

## 2022 ILLINOIS STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC) is proud to prioritize the legislation below in partnership with community organizations across the state.



### [HB4264/SB3632: GETTING TO ZERO ILLINOIS \(GTZ-IL\) OMNIBUS](#)

To advance the goals and strategies of the GTZ-IL plan to end the HIV epidemic in Illinois by 2030, the state of Illinois will need to make key investments in HIV testing, prevention and treatment, including access to PrEP. These investments will be grounded in racial health equity to address the health disparities experienced by people living with or vulnerable to HIV—especially among our Black, Latino/a/e/x and LGBTQ+ communities.



As a leading partner organization of the Getting to Zero Illinois Omnibus Coalition, AFC is proud to announce the following omnibus legislative package that includes **\$15 million in critical investments to help advance the goals and strategies of the [Getting to Zero Illinois plan](#) to end the HIV epidemic by 2030:**

GTZ-IL Omnibus Legislation Funding Asks	GTZ-IL Plan Goals & Strategies
HIV/STI and LGBTQ+ cultural competency and humility training for providers (\$50,000)	<b>Goal 2, Strategies 3-5; Goal 1, Strategies 1-2</b>
Employment referral program for people living with or vulnerable to HIV and the LGBTQ+ community (\$350,000)	<b>Goal 3, Strategies 6-7</b>
Statewide GTZ-IL and U=U public education campaign (\$250,000)	<b>Goal 4, Strategies 8-9</b>
Early intervention program to identify people living with HIV who are not currently in care (\$450,000)	<b>Goal 7, Strategies 14-15</b>
Increase access to pre-exposure prophylaxis/post-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP/PEP) (\$500,000)	<b>Goal 7, Strategy 15; Goal 8, Strategy 17; Goal 14, Strategies 41-44</b>
Increase housing and wraparound supportive services for people living with HIV (\$10,500,000)	<b>Goal 9, Strategies 18-19</b>
Program for people living with HIV re-entering society from incarceration (\$800,000)	<b>Goal 10, Strategies 21-25; Goal 16, Strategy 53</b>
HIV stigma reduction programs (\$350,000)	<b>Goal 15, Strategies 45, 47-48</b>
Capacity building for Black-led and Latino/a/e/x-led community-based organizations (\$1,500,000)	<b>Goal 15, Strategy 46</b>
At-home HIV testing kit program (\$250,000)	<b>Goal 20, Strategies 66-71</b>

### [SB3136: REDUCING MEDICAID CHURN ACT](#)

As Illinois moves closer to the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, we must commit to strengthening Medicaid for the more than 3.3 million Illinoisans that rely on Medicaid for their healthcare, including people experiencing homelessness and those without any countable income.



To decrease the administrative paperwork burden on individuals and state agency staff, **SB3136 would enact the following reforms:**

- **Make the current practice of Medicaid continuous eligibility for Illinoisans with fluctuating income permanent. This policy change will ensure people have Medicaid health coverage for 12 continuous months;**

- **Make it possible for Illinoisans with verified, zero income to have an Ex Parte (automatic) Medicaid redetermination; and**
- **Require the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to request guidance from federal CMS on how to move more eligible Illinoisans including those experiencing homelessness into an automated Ex Parte redetermination process.**

AFC is proud to partner with Heartland Alliance, Aunt Martha's, the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, Legal Council for Health Justice and many others on this critical legislation.

### [HB4656/SB3490](#): **DISRUPTING DISPARITIES FOR LGBTQ+ OLDER ADULTS AND OLDER ADULTS LIVING WITH HIV**

LGBTQ+ older adults have historically and continually faced barriers to accessing high-quality health care, securing culturally competent housing and caregiving support and navigating increased risk of serious illness and disability including HIV.



**Specifically, HB4656/SB3490 would enact the following reforms:**

- **Create a three-year Commission on LGBTQ+ Aging;**
- **Establish an LGBTQ+ Older Adult Advocate at the Illinois Department on Aging; and**
- **Require providers who are funded by or contract with the Illinois Department on Aging to complete cultural competency training.**

AFC is proud to partner with Pride Action Tank, Equality Illinois, AARP Illinois and many others to develop policy that better serves LGBTQ+ older adults and older adults living with HIV.

### [HB4430/SB3209](#): **INCREASING ACCESS TO PREP and PEP THROUGH COMMUNITY PHARMACIES**

Ending the HIV epidemic in Illinois means maximizing the use of all prevention strategies in our toolbox including Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). PrEP is a prevention program that involves adults and adolescents with a negative HIV status taking prescription medications to prevent HIV acquisition through sexual contact. PEP is a prevention method where HIV-negative adults and adolescents take medications to stop HIV transmission within 72 hours (about 3 days) of a single high-risk exposure.



While PrEP and PEP are widely effective in preventing HIV transmission, Black and Latino/a/e/x communities continue to fall behind in PrEP awareness, uptake and adherence due to several factors including stigma, LGBTQ+ discrimination, medical mistrust, lack of access to health care and affordability.

**Specifically, HB4430/SB3209 would enact the following reforms:**

- **Allow pharmacists to prescribe, dispense and administer HIV prevention drugs — including Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to people at risk and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for people who may have been recently exposed to HIV — without a prescription from a provider; and**
- **Allow pharmacists to order and conduct laboratory tests to determine if PrEP is the most appropriate course of care.**

AFC is proud to work in coalition with the Illinois Pharmacists Association, Howard Brown Health, Equality Illinois, the Illinois Retail Merchants Association and other stakeholders on this critical legislation to increase access to PrEP and PEP to the communities most impacted by HIV.

## [HB4437: HEALTHY ILLINOIS FOR ALL](#)

COVID-19 continues to exacerbate historic racial, ethnic and income inequities in accessing health care. Undocumented immigrants—millions of whom continue to service on the frontlines of the pandemic as essential workers—face astounding barriers to health care, from uncertain coverage of testing and treatment to fear of immigration consequences if they access health care. We cannot continue to accept health care disparities as normal and inevitable.



**To address this pressing issue, AFC continues to support legislation that would extend Medicaid eligibility to all low-income Illinois residents aged 19 to 54, with household incomes of up to 138% FPL (\$17,236/year for an individual) regardless of their immigration status.** AFC, a steering committee member of the [Healthy Illinois campaign](#), is proud to continue efforts to ensure that all Illinoisans can access quality, affordable health care coverage.

## ILLINOIS STATE BUDGET: AFRICAN AMERICAN HIV/AIDS RESPONSE FUND (AAHARF), HIV LUMP SUM, STIs FUNDING, QUALITY OF LIFE FUND and HEALTH INSURANCE NAVIGATOR FUNDING

As we have done annually, AFC will advocate for the protection and increase of Fiscal Year 2023 state funding for HIV treatment and prevention services. In addition, to improve access to health insurance coverage through Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), AFC is also supporting additional state and federal investments in the Illinois Navigator Program.



- **HIV Lump Sum: Illinois must invest an additional \$2 million in Fiscal Year 2023 funding for HIV prevention and treatment services, including HIV testing and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).** This investment in HIV services and prevention programs will lead to the continued reduction of new HIV cases, especially when prioritized in communities where the need is greatest.
- **African American HIV/AIDS Response Fund (AAHARF): To address the disproportionate impact HIV has inflicted on Illinoisans living with or vulnerable to HIV and other chronic conditions, especially those in the Black community, AFC supports an investment of an additional \$15 million in state funding for the AAHARF for fiscal year 2023. In addition, AFC supports the statutory extension of the AAHARF program to the year 2050, instead of ending in 2026.**
- **Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs): AFC is advocating for new STI funding of \$1 million to be prioritized in the state budget to address the growing rates of STI diagnoses (i.e., Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, & Syphilis).**
- **Illinois Quality of Life Fund: AFC supports the funding of \$2.1 million to the Illinois Quality of Life Fund to provide HIV prevention, treatment, engagement and adherence services through community organization grantmaking.**
- **Illinois Navigator Program: AFC advocates for additional state and federal investments of \$40 million for the Illinois Navigator Program to improve access to health insurance coverage through Medicaid and the ACA.**

We strongly believe that these investments in state funding will place Illinois on the right path to end the HIV epidemic and provide healthier and more equitable futures for all Illinoisans.

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