



2017 Policy Agenda

Approved by the Board of Directors: 2/12/2017

Over the last two decades, advances in HIV research have transformed HIV treatment and prevention approaches and interventions. The science is clear that with early and continuous access to care and treatment individuals with HIV can achieve viral suppression, the clinical goal of treatment, and can expect to live near normal life expectancies. When virally suppressed, an individual not only stays healthy but also his or her risk of transmitting the virus drops to near zero. While progress has been made in recent years, too few people with HIV are benefiting from treatment and the number of new infections in the U.S. has remained stable. Realizing the policy agenda below is critical to support full employment of the tools available to effectively prevent new HIV infections and to treat HIV disease and ensure forward momentum towards an AIDS free generation in the U.S. and around the globe.

Improving access to HIV-related prevention, care and treatment by:

- Ensuring the availability of comprehensive, affordable, non-discriminatory healthcare coverage for people with HIV throughout the U.S.
- Sustaining the federal commitment and current financing structure for the Medicaid program, including the Medicaid expansion.
- Supporting policies that promote a robust and well-qualified HIV medical workforce, including fair and adequate reimbursement for HIV care and allow for Ryan White-funded clinics to be eligible National Health Service Corps sites.
- Urging robust federal funding for HIV Care and treatment, research and prevention, including for the Global Fund and PEPFAR.
- Continuing the Ryan White Program as a public health program critical to ending the HIV epidemic.
- Supporting policy solutions that address access and drug pricing challenges for HIV medications and other higher cost specialty drugs and older, off patent or generic medications with little or no competition.
- Opposing efforts to restrict federal funding for programs in the U.S. or abroad based on their delivery of women's health services, including abortion services.
- Advocating a balanced approach to federal deficit reduction that includes revenue and does not disproportionately harm HIV and public health programs.
- Expanding substance abuse prevention and treatment programs to address the opioid crisis, reduce injection drug use-related infectious disease transmissions and improve outcomes for patients with HIV with co-occurring substance abuse issues.

Improving the response to the HIV pandemic and reduce HIV-related disparities, stigma and discrimination by advancing evidence-based public health and prevention policies by:

- Ending discrimination, persecution and criminalization related to HIV status or sexual identity in the U.S. and abroad.
- Supporting a comprehensive response to the opioid epidemic, including the use of federal and state funding to increase availability of syringe access programs as a gateway to substance use treatment and health care services.
- Supporting comprehensive, evidence-based sexual health education and access to women's preventive health care services, including pregnancy prevention.
- Supporting non-discriminatory immigration and travel laws and rules to enter and reside in the U.S.
- Advocating for updating the blood donor screening criteria to be based on behavioral risk factors for all donors rather than excluding donors based on sexual identity.
- Supporting efforts to address the social determinants of health such as poverty, housing, education and civil rights issues, which contribute to HIV-related health disparities.