SUMMARY OF PROJECT: Birmingham Access to Care (BA2C), a partnership between Birmingham AIDS Outreach (BAO) and the University of Alabama Birmingham 1917 Clinic, is focused on increasing access to care for those HIV positive individuals with a focus on those living in poverty, those who already know their HIV status, and those who have fallen out of care.

COLLABORATING PARTNERS:
- Aletheia House
- Jefferson County Health Department

HIGHLIGHTED INNOVATION: Birmingham Access to Care is unique in that no other project in the Southeastern United States has specifically been implemented to locate, assess, and re-engage people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) that have fallen out of HIV primary care. Furthermore, the demographic of the population is unknown, and this project aims to characterize the population. Information collected from this study will investigate influences on patients who have fallen out of care by assessing environmental, clinical, systematic, and provider factors. Finally, Birmingham Access to Care assesses participants’ motivation to return to care and provides necessary re-engagement through strengths-based case management and motivational interviewing.

SUCCESS STORY
Clarence was not receiving primary medical care for his HIV, and was interested in enrolling when contacted by a UAB researcher. At intake, he was presented with a battery of questions in order to determine an accurate assessment of his mental health, and the researcher found he was having suicidal thoughts nearly every day. Immediately after enrollment the researcher had Clarence meet with a counselor to discuss his emotional issues. At this time, the counselor found that he was low on food and was struggling to afford Christmas gifts for his children. Clarence was able to meet with a community social worker who assessed all of his barriers to care as well as his most pressing needs. He was able to schedule an appointment with a Birmingham AIDS Outreach Ryan White caseworker, who was able to give him an emergency food box. The caseworker was also able to get him linked to a program which donated toys. Through his participation in Birmingham Access to Care, not only did Clarence receive food and get gifts for his children, but more importantly, he was able to get the help he needed.