

AIDS FUNDING COLLABORATIVE

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

AFC Members: The AFC's governing body is comprised of representatives appointed by the *funding partner organizations*, along with *community-at-large members* and representatives of *designated community organizations* that do not provide funding but have expertise regarding HIV/AIDS and its impact on our community and/or funding of HIV/AIDS programs and services. All representatives have an equal vote in AFC's decision-making. Current funding partners, required by the AFC's bylaws to contribute at least \$50,000 to AFC's pooled resources, are: Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County, The City of Cleveland, The Cleveland Foundation, Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners, The George Gund Foundation, Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland, and United Way of Greater Cleveland. The AIDS Clinical Trials Unit/Center for AIDS Research Clinical Core at Case Western Reserve University participates in the AFC as designated organization. The AFC is located within The Center for Community Solutions and The Center for Community Solutions provides fiscal and administrative oversight.

AFC's History: The AFC was established in the Fall of 1994 in response to a recommendation by the Citizens' Committee on HIV/AIDS to develop a "method of allocating and distributing community-based funding from local government, health departments, and the private sector." It is one of the more than 30 Community Partnerships of the National AIDS Fund. In 2004, the AFC began a strategic planning process to address questions about its future direction, structure, governance, management, and grantmaking. That process resulted in a decision to expand the AFC's role to include not only grantmaking, but also advocacy and community leadership activities. In order to carry out this new level of programming, in November 2005 the AFC hired its first full-time staff person. Since its inception, the AFC has leveraged and invested over \$7 million to support HIV/AIDS-related services, activities, and prevention efforts in the Greater Cleveland region.

Grantmaking: The AFC works to continually assess funding gaps in the community and to strategize about how to best use our resources to strengthen the community's capacity to address the epidemic. This process has led to an evolution and expansion of our grantmaking strategies to include: 1) *discretionary grants*, not to exceed \$5000, for short-term or one-time HIV/AIDS-related needs in the community that are not supported by other community HIV funds; 2) increased *targeted grantmaking*, in which the AFC invites particular agencies focused on specific populations or areas of unmet need to submit a proposal; 3) *strategic responsive grants* awarded to applicants responding to requests for proposals issued by the AFC and focused on targeted priority areas; and 4) *AFC-led initiatives*, such as training, research, evaluation, and convening focused on identified needs. The unifying theme is that these approaches are aimed at building community capacity and adding value to the community's

collective effort to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic by filling gaps that other more targeted funding streams in the community cannot. **For more information about the AFC's grantmaking activities and guidelines for grant inquiries, visit www.AIDSfundingCollaborative.org or contact Laureen Tews Harbert, AFC's program director at 216-781-2944 ext 413 or ltharbert@CommunitySolutions.com.**

Community Leadership and Involvement: Along with its grantmaking activities, the AFC is committed to raising awareness and contributing to the literacy among public officials, funders, other community leaders, and all citizens about the impact of HIV/AIDS in our community, and to encouraging support of coordinated prevention efforts and high quality services for those affected by and at risk for HIV/AIDS. The AFC participates actively in community advisory groups, planning councils and coalitions and works in collaboration with agencies whose activities and interests overlap with those related to the AFC's mission. We host events aimed at increasing dialogue and building community knowledge about HIV and we will continue these activities around specific priority topics. Additionally, the AFC-led initiatives described under grantmaking above are also a part of this effort.

Core Values: In carrying out its purposes, the AFC is guided by the following core values:

- The public/private partnership model focused on HIV/AIDS remains relevant and essential to improving the health of the community.
- The funding partnership model, where resources are pooled for collaborative grantmaking, is the core strength upon which the AFC is built.
- The AFC is committed to being flexible and adaptable. The structure and functions of the AFC evolve to address strategically the HIV/AIDS needs of the community.
- The AFC approaches its work proactively and strategically as needs change and successful outcomes are reached in the community for HIV/AIDS.

Strategic Commitments 2009-2012: AFC is committed to the following equally weighted strategic areas of focus:

- **Integration**

Statement of Intent: The AFC supports the integration of HIV testing, prevention, and care services and the linkage of HIV/AIDS with related issues and associated systems within the community.

- **Community Impact**

Statement of Intent: The AFC strives to bring about positive change in the community's response to HIV/AIDS.

- **Advocacy**

Statement of Intent: The AFC will use its resources and position to help shape and inform systems and policies related to HIV/AIDS.



To find out more about the AFC visit our webpages on www.AIDSfundingCollaborative.org or contact Laureen Tews Harbert, AFC's director at the address and phone number below.