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Positive Advocate Newsletter

Fall 2026 Edition

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A publication of the Affected Communities Committee of the HIV Health Services Planning Council

Paid for by the Sacramento TGA Part A Ryan White Grant Funds

"This project was supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number H89HA00048, HIV Emergency Relief Projects Grant, in a FY26 award amount of \$3,838,636. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as the official position or policy of nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government."

FEATURED STORIES

The Importance of HIV Linkage to Care

Linkage to care connects people newly diagnosed with HIV to medical providers quickly so they can begin treatment and supportive services right away. Early treatment leads to viral suppression, improving health outcomes, and helping prevent transmission.

The Importance of Being Retained in HIV Medical Care

Retention in HIV care means consistently staying connected to medical providers, which supports ongoing treatment, maintains an undetectable viral load, and protects long-term health. By staying engaged in care and accessing supportive services, individuals improve their well-being and help prevent HIV transmission in their communities.

ACC COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The Affected Communities Committee, ACC, a Committee of the HIV Health Services Planning Council, hosts Community Conversations related to the most current information on HIV. We look forward to seeing you there. Please reach out to Zachary Basler at 415-299-7027 if you have questions. To register for an event, please visit our [website](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 16, 6-9 PM:

ACC Community
Conversation - HIV and
the Latinx Community
Casa de Espanol
1101 R Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

World AIDS Day - TBD

AWARENESS DAYS

August 30:

National Faith HIV/AIDS
Awareness Day

September 18:

National HIV/AIDS and
Aging Awareness Day

December 1:

World AIDS Day

FEATURED STORIES

The Importance of HIV Linkage to Care

Linkage to care is one of the most critical steps after an HIV diagnosis. It refers to connecting a newly diagnosed individual with a healthcare provider who can begin evaluation and treatment as soon as possible. This early connection lays the foundation for long-term health and well-being.

Timely linkage to care allows individuals to start antiretroviral therapy quickly, which helps lower the amount of virus in the body and strengthens the immune system. The sooner treatment begins, the greater the chances of achieving viral suppression—meaning the virus becomes so low in the blood that it is effectively controlled. When someone reaches and maintains viral suppression, they can live healthier lives and prevent transmitting HIV to others.

Beyond the medical benefits, linkage to care also opens the door to vital support services. These may include help with mental health, substance use, housing, transportation, or other challenges that can make it difficult to stay engaged in care. By providing these supports early, linkage programs help people overcome barriers that might otherwise delay or interrupt treatment.

Strengthening linkage to care is essential not only for individual health but also for progress toward ending the HIV epidemic. Ensuring people are connected to care quickly improves outcomes, reduces new infections, and supports healthier communities overall.

The Importance of Being Retained in HIV Medical Care

Staying engaged in HIV medical care is essential for maintaining long-term health and wellbeing. Retention in care means consistently attending medical appointments, monitoring health status, and remaining connected to a care team that can respond to changing needs over time.

When individuals remain in care, they are more likely to stay on antiretroviral therapy, maintain an undetectable viral load, and prevent HIV from causing further damage to the immune system. Consistent care also helps identify and manage other health conditions early, improving overall quality of life.

Beyond medical benefits, staying in care provides ongoing access to critical support services such as mental health resources, medication assistance, and help addressing barriers like transportation or housing. These supports make it easier to stay healthy and engaged in treatment.

Retention in HIV care is not only important for individual health but also for community health. When people maintain viral suppression, they cannot transmit HIV to others, helping to reduce new infections and strengthening public health efforts.

FREE OR LOW-COST STD/HIV/HCV TESTING

One Community Health

1500 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

916-443-3299

Offers low cost & confidential walk-in and appointments for HIV, Hepatitis C & STD testing at its Midtown Campus. No one will be turned away if they are unable to pay.

Sunburst Clinic

2143 Hurley Way, Unit 240, Sacramento, CA 95825

916-299-6810

Free confidential walk-in HIV/HCV/STD testing Monday – Friday, 8 am – 6 pm in the Arden Area. PrEP Starter Pack issued same-day. PrEP-AP and ADAP enrollment or recertification.

Contact the agencies below directly for dates, times and costs of testing

Golden Rule Services: 916-427-4653

Harm Reduction Services: 916-456-4849

Sacramento Sexual Health Clinic: 916-875-1551

Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation: 530-889-2437

Partner Services

County of Sacramento - 916-875-1100

One Community Health - 916-443-3299

Sunburst Projects - 916-440-0889

Yolo County - 530-666-8670

El Dorado and Placer Counties:

Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation 530-889-2437

Additional Resources

For more information about free or low-cost testing in the Sacramento TGA (Sacramento, Yolo, Placer, and El Dorado Counties), please visit www.sacramento-tga.com or call 916-875-6022.

Testing is confidential and available regardless of insurance status. Many locations offer rapid HIV testing with results in 20 minutes.

Knowing your status is the first step to staying healthy and protecting your community.

HIV Health Services Planning Council Meeting Schedule

Go to www.sacramento-tga.com for the most updated meeting schedule.

Affected Communities Committee

1st Monday of Even Months | 3:00 — 4:00 p.m.

Dates: February 2nd, April 6th, June 1st, August 3rd, October 5th, December 7th

Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020

Quality Advisory Committee

Quarterly on the 1st Tuesday | 2:00 — 3:00 p.m.

Dates: March 3rd, June 2nd*, Sept. 1st, Dec. 1st

Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020

Needs Assessment Committee

Quarterly on the 1st Tuesday | 3:00 — 4:30 p.m.

Dates: March 3rd, June 2nd*, Sept. 1st, Dec. 1st

Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020

Governance Committee

1st Wednesday of the Months of March, May, June, September, & January: | 11:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Dates: March 4th, May 6th, June 3rd*, Oct. 27th**, Jan. 6th

Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020

Priorities and Allocations Committee

1st Wednesday of the Months of March, May, June, September, & January: | 9:00 — 11:00 a.m.

Dates: March 4th, May 6th, June 3rd*, Oct. 27th**, Jan. 6th

Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020

Executive Committee

2nd Thursday of the Months of March, May, June, September, & January: | 3:00 — 5:00 p.m.

Dates: March 12th, May 14th, June 11th, Sept. 10th, January 7th

County of Sacramento, Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020

HIV Health Services Planning Council

4th Wednesday of Every Month | 10:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Dates: Combined Nov/Dec on 12/9/2026

Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Sacramento, CA. Community Room 2020

Committees may be canceled if there is no pressing business to conduct.

*Due to a federal site visit, the June QAC, NAC, and PAC meeting dates have been changed. QAC and NAC will be held on Tuesday, May 26th at RX Healthcare, 4640 Marconi Avenue, Suite 4, Sacramento, CA 95821. The PAC meeting will be held June 10th at the Sacramento County Health Center as listed above.

** September PAC and GOV meetings rescheduled to October 27th.

Parking: There is free parking on the LOWER LEVEL in the parking structure. Entrance off Broadway only. The Stockton Blvd entrance is closed.

About This Newsletter

The POSITIVE ADVOCATE Newsletter is a quarterly information and outreach project. We welcome submissions from the affected community.

Contact Information

For additional information about the Affected Communities Committee (ACC), HIV Health Services Planning Council (HHSPC), or this newsletter, contact: HIV-HSPC@saccounty.gov or go to www.sacramento-tga.com

Affected Communities Committee

The Affected Communities Committee addresses issues facing the HIV/AIDS community and advises the Planning Council on community affairs. The mission of the committee is to recruit, empower, and involve people living with HIV/AIDS in the strategic planning and advocacy of HIV/AIDS care and services. These goals will be accomplished with the assistance of the Council support staff toward the fulfillment of its mission. The committee encourages an environment of trust and safety in achieving its mission.

Meeting Schedule

The Committee meets the first Monday of the Even Months of the year, 3—4 p.m., at Sacramento County Health Center, 4600 Broadway, Community Room 2020, Sacramento, 95820.

RYAN WHITE CARE ACT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Service Providers

CommuniCare+OLE (Yolo County only)

916-403-2910 x1077

Golden Rule Services

916-427-4653

Harm Reduction Services

916-456-4849

One Community Health

916-443-3299 | HIV Line: 916-842-5185

Sacramento Sexual Health Clinic

916-875-1551

**Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation
(El Dorado & Placer Counties)**

530-889-2437

Sunburst Projects

916-440-0889

**UC Davis Medical Center Pediatric
Infectious Disease**

916-734-1873

WellSpace Health

916-737-5555

Funded Services

- Ambulatory Outpatient Care
- Medical Case Management
- Child Care
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals
- Health Insurance Assistance
- Housing
- Linguistic Services
- Medical Nutritional Therapy
- Medical Transportation
- Mental Health
- Non-Medical Case Management
- Oral Health
- Other Professional Services
- Substance Abuse—Outpatient

Services may vary per provider. Additional services may be available through other funding sources. Please contact a provider for more information.