

## **What is the Illinois Alliance for Sound AIDS Policy?**

Founded and supported by AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC) in 2009, Illinois Alliance for Sound AIDS Policy (IL ASAP) is a network comprised of a diverse, passionate and committed group of individuals living with HIV, including LGBTQ+ individuals, women, veterans, older adults, Latinx people and young people. The mission of IL ASAP is to develop and support effective HIV policy and to nurture and support HIV advocacy leaders at the local, state and national levels.

IL ASAP accomplishes this mission by establishing strong ties with other HIV/AIDS allies, increasing involvement in supporting HIV/AIDS activities and by encouraging ongoing communication with elected officials and the media. It is important for our community to enhance relationships with our elected and appointed officials as well as the media so that we may speak truth to power in compelling, strategic and effective ways.

IL ASAP is at its heart an education, capacity building, mobilization and advocacy project. IL ASAP seeks to improve access to HIV prevention and care for all, with a focus on marginalized populations and communities that are particularly vulnerable to HIV. As a network of HIV activists from all over the state of Illinois, IL ASAP serves a wide cross-section of individuals of different socioeconomic backgrounds, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, religions and races.

IL ASAP works to amplify the voices of HIV activist by providing mechanisms for facilitated dialogue and mobilization within movements and campaigns. IL ASAP members are the foot soldiers in their communities and take the fight to

those who have power to demand change for those that feel they have none. IL ASAP activists mobilize their communities in the hopes of creating equity and justice for people living with and vulnerable to HIV and related chronic conditions. It strives to live up to AFC's vision that people living with HIV and related chronic conditions will thrive, and new HIV infections will be rare.

If advocacy is a passion of yours, or you are looking for ways to create change in your community, become a member of IL ASAP!

Contact Coleman Goode Manager, Community Organizing at [cgoode@aidschicago.org](mailto:cgoode@aidschicago.org) for more information, or if you have any questions.