

## Benefits to PLWH

As an organization, the Community HIV Advisory Group is positioned to assess the quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of funded services. The relationship between PLWH and service providers creates an environment that fosters the following benefits to both PLWH and the agencies or other community groups they advise.

- ◇ PLWH self-determination promotes self-management and independence through increased knowledge, the fellowship and support of other PLWH, and fostering an environment with decreased stigma and isolation.
- ◇ Build leadership skills and a sense of empowerment among PLWH and in their roles as advisors to local agencies, service providers and each other.
- ◇ Build and maintain partnerships in wellness with PLWH and providers in improving service quality, service availability, program evaluation, and focus provider programmatic policies on PLWH needs and concerns.



## How to Become a CHAG Member

To apply an individual must be recommended by a standing member of the Community HIV Advisory Group (CHAG), Florida Department of Health staff, or a HIV Program Coordinator, and complete an application. The application may be obtained by calling (850) 245-4422 and asking for the CHAG Liaison.



**Sponsored by the  
Florida Department of Health  
HIV/AIDS Section**

Florida Department of Health  
HIV/AIDS Section  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A20  
Tallahassee, FL 32311-1715

For more information on peer programs in your area, contact (850) 245-4422 or fax 850-412-1157.

## Florida Statewide Community HIV Advisory Group



WORKING TOGETHER, BUILDING A  
SUCCESSFUL TOMORROW FOR  
POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS TODAY



## What is the Community HIV Advisory Group?

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### The Purpose

The primary function of the Community HIV Advisory Group (CHAG) is to provide meaningful input into the development of Florida Department of Health (DOH) policies and programs that impact PLWH.

### The Members

The Community HIV Advisory Group is a group of people living with HIV (PLWH) from around the state of Florida selected through an application process and reflective of the HIV community throughout Florida.

Applicants must be people living with HIV who are actively involved in their PLWH community, such as with PLWH groups, local Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Consortium /Planning Council or other HIV related community-based groups.

Members are appointed for a two-year commitment and may reapply for subsequent terms. The members serve under the guidance of the Florida Department of Health, HIV/AIDS Section.

## Community HIV Advisory Group Goals

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The Community HIV Advisory Group continuously pursues four goals:

1. Provide input on the quality, accessibility and function of existing and proposed HIV-related care and prevention services
2. Identify and provide input on gaps in HIV-related services and barriers to care
3. Encourage PLWH participation on community-based quality improvement initiatives and local planning bodies
4. Provide PLWH input to the HIV/AIDS Section and community-based providers regarding the development and implementation of programs and policies



## 4 Key Component Support

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Community HIV Advisory Group supports Florida's Plan to Eliminate HIV Transmission and Reduce HIV-related Deaths through promotion of the 4 Key Components. The 4 Key Components include:

1. Implement routine HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) screening in health care settings and priority testing in non-health care settings
2. Provide rapid access to treatment and ensure retention in care (Test and Treat)
3. Improve and promote access to antiretroviral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP)
4. Increase HIV awareness and community response through outreach, engagement, and messaging

