Mpowerment Projects (MP) are strategically poised to take advantage of new biomedical interventions that exist and new ones certain to arrive soon. We believe combining social, behavioral, and biomedical approaches will have the greatest impact on HIV prevention.

The MP’s adaptability and methods make it a promising approach to provide information and to mobilize young men to learn more and decide if PrEP is right for them.

PrEP means Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, and it’s the use of anti-HIV medication that keeps HIV negative people from becoming infected.

Since MP is a community-level intervention and is already established in many communities, it has the ability to teach thousands of young men about biomedical advances.

1) Have your core group review the latest information on PrEP. We want to create a space that is welcoming to the variety of ways men choose to prevent HIV in their communities.

As always, follow the MP guiding principle of being gay affirming and sex positive. MP also recognizes the need to nurture the exploration and celebration of gay men’s sexuality, not just focused on condom use but including the variety of sexual activities that are safe.

2) These ideas can be integrated into MP social events as well as creating new PrEP marketing and awareness campaigns. Adding a new HIV prevention tool requires additional coordinator training, programming effort and planning.

8 ways the Mpowerment Project can support PrEP as an option.
3) Create attractive outreach materials that can be distributed at venues where young men gather, and posted on social media that inform your participants about PrEP as an option. In the tradition of all MP materials, create graphically appealing materials!

4) Explore ways young men can support their friends who decide to use PrEP.

5) Many projects have already hosted PrEP forums - bringing in local providers, health professionals and PrEP advocates, and participants who are willing to share their PrEP journey. Perhaps your Community Advisory Board (CAB) can help securing guest speakers.

6) Create opportunities for referral and linkage to PrEP by having a list of local providers who are open and willing to prescribe PrEP available at the MP space. Work with your agency to create “PrEP navigators” who can assist young men with doctors, labs, and to explore financial assistance options.

7) Collaborate. If your organization doesn’t provide PrEP, have someone from your local clinic that provides PrEP come to a Core Group meeting to meet with CG members and volunteers to educate them about how young MSM can access PrEP locally. If there isn’t a local resource, try to generate interest by working with LGBT-friendly clinic or clinical provider. Some MPs have found that their local clinics are set up to provide PrEP for young gay/bisexual men.

8) M-Groups are one-time skills building sessions for small groups of young men. The M-groups have been updated to include information and discussion points about PrEP. M-groups are designed for a mixed group of young men; those living with HIV (whether they are out about their status or not) and HIV-negative young men, as well as HIV unknown status men. The M-Group Facilitators Guide is being updated to include new PrEP content as well as content specifically for young men living with HIV (including information on engagement in HIV healthcare). You will soon be able to access it at mpowerment.org.

Download the MP Manual at mpowerment.org. It’s full of content from projects across the country. It discusses how MP can be used to motivate men to obtain testing.