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## BIANNUAL REPORT

### MISSION

*The AIDS Funding Collaborative (AFC) strengthens the community's response to HIV/AIDS as a public/private partnership providing coordination, leadership, advocacy, and funding in Greater Cleveland.*



**AIDS**  
**FUNDING**  
**COLLABORATIVE**

*Since 1994, the AIDS Funding Collaborative (AFC) has maximized every dollar invested by local funding partners to benefit the greater Cleveland community.*

*The pooled funding model leverages each funder's contribution, filling critical programming gaps and building community capacity to meet the challenge of ending the local HIV/AIDS epidemic.*



## STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2015, the AFC Advisory Committee entered a year-long strategic planning process, culminating with a three-year strategic plan released in 2016. The strategic plan underscored the AFC's continued role in funding, convening, and advocacy, while refocusing its lens to prioritize the health of key populations and scale up access to effective HIV prevention methods — specifically syringe services programs (SSPs) and harm reduction services, non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP), and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

In its first year forwarding these strategic priorities, the AFC committed \$50,000 to match a \$50,000 award from the Elton John AIDS Foundation to build capacity for and raise awareness of nPEP and PrEP in Greater Cleveland; released a special RFA to support local attendance at the first National HIV PrEP Summit in San Francisco; supported planning for local nPEP service expansion; partnered with The Center for Community Solutions on a white paper on new federal guidance for funding SSPs; and co-convened community stakeholders interested in operating and expanding SSPs in Cuyahoga County. Details of the full strategic plan can be viewed at: [www.AIDSFundingCollaborative.org](http://www.AIDSFundingCollaborative.org).

### *Syringe Service Spotlight: Funding, convening, and advocating for change.*

Syringe service programs (SSPs) are a well-proven public health strategy to reduce the risk of HIV infection among people who use injection drugs. For more than two decades, the AFC has been a steadfast advocate for SSPs through its support of the program operated by Circle Health Services (formerly The Free Clinic), which is credited with achieving the county's extremely low rate of HIV infection attributed to injection drug use. The SSPs exchanges over 50,000 needles a month, serving over 4,000 clients from over a dozen counties a year, at three locations. The AFC invested a total of \$200,000 in support of the SSP through its targeted grantmaking over the biennium.

In 2016, following the HIV outbreak attributed to injection drug use in Scott County, Indiana and in the midst of a state and national opiate abuse crisis, Ohio laws were changed legalizing SSPs and the federal funding ban was lifted, allowing for both the creation of and public funding for SSPs. In partnership with the city and county health departments, the AFC convened a Syringe Access Stakeholders meeting to initiate the process of modernizing, approving, and expanding SSPs across Cuyahoga County.

*“The AFC’s strategic plan has provided a strong focus for our investments, and has presented us with opportunities to bring new local and national resources to HIV prevention in Cuyahoga County.”*

Jill Paulsen, AFC Chair

## GRANTMAKING

The AFC is nimble and responsive to the community; maintaining a diverse array of funding strategies ensures access points for stakeholders ranging from small grassroots organizations to large institutions.

In 2015–2016 the AFC’s responsive and targeted grantmaking focused on capacity building and innovation in service delivery. Community responsive grants include a pilot for mobile case management to support medication adherence among hard to reach clients, and operating support for a safety net community based provider of HIV support services for over 400 local people living with HIV and in poverty.

### *Community Responsive Grant Awards*

Community responsive grants are awarded to applicants responding to the annual request for proposals issued by the AFC and focused on AFC-defined priority areas. The combined total of community responsive grantmaking for 2015–2016 was \$350,723.

### *Targeted Grant Awards*

Targeted grants are strategic and often multi-year investments in community programming often conceived in partnership with local service providers. These grants are invited by the Advisory Committee. The AFC’s 2015–2016 targeted grants totaled \$243,400:

#### **Circle Health Services (formerly The Free Clinic), Syringe Service Program: \$100,000 (2015) & \$100,000 (2016)**

A program providing clean needles, harm reduction kits, healthcare and recovery referral, HIV testing and prevention education to people who inject drugs.

#### **Ursuline Piazza, Peer UP & Peer UP Bridge Grant: \$13,400 (2015) & \$4,500 (2016)**

A pilot program empowering Ursuline Piazza clients to serve as peer leaders, providing supports to other clients in overcoming barriers to managing their HIV care.

**YWCA/A Place 4 Me, Coordinated Engagement Strategy: \$20,000 (2015)**  
A project to develop a system of engagement across youth serving organizations to address homeless and unstably housed youth, who are risk for exploitation, violence, and engagement in dangerous and/or illegal behaviors as a means for survival, placing them at high risk for STI/HIV infection.

#### **Circle Health Services (formerly The Free Clinic), nPEP Program Planning: \$10,000 (2016)**

Support for research, planning, and piloting of a community based nPEP program for individuals seeking the HIV prevention regimen within 72 hours of possible exposure.

### *Discretionary Grant Awards*

Discretionary grant awards are intended to support one-time or time-sensitive community need. In 2015 and 2016, the AFC allocated over \$20,000 in discretionary grants, which included a mix of traditional program awards, community sponsorships and a special RFA supporting local advocates and professionals to attend two national conferences, the National HIV Prevention Conference and the U.S. Conference on AIDS. Discretionary grants in the reporting period totaled \$22,033 and were awarded to the following agencies:

AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland  
Care Alliance Health Center  
Cleveland International Film Festival, Inc.  
Cleveland PRIDE, Inc.  
Equitas Health  
Garden Valley Neighborhood House  
Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center  
The Center for Community Solutions  
The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland  
Circle Health Services (formerly The Free Clinic)

## 2015 COMMUNITY RESPONSIVE GRANT AWARDS

Agency	Program	Amount
Bellefaire JCB	Street Smart Curriculum Expansion	\$25,592
MetroHealth Medical Center	Integrating HIV Testing into Emergency Health Care	\$53,200
Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center	Long-Term Sustainability Project – Year 2; Fiscal Officer Support	\$56,000
Circle Health Services (formerly The Free Clinic)	Mobile Case Management Pilot	\$64,691

## 2016 COMMUNITY RESPONSIVE GRANT AWARDS

Agency	Program	Amount
The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland	HIV Prevention Specialist	\$60,000
Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center	Finance Department Strengthening Project	\$45,000
Ursuline Piazza	Strengthening Ursuline Piazza Initiative; Client Support Position	\$46,240
	<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>\$350,723</b>

## AFC-LED INITIATIVES

The AFC leads and engages in several strategies beyond traditional grantmaking to leverage resources and build local capacity. This includes convening forums and trainings and coordinating the AFC / AIDS United AmeriCorps program. The AFC also supports agencies in responding to, planning for, and staffing large-scale HIV / AIDS initiatives in greater Cleveland.

### *Forums and Trainings*

#### **Annual Community Briefing**

Each year, the AFC convenes a community briefing on proceedings of national HIV / AIDS-related conferences of the previous year. Members from the community are invited to hear from local conference attendees about emerging and best practices in HIV prevention and care, cutting edge research, current public policy and advocacy targets, and more. Conferences featured were:

U.S. Conference on AIDS

Campaign to End AIDS Men's and Women's Leadership and Advocacy Summit

Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI)

Microbicides Trial Network Annual Meeting

Prostitution Conference

AIDS United AmeriCorps Pre-Service Training

Ohio AIDS Conference

Funders Concerned About AIDS Annual Summit

Association of Nurses in AIDS Care Annual Conference



#### **Trainings**

To meet local training and professional development demands, the AFC co-convenes trainings with partners, often in coordination with other community-based initiatives and offering continuing education credits through the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County. Dynamic local and national trainers share their expertise, provide critical updates, and facilitate learning for frontline staff, clinical providers, and community advocates. In 2015 & 2016, trainings included:

**Fundamentals of HIV/AIDS**  
**Smarter Sex, Safer Sex: Anal Health and Pleasure**  
**Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Training for HIV Testers**  
**HIV Testers Retreat**

***AIDS United AmeriCorps***

Partnering on AmeriCorps since 2012 with AIDS United — a national HIV grant-making and advocacy organization — the AFC grew its investment and increased the number of AmeriCorps service placements in 2015 and again in 2016. Seen as “living grants,” AmeriCorps service members were matched annually with community based host agencies to fill gaps and build capacity where traditional resources were limited. Each year, a new cohort of AmeriCorps service members were trained and placed at these agencies to serve full time, frontline in HIV prevention and care services. Due to changes at the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal funder of AmeriCorps programs, the 2015–16 service year was the last for health programs nationally. The AIDS United AmeriCorps program ultimately leveraged over \$75,000 of national funds annually for HIV/AIDS services in greater Cleveland, supported capacity building among local health organizations and trained a new cohort of local health leaders.

The AFC thanks the following program partners who served as host agencies for AmeriCorps service members in 2015 and 2016:

**Care Alliance Health Center**  
**Cleveland Department of Public Health**  
**Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center**  
**Recovery Resources**  
**The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland**  
**Ursuline Piazza**  
**MetroHealth**  
**Circle Health Services (formerly The Free Clinic)**



# AFC Advisory Committee Members, 2015 – 2016

## **Jill Paulsen, AFC Chair**

*The George Gund Foundation, Board Designee*

## **Valeria Harper, AFC Vice-Chair**

*Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Service Board of Cuyahoga County, Staff Representative*

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## **Jan Briggs**

*Community-at-Large Member*

## **Bob Bucklew**

*AIDS Clinical Trials Unit/Center for AIDS Research, Designated Organization Representative*

## **Councilman Joe Cimperman**

*City of Cleveland, Board Representative*

## **Dan Cohn**

*Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, Staff Representative*

## **Councilman Brian Cummins**

*City of Cleveland, Board Representative*

## **Danielle Doza**

*The Cleveland Foundation, Board Designee*

## **Anthony Forbes**

*Cuyahoga County, Board Designee*

## **Shelly Galvin**

*Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, Staff Representative*

## **Claire Gauntner**

*The George Gund Foundation, Staff Representative*

## **Leah Hudnall**

*The George Gund Foundation, Staff Representative*

## **Rick A. Kemm**

*Community-at-Large Member*

## **Janet McGrath, Ph.D.**

*Community-at-Large Member*

## **Kimalon Meriweather**

*The Cleveland Foundation, Staff Representative*

## **Benjamin Miladin**

*United Way of Greater Cleveland, Staff Representative*

## **Sabrina Roberts**

*Cuyahoga County, Staff Representative*

## **Steve Schreiber**

*United Way of Greater Cleveland, Board Designee*

## **Ericka Thoms**

*Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Service Board of Cuyahoga County, Board Representative*

## **Zulma Zabala**

*The Center for Community Solutions  
Fiscal Sponsor Board Representative*

## AFC Funding Partners

Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County

The City of Cleveland

The Cleveland Foundation

Cuyahoga County

The George Gund Foundation

The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation

United Way of Greater Cleveland

## AFC Program Sponsors

AIDS United AmeriCorps

Elton John AIDS Foundation – PrEP & nPEP awareness & capacity building

## AFC Staff

Melissa Federman, MPH, Director

Lindsay Marcus, M. S., Program Coordinator



### AIDS Funding Collaborative

1501 Euclid Avenue • Suite 310 • Cleveland, OH 44115

P: 216-781-2944 • F: 216-781-2988 • [www.AIDSFundingCollaborative.org](http://www.AIDSFundingCollaborative.org)

*The AFC is located within The Center for Community Solutions, which provides fiscal and administrative oversight. The AFC's finances are included in the audited financials of The Center for Community Solutions. Contact the AFC with any questions.*