



# ILLINOIS STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AGENDA

# 2025

For forty years, **AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC)** has led the fight for HIV prevention and treatment services across Illinois and is committed to mobilizing communities in the pursuit of equity and justice for people living with and vulnerable to HIV or other chronic conditions.

To realize the priorities and goals of the **Getting to Zero Illinois 2.0 Plan** to end the HIV epidemic by 2030, AFC is proud to advocate and prioritize the following state legislative advocacy agenda in partnership with and through the leadership of community organizations and coalitions across Illinois in 2025.

## Strengthening Funding for HIV Care and Prevention

AFC is advocating for a **\$2 million increase in state funding for HIV education, prevention, testing, and treatment** in the state's Fiscal Year 2026 budget. AFC is also proud to advocate for **fully funding the African American HIV/AIDS Response Fund (AAHARF)** and ensure timely disbursement to intended Black-led community-based HIV organizations. Finally, AFC is proud to advocate for the **protection of all HIV-related funding in the state budget** including but not limited to the Getting to Zero Illinois (GTZ-IL) initiative, PrEP4Illinois program, and STI testing, treatment, and prevention.

## Securing Investments to Prevent & End Homelessness for Illinoisans Living with HIV

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 47.3% of Illinoisans living with HIV have an unmet need for shelter or housing assistance. Access to safe, stable, affordable housing is an essential tool in helping people living with HIV lead healthier lives while also putting quality of life at the forefront. When we work together to end homelessness, we are also working toward ending the HIV epidemic in Illinois. As such, AFC and its supporting organization, the Center for Housing & Health (CHH), are proud to advocate for **\$2.8 million in new state funding** for Fiscal Year 2026. This funding, out of the General Revenue Fund, would create 140 additional housing units across Illinois along with supportive services specifically for people living with HIV. Housing coupled with supportive services, also called permanent supportive housing, is a proven way to keep people stably housed long term.

## Lowering the Cost of Prescription Drugs on Illinois Families

Many Illinoisans, including people living with and vulnerable to HIV, are often forced to choose between their medication and other necessities, like rent and groceries. Prescription drugs don't work if people can't afford them. AFC supports legislation that would establish a **Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB)**, an independent, nonpartisan body with the authority to evaluate high-cost prescription drugs and set upper payment limits on what Illinoisans will pay.

## Addressing the Impact of Illinois' Opioid Crisis

More than 3,200 Illinoisans lost their lives due to opioid overdoses in 2022 with Cook County accounting for 61% of fatalities. **Overdose prevention sites (OPS)** have been shown to save lives, reduce the spread of communicable diseases, such as HIV and Hepatitis C, and link those with substance use disorders to behavioral and physical health care. AFC is proud to support legislation that would authorize the creation of one OPS pilot site and connect folks to community support or other existing medical care, treatment, recovery programs and harm reduction services.

## Removing Barriers to Accessing HIV Treatment & Prevention Medications

Prior authorization is a requirement by health insurance plans for patients to obtain approval of a health care service or medication before the care is provided. However, these requirements often cause delays for patients, including those with chronic conditions like HIV, and in turn, result in negative health outcomes. AFC supports legislation that **bans prior authorization in health insurance plans and Medicaid for HIV treatment and prevention medications.**



[p2a.co/Vga0JeE](https://p2a.co/Vga0JeE)

This list of legislative priorities is not an exhaustive list and does not encompass all the policy work that AFC's Policy & Advocacy team is currently doing on the state level. As the state legislative session progresses, AFC will monitor and engage with emerging issues that arise when they align with our mission, vision, and values. We will also continue to support legislation that meaningfully addresses racial health equity and impacts people living with and vulnerable to HIV and people experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Keep up with AFC's policy & advocacy work by signing up for our Mobile Action Network! You can sign up by texting **AFC** to **40649** or by visiting [p2a.co/Vga0JeE](https://p2a.co/Vga0JeE).

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