Effective Implementation of the Affordable Care Act

- The ACA is providing access to health care coverage for thousands of people with HIV for the first time. Expanded health coverage offers an historic opportunity to dramatically alter the HIV epidemic by increasing early diagnosis and treatment for individuals with HIV and significantly reducing their risk of transmitting HIV.
- Meaningful health reform for people with HIV requires strong federal non-discrimination and access standards, including a high, minimum national benefits standard; national standards for affordable cost sharing and streamlined access to expert HIV providers and medications.
- Full implementation of the Medicaid expansion is critical to address HIV-related disparities throughout the U.S., but in particular in the South. For low-income people with HIV in non-expansion states, access to Medicaid is limited to those who become sick and disabled. Most people with HIV in non-expansion states are left in the Medicaid-gap because they are too poor to qualify for federal subsidies to purchase Marketplace plans.

Robust Support for the Ryan White Program

- RWP helps our country’s most vulnerable residents with HIV benefit from care and treatment. It plays a critical role in improving health outcomes for people with HIV. RWP clients are more likely to be prescribed HIV treatment and to be effectively treated as measured by achieving viral suppression.1
- RWP provides services to 60% of people diagnosed with HIV in the U.S., addressing coverage gaps and affordability issues and care and treatment for the uninsured, including people in states that have not expanded Medicaid. Ongoing support for RWP is needed to leverage Ryan White provider expertise and the RWP comprehensive care model for providing high-quality, cost-effective care.

Strong Federal Commitment to Medicaid and Medicare

- Shifting Medicaid costs to states or altering the current federal/state financing mechanism that allows funding to respond to demand will result in service cuts and cost-sharing levels that jeopardize access to HIV care and treatment. Destabilizing Medicaid funding will also lead to poorer health outcomes and higher overall costs for treating people with HIV.
- Enhanced Medicaid primary care provider payment rates must be continued to support access to high quality providers for low income individuals across the U.S.
- Shifting Medicare costs to beneficiaries will leave care and treatment out of reach for those with HIV. Most HIV medications are unavailable in a generic form. Proposals to increase cost sharing for low-income subsidy individuals will do harm and unfairly target Medicare beneficiaries with chronic conditions, like HIV, whose health depends on regular access to medications.

Who We Are

- HHCAWG is affiliated with the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership. We are a coalition of more than 100 national, state and community-based organizations from across the country committed to expanding access to care for people with HIV and AIDS for more than a decade. Co-chairs: Robert Greenwald with the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation (rgreenwa@law.harvard.edu), Amy Killelea with the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (akillelea@nastad.org), and Andrea Weddle with the HIV Medicine Association (aweddle@hivma.org).

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HIV Health Care Access Working Group Members

1. ACT UP Philadelphia
2. ACT UP Southern California
3. The Afia Center for HIV Prevention & Reproductive Justice
4. African Services Committee
5. AIDS/HIV Health Alternatives
6. AIDS Action Baltimore
7. AIDS Action Committee of MA
8. AIDS Alabama
9. AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families
10. AIDS Community Research Consortium
11. AIDS Foundation of Chicago
12. The AIDS Institute
13. AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania
14. AIDS Legal Referral Panel of the San Francisco Bay Area
15. AIDS Project Los Angeles
16. AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta
17. AIDS Treatment Data Network
18. AIDS United
19. AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition
20. Alexian Brothers AIDS Ministry, Chicago
21. American Academy of HIV Medicine
22. amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
23. Aniz Inc.
24. API Wellness
25. Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
26. Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
27. Babes Network
28. Bronx AIDS Services
30. Broward House / South Florida AIDS Network (SFAN)
31. California LGBT Health and Human Services Network
32. Camp Heart to Heart & AIDS Services Center Coalition
33. Campaign To End AIDS (C2EA)
34. Center for HIV Law and Policy
35. Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation
36. Children’s Memorial Hospital, Chicago
37. Cincinnati Exchange Project
38. Colorado AIDS Project
39. Common Ground – the Westside HIV Community Center
40. Community Access National Network
41. Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition
42. Community Health Law Project
43. Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)
44. Contra Costa County Health Services Department, AIDS Program
45. DAB the AIDS BEAR Project
46. Desert AIDS Project
47. Duke AIDS Legal Project
48. Eastern Maine AIDS Network Client Advisory Committee
49. East Bay AIDS Advocacy Foundation
50. Empower U, Inc, Miami, FL
51. Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
52. Florida Patient Care Planning Group
53. Friends of GMHC
54. Funders Concerned About AIDS
55. Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC)
56. Georgia AIDS Coalition
57. Georgia Equality | Equality Foundation of Georgia
58. Harlem United
59. Health & Disability Advocates
60. Health Equity Partnership
61. Health GAP (Global Access Project)
62. HealthHIV
63. Health Planning Council of NE FL
64. Heart of IL HIV/AIDS Center of the Univ. of IL College of Medicine at Peoria
65. HIV Dental Alliance (HIVDent)
66. HIV Goddesses Project
67. HIV Health Services Planning Council - San Francisco EMA
68. HVVictorious, Inc.
69. HIV Law Project
70. HIV Medicine Association
71. HIV Prevention Justice Alliance (HIV PJA)
72. HIV Program, The University of Kansas School of Medicine – Wichita (UKSM-W)
73. Housing Works
74. The Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families
75. Human Rights Campaign
76. Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
77. International AIDS Empowerment, Las Cruces, NM; El Paso, TX
78. The International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS
79. John Snow, Inc.
80. Lambda Legal
81. The Latino Commission on AIDS
82. Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
83. Lifelong AIDS Alliance
84. Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center
85. Maine AIDS Alliance
86. Movable Feast
87. Michigan Positive Action Coalition
88. Minnesota AIDS Project
89. National ADAP Working Group
90. National AIDS Housing Coalition
91. National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
92. National Association of County and City Health Officials
93. National Coalition for LGBT Health
94. National Coalition of STD Directors
95. National Health Law Program
96. National Minority AIDS Council
97. The National Working Positive Coalition
98. National Women & AIDS Collective/Ms. Foundation for Women
99. New Mexico Poz Coalition
100. Ohio AIDS Coalition
101. Okaloosa AIDS Support and Informational Services, INC. (OASIS)
102. Outreach NM – HIV Advocacy
103. Portland Department of Health and Human Services
104. Positive Healthcare Foundation
105. Positive Resource Center
106. U.S. Positive Women’s Network, a project of WORLD
107. Prevent Blindness America
108. Program for Wellness Restoration
109. Project Inform
110. Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
111. Sadler Healthcare
112. San Francisco AIDS Foundation
113. San Francisco Human Rights Commission
114. Sinai Health System
115. SisterLove, Inc
116. Solano County Public Health
117. South Carolina Campaign to End AIDS (SC-C2EA)
118. Southwest CARE Center
119. Spectrum
120. STOP AIDS Project
121. Strong Consulting
122. Treatment Action Group
123. Univ. of Florida CARES: Children’s Medical Services, Pediatric Infectious Dis.
124. VillageCare
125. Western Pacific Re-Hab
126. Women Together For Change