University will harmonize existing institutional infrastructure, research priorities, and mentor the next generation of HIV researchers.

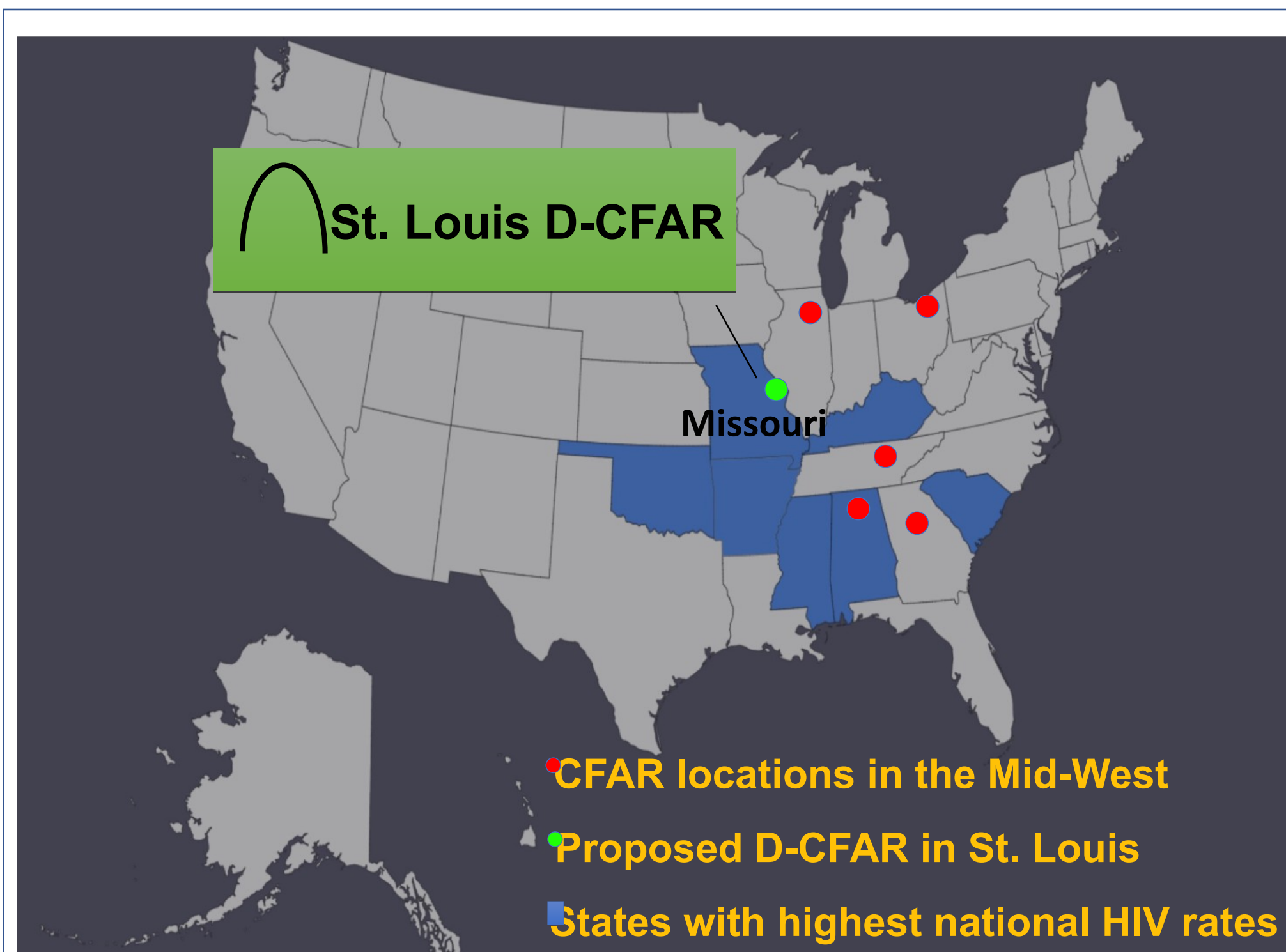


Figure 1: Ending the HIV Epidemic in Missouri - Establishment of a NIH funded D-CFAR in St. Louis

Approach

Built faculty member base through institutional surveys and stakeholder engagement

Organize the structural framework of the D-CFAR within an Administrative Core, three Research Cores and a Developmental Core (**Figure. 2**)

Leadership team for the D-CFAR reflects the diverse faculty base across both Universities

The Research Cores will provide new platforms for HIV basic, clinical and community research

The Developmental Core will enhance mentoring programs to attract and retain HIV researchers

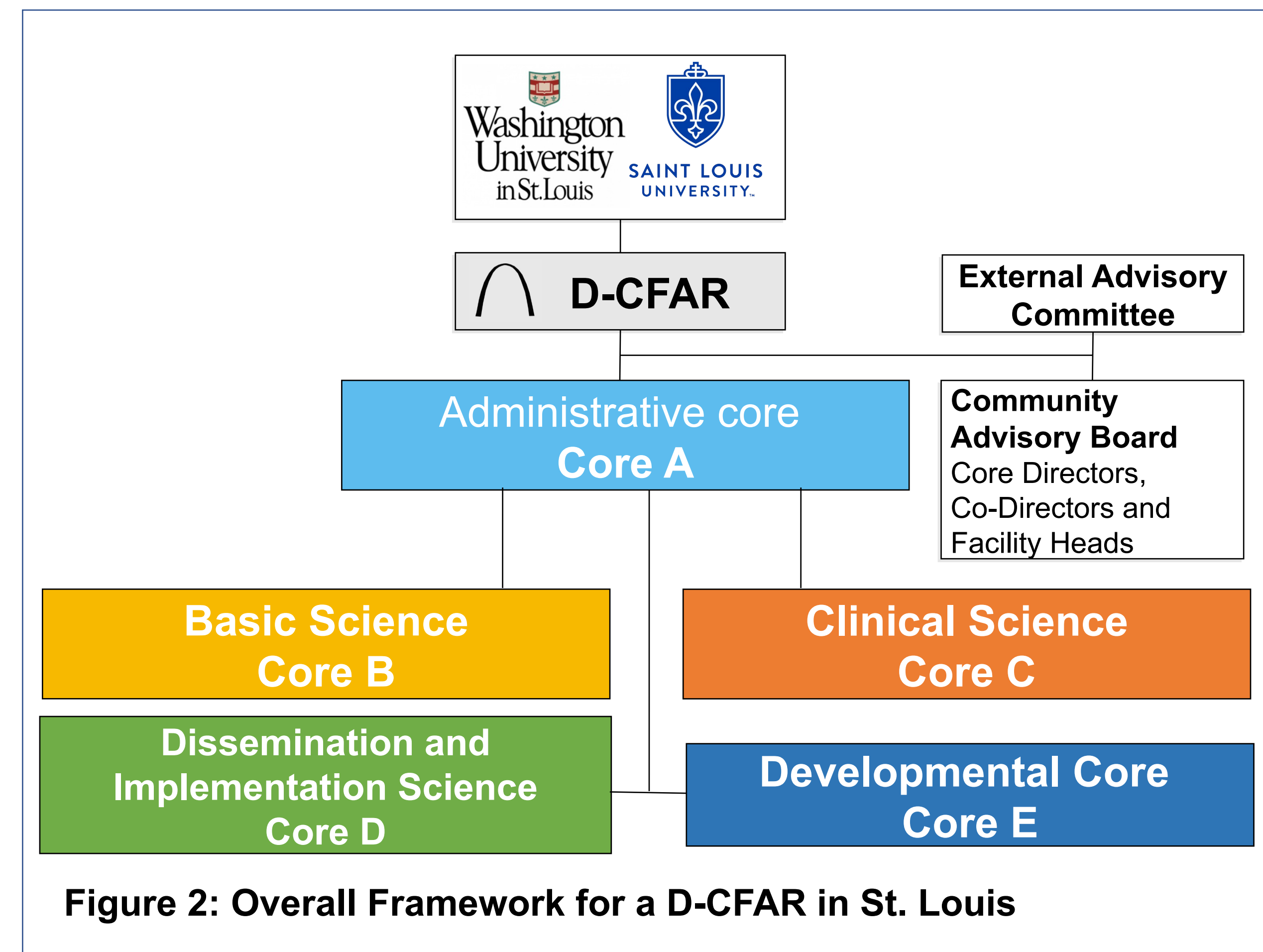
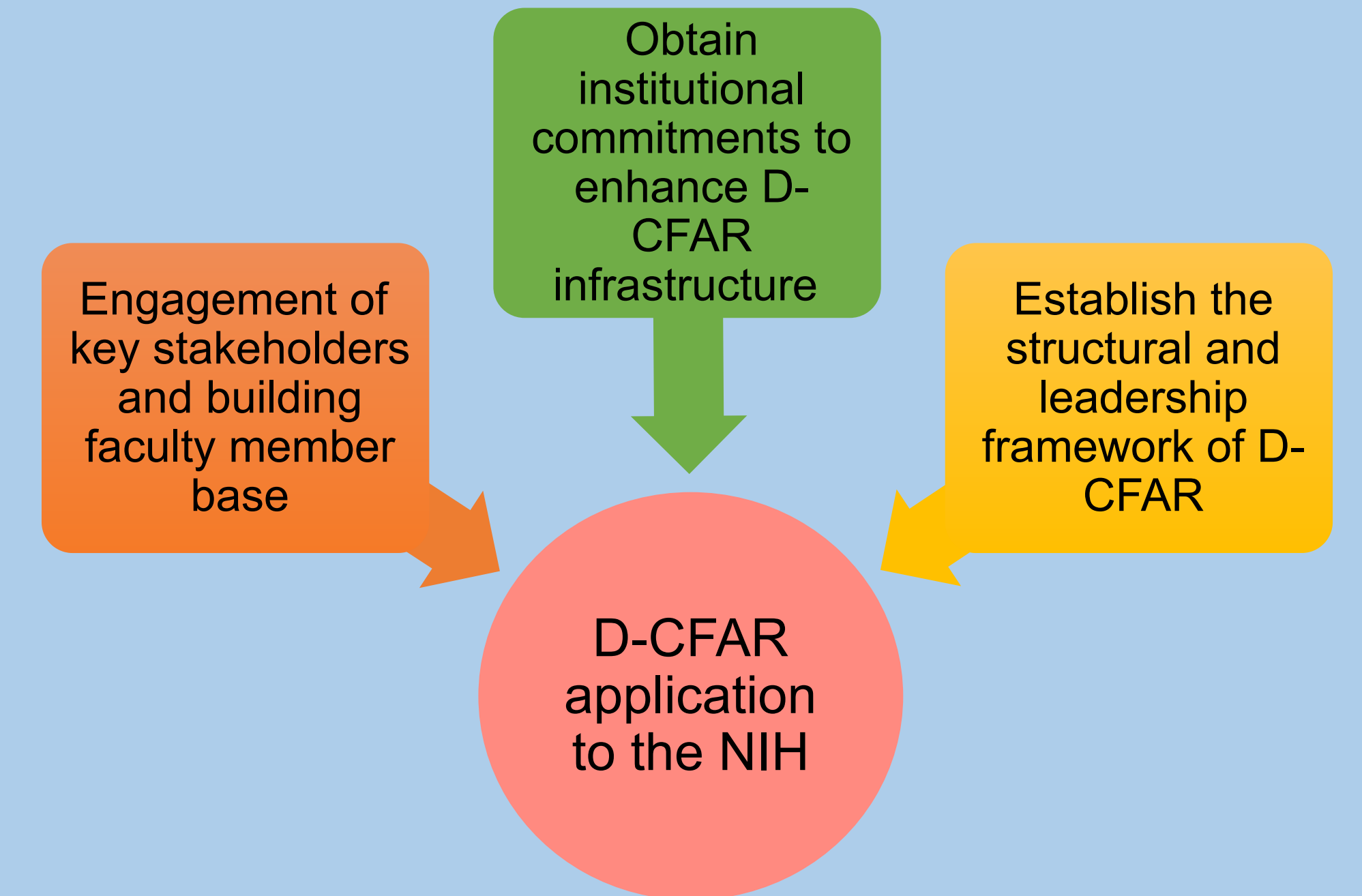


Figure 2: Overall Framework for a D-CFAR in St. Louis

Outcomes



Conclusion

- ✓ The establishment of a NIH funded D-CFAR in the St. Louis area will enhance national visibility and recognition for HIV research in Missouri.
- ✓ Accelerate progress towards ending HIV as a public health threat by 2030.

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ABSTRACT 2022 ELAM Institutional Action Project

Name and Institution: Shabaana Khader, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis

Title: A framework for establishment of a Developmental Center For AIDs Research (D-CFAR) in St. Louis

Key Collaborators and Mentors: Dr. Elvin Geng, MD, Dr. Jacaranda van Rheenen, PhD, Dr. Fred Ssewamala, PhD, Dr. Juliet Iwelunmor, PhD, Dr. William Powderly, MD.

Topic/Category: Research

Background and Significance: The state of Missouri is one of seven states in the country with a disproportionately high burden of the epidemic with Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and is a focus of End the Epidemic Initiative. St. Louis has strengths in world-class universities with significant research and clinical infrastructure, and a robust presence of community-based organizations invested in ending the epidemic. However, the major gap has been the lack of centralized platforms that will harmonize HIV research infrastructure and stakeholder engagement, as well as establish mentoring programs to align priorities to end the epidemic.

Objective: The goal for this project is to develop a framework for a competitive funding application to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the establishment of a Development Center for AIDS Research (D-CFAR) in St. Louis. A unified and well-integrated D-CFAR will harmonize existing institutional infrastructure, coordinate communication between key stakeholders in St. Louis, align and build research priorities, and mentor the next generation of HIV researchers.

Approach: The D-CFAR application will be an unified effort between St. Louis University (SLU) and Washington University in St. Louis (WashU), two universities in St. Louis with close geographical proximity, shared cross-institutional infrastructure, and a commitment to end the HIV epidemic. The D-CAR will be led by an administrative core with four research cores namely basic science, clinical science, data science, dissemination and implementation science, and a developmental core. These cores together will provide added value to existing institutional infrastructure, generate new platforms for HIV basic, clinical and community research, enable rigorous interactions between the institutional partners, and develop mentoring programs to attract and retain HIV researchers. The D-CFAR will be led by a diverse and inclusive leadership team based at SLU and Wash U, and supported by an external scientific advisory board, which will provide overall scientific direction and enable cross-communication with other nationally situated CFARs. Additionally, the establishment of a community advisory board will propagate new collaborations with community-based organizations, and local and state public health agencies to ensure a unified regional HIV public health response in Missouri.

Outcomes/Results: The initial engagement of the key stakeholders across the two institutions, building a faculty member base through an email survey, and establishment of the D-CFAR structural framework are completed. This framework of the overall application will be presented to the NIH at a reverse site visit in the upcoming month. Matched institutional investments from SLU and WashU will be sought to maximize and position the D-CFAR for overall success.

Discussion/Conclusion with Statement of Impact/Potential Impact: The establishment of a NIH funded D-CFAR in the St. Louis area will enhance national visibility and

recognition for HIV research in Missouri, while enabling the required regional infrastructure to accelerate progress towards ending HIV as a public health threat by 2030.