The need for treatment is growing: Despite a decline in new HIV infections in some countries supported by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the total number of people living with HIV and requiring treatment continues to grow each year. If PEPFAR is flat funded in 2016, it will not be able to meet the growing demand for treatment, jeopardizing progress in curbing the global epidemic. Investments in PEPFAR must increase to expand access to treatment, which, in addition to saving lives, is highly effective at preventing new infections.

Investing in PEPFAR Expands Treatment, Prevents Infection, Saves Lives

Increasing efficiencies: PEPFAR is among the most successful global health programs in history and is currently supporting 7.7 million people on lifesaving HIV treatment. Widespread use of generic drugs, coupled with improvements across ARV treatment and delivery systems, has helped dramatically reduce average annual per-patient treatment costs, from about $1,053 in 2005 to $315 in 2015. This has facilitated substantial increases in the number of people PEPFAR can support on ARV treatment, and has prevented millions of new HIV infections.

Declining Costs Yield Impressive Returns on Investment
Annual Per Patient Treatment Costs, 2005–2015

1. Estimates are based on annual increases to total PEPFAR budget and do not include increased funding for multilateral sources including the Global Fund.
2. Estimates are based on number of HIV infections prevented due to scale-up of ARV treatment among PLHIV and do not include additional benefits of PEPFAR HIV prevention programming.