

AFC POLICY PRIORITIES DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

(Last Updated October 10, 2022)

Each year, AFC's Policy and Advocacy (P&A) team initiates its policy priorities development process to determine its policy agenda for the state legislative session. Grounded in addressing racial health equity with a keen focus on community, AFC's policy agenda directly aligns with the statewide [Getting to Zero Illinois](#) (GTZ-IL) plan to end the HIV epidemic by 2030, as well as the agency's Strategic Plan and Racial Equity Action Plan.

WHAT:

- Draft, revise, and execute AFC's annual Policy Priority Legislative Agenda

WHY:

- Based on epidemiological data and unmet need, **we can have the greatest impact on the HIV and homelessness syndemics by focusing our efforts on the communities who are most impacted.**
- To lead and influence substantive policy change in Illinois that positively impacts the lives of the priority populations AFC has identified in its [Strategic Plan and Racial Equity Action Plan](#), we need to engage these communities on their most pressing needs, listen intently, and take thoughtful and careful action.
- **Centering intersectionality in our work pushes us to acknowledge that the people and communities we serve aren't just impacted by a single issue like HIV or homelessness.** Rather, the impact on our communities stems from a host of systemic factors including, but not limited to systemic racism, poverty, unemployment, immigration status, justice system involvement, violence, sex work, lack of access to behavioral and physical health services, unmet needs of older adults with HIV and long-term survivors and the lack of affordable housing. **Our response to the syndemics of HIV and homelessness should be as complex and nuanced as the weight of the impact on affected communities.**

WHO:

- Timothy Jackson, Director of Government Relations and Aces Lira, Manager of Policy and Advocacy lead this process, with support from AFC's P&A team
- Ideas and feedback will be gathered, through a variety of methods, from:
 - AFC's Four Priority Populations
 - Black gay and bisexual men
 - Latin/o/e/x gay and bisexual men
 - Transgender women of color
 - Black cisgender women
 - Broader individual community members impacted by the intersections of HIV and/or homelessness (i.e., Community/Consumer Advisory Boards)
 - AFC staff
 - AFC Board of Directors & Associate Board
 - AFC Policy & Advocacy Committee
 - Illinois HIV, health, human service, and housing providers and advocates (i.e., Service Providers Council (SPC); Medical Advisory Group (MAG); Ryan White Contract Administrators; GTZ IL initiative; Women's Connection)
 - Current State-Level Coalitions/Campaigns/Workgroups/etc. that the AFC P&A team members participate in



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WHERE:

- This process typically occurs virtually.

HOW:

- Online survey
 - While the survey is open to all of AFC's stakeholders, outreach will focus on the four priority populations outlined in AFC's Strategic Plan and Racial Equity Action Plan.
 - This online survey is administered by AFC's P&A team every other year.
- Virtual/In-person listening sessions (stand-alone and within existing tables)
 - The goal for scheduling listening sessions ranges from eight (8) – fifteen (15) with a specific emphasis on groups representing AFC's priority populations.
 - Listening sessions are typically scheduled during July-September of each year but can be extended if needed.

POLICY PRIORITIES DEVELOPMENT PROCESS TIMELINE:

- **ASK & LISTEN PHASE (JULY – SEPTEMBER)**
 - Organize and facilitate listening sessions with stakeholder groups and community members (i.e., people with lived experience, CABs, providers, case managers, AFC board and staff, community organizations, advocates)
 - Release a community survey to help develop and guide AFC's policy priorities (every other year)
 - Schedule meetings with legislators to determine important policy topics
 - Schedule meetings with policy coalition partners to determine shared policy goals
- **SUMMARIZE & ANALYZE (OCTOBER – NOVEMBER)**
 - Working with AFC's Research Department, aggregate and analyze the collected feedback with a special focus on the community survey and stakeholder listening sessions
- **DECIDE & REPORT BACK (NOVEMBER – JANUARY)**
 - After reviewing the feedback received from community, AFC Policy & Advocacy staff will determine the most pressing policy needs that also align with the goals and strategies of the Getting to Zero Illinois plan.
 - After the initial policy priorities have been decided, each policy priority will receive a Racial Equity Impact analysis to determine if the priority addresses racial health equity.
 - In coordination with AFC's Communications Department, AFC Policy & Advocacy staff will report back to community its policy priorities for the state legislative session.
- **IMPLEMENT & MONITOR (JANUARY – JULY)**
 - Advocate for the advancement of policy priorities through the state legislative process
 - Begin implementation phase after policy priority is passed by the Illinois General Assembly and signed by the Governor (if necessary).

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

- Community Stakeholder Survey Questions (administered every other year)
- Community Stakeholder Listening Session PowerPoint presentation
- Racial Equity Impact Assessment Tool
- List of Previous Listening Sessions

2022 COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER LISTENING SESSIONS

July 20, 2022	Howard Brown Health Consumer Advisory Board*
July 21, 2022	Legal Council Consumer Advisory Board*
July 27, 2022	AFC Board of Directors Policy & Advocacy Committee
July 28, 2022	Ryan White Contract Administrators
July 28, 2022	Illinois ASAP*
August 4, 2022	Ryan White Consumer Advisory Board AFC Associate Board
August 9, 2022	Chicago House (Directors)*
August 10, 2022	Flexible Housing Pool (FHP) Lived Experiences Advisory Council*
August 11, 2022	Equality Illinois' Community Advisory Group*
August 18, 2022	Getting to Zero Illinois Consumer Advisory Board
August 24, 2022	Housing Consumer Advisory Board
September 6, 2022	Pride Action Tank OUTAging Committee*
September 21, 2022	AFC Staff Lunch & Learn
September 28, 2022	Learning Circle Collaborative*
September 30, 2022	Affinity Community Services*
October 13, 2022	Service Providers Council

*: New Group hosting Listening Session in 2022

2021 COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER LISTENING SESSIONS

September 23, 2021	Service Providers Council Getting to Zero Illinois (GTZ IL) Consumer Advisory Board
September 29, 2021	Ryan White Contract Administrators
October 6, 2021	AFC Associate Board
October 7, 2021	Ryan White Consumer Advisory Board
October 13, 2021	Getting to Zero Illinois Town Hall "From Paper to Policy"
October 18, 2021	AFC Board of Directors
October 20, 2021	AFC Board of Directors Policy & Advocacy Committee Housing Consumer Advisory Board



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