



2025 CONSUMER RESOURCE FAIR “LOVE BEGINS WITH ME” EVENT SUMMARY | FEBRUARY 13, 2025

"Love Begins with Me": A Celebration of Whole-Person Care

On February 13, 2025, over 200 community members braved the rain to attend the 2025 Consumer Resource Fair at The California Endowment. Hosted by the Caucuses of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV, led by the Consumer Caucus, the event embodied the theme "Love Begins with Me"—emphasizing self-care, empowerment, and access to vital resources that support whole-person care for people living with and impacted by HIV.

More than 60 vendors and service providers came together to offer housing assistance, legal aid, financial literacy, mental health services, employment opportunities, technology access, food assistance, and more—showcasing the critical role of holistic support beyond just HIV-specific services. Despite the inclement weather, the turnout highlighted the urgent need for accessible and inclusive community resources.

One of the fair’s highlights was the passport activity, encouraging attendees to explore multiple vendors and engage meaningfully. Over 57 completed passports were submitted, and five lucky participants won \$100 Visa gift cards.

Attendees consistently praised the event, sharing that it was the best resource fair they had attended because they left with tangible resources rather than just brochures. As one participant noted, "Unlike other resource fairs, this one actually provided tools to improve our quality of life—because we are more than our diagnosis."

Workshops & Presentations

The fair featured engaging workshops and presentations addressing key community needs. For example, the Inner-City Law Center led an essential session on housing rights and legal advocacy, equipping attendees with critical knowledge.

Vendor Highlights

The event brought together over 60 service providers, each offering crucial resources to support whole-person care. Some key participating vendors included:

- Delete the Digital Divide – Providing technology access, free laptops, and digital literacy resources.

- LADWP – Sharing information on discount programs, rebates, and energy-saving solutions.
- Los Angeles County Department of Probation – Offering community resources and support for justice-involved individuals.
- California Office of AIDS, Community Planning Group – Engaging the community in statewide HIV planning and advocacy efforts.
- Department of Public Social Services – Providing on-site CalFresh and Medi-Cal enrollment.
- Skin and Body Sculpt Spa – Offering mini skincare consultations, body sculpting demos, and wellness education.
- WeCanStopSTDsLA – Educating youth on sexual and reproductive health through engaging events and stakeholder collaborations.

Many more organizations addressing housing, employment, legal services, mental health and other critical services and programs participated. For the full list of vendors and their services, click [HERE](#).

A Day of Engagement & Movement

Self-love and well-being extended beyond resources and education—attendees were encouraged to move and energize themselves through Zumba sessions led by Jose Rangel-Garibay and Paulina Zamudio. These high-energy sessions reinforced the importance of physical health as part of a holistic approach to self-care.

Vendor & Service Provider Feedback

Vendors and service providers expressed overwhelmingly positive feedback about the event’s structure and impact. Some highlights:

- ✓ “Great job by all participants! The setup was well-organized.”
- ✓ “I really enjoyed how many folks came to the event. The use of stamps ensured attendees visited each table.”
- ✓ “It was such a great turnout and so much fun.”
- ✓ “It was an amazing event. I [appreciated the] opportunity to connect with other organizations, to learn about their services and build future collaborations. As well letting the community know about our services. It was a lovely productive and informative day.”

- ✓ “One suggestion would be to incorporate more interactive wellness experiences, such as mini skincare consultations, body sculpting demos, or nutrition workshops.”

Additionally, providers noted challenges they face in meeting community needs, including:

- ✓ Difficulty in reaching those who need help the most.
- ✓ Lack of accessible housing resources.
- ✓ The need for ongoing education about holistic skincare and body treatments.
- ✓ Providing safe sex resources and harm reduction supplies (e.g., condoms, naloxone, CPR masks).
- ✓ Ensuring that non-TGI-identified individuals still have access to essential services.

A Collective Effort

This event was a success thanks to the dedication of our vendors, community partners, and volunteers, including students from Charles Drew University and USC. We are especially grateful to our sponsors—the City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator’s Office, Gilead Sciences, Charles Drew University, and The California Endowment—for their generous support and commitment to our community. Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to the Commission on HIV Staff for their tireless efforts in planning and coordination.

Final Reflections: "Love Begins with Me"

The 2025 Consumer Resource Fair proved that when we prioritize self-care, community support, and access to essential resources, we uplift everyone around us. The theme "Love Begins with Me" was felt in every aspect of the event—from vendors providing life-changing services to attendees leaving empowered, informed, and supported.

This was more than just a resource fair—it was a movement toward ensuring that all individuals, regardless of HIV status, have access to the tools they need to thrive.

Check Out the Event Photos!

Relive the day’s moments by checking out our event photo gallery [HERE](#). This event was a testament to the power of collaboration, compassion, and action in ensuring our communities have access to the resources they need to thrive.