



DIFFA *Chicago* champions the fight to end HIV/AIDS through awareness, prevention, and the pursuit of a cure.

2017-2018 Impact of DIFFA Chicago Excellence In Care Awards

DIFFA/Chicago Fellowship at Northwestern Medicine - *Pursuit of a Cure*

The Infectious Disease Fellowship Program at Northwestern Medicine aims to develop future medical leaders by providing opportunities for rigorous training in clinical infectious diseases, clinical scholarship, clinical investigation and scientific research. The DIFFA/Chicago Fellowship allows for a second year of training that is specifically focused on the clinical management of persons infected with HIV, participation in many important national trials, along with research aimed towards improving the quality of care in HIV patients. Mary Clare Masters, MD, MA is interested in the long-term comorbidities associated with HIV infection and its treatment. Her current research focuses on functional impairment in and metabolic complications of HIV infection. Since founding the DIFFA/Chicago fellowship nearly two dozen alumni of the program are serving in prominent roles around the world.

Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus - *Advocacy*

Sustainable Community Development project, serves men in the South Side community by building their social capital, linking to necessary services, and dismantling barriers to good health and quality of life. Their program manager promotes sustainable community development through three programs – 1) Research & Action where they transform institutional work by promoting evidence based, community-led research and practice; 2) Caucus Corps, their membership body; 3) Equity Coordination, an initiative to catalog and disseminate information on human services tailored to same-gender-loving Black men in Chicago. The project also helps to synchronize their HIV-elimination work with the Getting to Zero initiative. In 2019 they are looking to double their staff t work toward long-term progressive increases in antiretroviral use for HIV treatment and PrEP.

Chicago House - *Sustainability*

The Chicago House Employment Program includes Job Readiness Workshops and Computer Labs, Career Services, Post-Employment Support, Job Development, Transworks Career Services and Mentorship and a new initiative - Community Health Apprenticeship Program (CHAP). Launched in 2017 the Community Health Apprenticeship Program trains and certifies a new generation of leaders in the HIV field and promote health equity utilizing employment as an intervention. CHAP recruitment focuses on HIV-positive black and Latino men who have sex with men and transgender individuals of color, with a special focus on youth.

The CORE Foundation - *Wellness*

Over the last six years, Project CONNECT engaged 3,077 HIV positive patients, who were admitted to Stroger Hospital or identified as lost-to-care using a text messaging system when they registered at other clinic sites. Now in its seventh year their impact ahs been made on multiple levels related to expansion of staff, increased capacity & engagement, HIV Continuum of Care and addressing social needs. Its impact is also interconnected to the state and citywide initiative – Getting to Zero Illinois. Their 2017 Excellence In Care Award helped the Foundation make two of the patient's navigators' full-time employees with benefits allowing Project CONNECT to serve its growing patient population.

Legal Council for Health Justice with Howard Brown - *Advocacy*

Founded 30 years ago, DIFFA/Chicago was the first foundation to grant Legal Council funds. Their HIV program pioneered the medical-legal partnership (MLP) model in the U.S. and is widely recognized as a premiere resource on HIV and the law in the county. In partnership with Howard Brown they provide free legal clinics serving low-income people with HIV on a wide range of legal issues, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), immigration, name/gender marker changes, civil rights/discrimination issues, consumer issues, and estate planning issues. They continue to broaden is influence by ongoing advocacy through a variety of coalitions, including Getting to Zero Illinois. Legal Council no longer receives any funding from the state of Illinois, with funding from DIFFA/Chicago has helped them to continue to grow with clinics at Howard Brown sites in Englewood, rogers park and Uptown, they are hopeful to open more locations in 2019.



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Open Door Clinic – Advocacy /Wellness

In 2019, Open Door is implementing an education-based program to assist their HIV+ population, specifically their MSM minority population, to increase their viral suppression and retention rates. Being undetectable or virally suppressed equals being untransmissible, thereby preventing new cases of HIV, this will also help to support the Getting to Zero in Illinois by 2030 initiative. Their vision is to train two people in the Stanford HIV: Positive Self-Management Program, they will be able to provide the education program in both English and Spanish to impact a greater population. A timeline and evaluation process have also been created to evaluate the program's success.

Pediatric AIDS Chicago Preventative Initiative - Wellness

In 2018 PACPI launched the Young Mothers Initiative that specifically focuses on, and supports the unique needs of, our adolescent mothers (those under age 26). The biggest barriers for their clients who are predominately African American, young mothers living with HIV face a lack of vocational skills as well as affordable child care to have the time to develop those skills. Through their case management program are linked to specific vocational training resources that will help them to achieve their financial, educational, and employment goals. They hold Career Counseling Fairs throughout the year to connect clients with vocational partners. Last year they partnered with three vocational training organizations – New Moms, Jane Adams Resource Corporation and Chicago House. IN 2019 they are looking to increase their vocational training providers by two partnerships. These training sessions, career counseling and mentorship assists these new moms in achieving financial independence and autonomy.

Test Positive Aware Network - Wellness

The Lifeline program is an extension of TPAN's HIV/HCV testing services and Syringe Exchange Program (SEP). It is meant to reduce the number of HIV and HCV transmissions among MSM in Chicago. Through Lifeline HIV and HCV negative individuals with a higher level of support than they are typically provided in a single testing session or SEP interaction. Clients are given the necessary time and support to develop positive attitudes about sex and the tools they need to reduce risk behaviors, they become connected to a network or medical and behavioral support services at TPAN and HBH. Programs like Lifeline are necessary for Chicago to 'get to zero' through the new "Getting to Zero Illinois" initiative that was launched in 2017.

University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children's Hospital -Advocacy / Wellness

Care 2 Prevent works to radically reduce HIV transmissions through the provision of comprehensive HIV treatment and prevention services for HIV+, LGBTQ, and underserved youth communities on the South Side of Chicago. C2P will be able to 1) sustain and expand its behavioral health services (individual psychotherapy, couples/family counseling, group interventions) to individuals that are HIV negative, but vulnerable to HIV infection and 2) pilot a new group-level intervention targeted to LGBTQ adolescents 13-17 years of age; this group is highly vulnerable to HIV infection and have complex psychosocial, familial, and resource needs that are often neglected in healthcare settings. The clear need for behavioral health services help to fill the important service gaps on the South Side of Chicago to will help to contribute to "Getting to Zero Illinois" by 2030.

Vida/SIDA - Advocacy

The El Rescate Transitional Living and Basic Center Programs help LGBTQ, MSM, and TSM, Latinx and African Americans between the ages of 13 to 24 that are most prone to engage in risky behavior a drop-in center and emergency shelter as well a housing program where they can stay for up to two years within Humboldt Park and Chicago. They also provide these youth with other basic needs as mental health support, financial literacy, job readiness, and other resources to make their lives more stable (i.e. food, clothes, bus passes, health services).



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Youth Outlook - Prevention

Youth Outlook provides STI and HIV Education and Prevention along with direct supportive services to LGBTQ+ youth age 12-21 by offering a safe space (both physically and emotionally) for youth to meet weekly at their seven drop in centers (two in Naperville, one each in DeKalb, Palatine, Geneva, Sterling and Ottawa). Popular Opinion Leaders have active conversations with youth to build knowledge about transmission routes, positive attitudes toward condoms, self-care and understanding of PrEP. Youth Outlook has partnered with Open Door Clinic to have their clinical staff give talks about STIs at the Drop-in Centers and the Youth Outlooks youth leaders have been on panels at Open Doors lunch and learn panels. The two organization are working together to bring testing to the drop-in centers in 2019. DIFFA/Chicago funding makes its greatest impact by paying the staff that conducts the HIV/STI education programs as well as purchasing risk reduction supplies for the drop-in centers, these supplies were once given to the agency by the Illinois Department of Health but no longer receive assistance from them.

Getting To Zero - A Framework to Eliminate HIV in Illinois

The Getting to Zero framework began just over a year ago as a group of people living with HIV, advocates, service providers and government officials started meeting to explore a plan to dramatically affect the course of the HIV in Illinois. Plan development has been led by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the Chicago Department of Public Health and the Illinois Department of Public Health with participation from 45 organizations and hundreds of individuals across Illinois.

What does “Getting to Zero” mean?

It refers to both HIV prevention and care goals:

- Zero new HIV Infections
- Zero people living with HIV who are not receiving treatment

How do we get to Zero?

- Expand HIV viral suppression by 20 percentage points
- Increase PrEP usage by 20 percentage points among people who will most benefit
- Secure and improve access to the Affordable Care Act for all Illinoisans
- Plan will focus on six key areas: Workforce, Healthcare, Equity, Efficiency, Linked Conditions and Surveillance

2017 Global HIV Statistics

90 – 90 – 90: Treatment for all

1. There are 36.9 million people living with HIV
2. 75% know they are HIV-positive. **The rest do not**
3. Three out of five people living with HIV are on antiretroviral therapy
4. And only 47% have undetectable levels of HIV

90 -90 – 90 HIV treatment targets

1. 30 million people on treatment by 2020
2. 90% of people living with HIV know their status
3. 90% of people who know their status are on antiretroviral therapy
4. 90% of people on antiretroviral therapy achieve viral suppression