



THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIV PRESENTS:

WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO & WHY IT IS IMPORTANT



WHO ARE WE?

The Commission on HIV is the local integrated HIV/STD prevention and care community planning body for Los Angeles County.

The Commission is one of the largest and most diverse planning bodies in the country, with 51 member seats. 33% of members must be living with HIV and use local Ryan White Program HIV care services funded by the County.

Members represent and reflect the Los Angeles County community to include youth/young adults, women + girls, people of color, and our LGBTQ and nonbinary/nongender conforming communities.

WHO ARE WE? (cont'd)

Who is Ryan White?

Ryan White was 13 years old when he was diagnosed with AIDS following a blood transfusion in December 1984. He was given 6 months to live. When Ryan tried to return to school, he was discriminated against because he had AIDS. Because of this, Ryan and others advocated and fought for his right to attend school which led to Congress passing legislation for the largest funded federal program providing HIV care and treatment services to those who need it the most.

Ryan White passed away in April 1990, one month before his high school graduation and months before Congress passed the legislation which bears his name - Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act, now known as the Ryan White Program.

Thanks to Ryan White, the Commission on HIV was established as the Ryan White Program local community planning body to plan for the delivery of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment services in Los Angeles County for those who need it the most – our youth/young adults, women + girls, people of color, and our LBGTQ and nonbinary/non gender conforming communities.



WHAT DO WE DO?

Through a thoughtful community planning process, the Commission plans for the delivery of HIV/STD-related services to help better the lives of those living with and at risk for HIV and STDs. A few of those planning activities include:

- Prioritize services that need funding and determine funding amounts
- Educate the community on services available in their communities
- Ensure services are responsive to the needs and accessible to the people who need them
- Monitor and champion policies and legislation that support people impacted by HIV
- Advocate and plan for better ways to meet the needs of our communities living with or impacted by HIV
- Identify other ways to fund services
- Conduct needs assessments (aka surveys/studies) to determine the needs of those living with HIV
- Create minimum guidelines for Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) to follow when providing services
- Create a responsive system of care that meets the needs of our community; assist in resolving any grievances or complaints against agencies/organizations providing services
- Share and communicate with the Board of Supervisors “the Boss” concerning HIV-related matters in Los Angeles County
- Actively and aggressively work with community partners to end the HIV epidemic once and for all



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

As of 2019, 52,004 people are living with HIV in Los Angeles County. At least, 6,000 people do not know they are HIV positive.

HIV continues to be one of the greatest public health threats to our most underserved and underrepresented communities in Los Angeles County. That includes our youth/young adults, women + girls, people of color, and our LBGT and nonbinary/non gender conforming communities.

The Commission, with your help, can make a difference. Ryan White was 13 years old and changed the world in how we see and treat people living with HIV. Imagine what you can do!

Why is it important? Because YOU are important to this work and we need your help to end the HIV epidemic once and for all. We have the tools to end HIV, but we need you to get there.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- **\$\$\$.** If you are living with HIV/AIDS and access Ryan White Program services in Los Angeles County, you are eligible to receive \$150.00 per month in either cash (County-issued check) or gift cards.
- **Professional + Personal Development.** Being a part of a community planning body comes with personal and professional development opportunities to include:
 - Building leadership skills and empowering those around you
 - Working with a diverse community with different views and perspectives
 - Building your resume
 - Expanding knowledge and experience in community planning
- **Networking.** Creating longstanding partnerships and peer collaborators.
- **Making a Difference.** Making a difference in your communities by bringing awareness and education regarding HIV to end the HIV epidemic once and for all.





QUESTIONS?

If you are interested in joining the Commission on HIV or would like to know more about **WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO**, and **WHY IT IS IMPORTANT**, please visit our website at: <https://hiv.lacounty.gov>

Follow the Commission on   @hivcommissionla

To stay up-to-date on Commission meetings, events and activities & subscribe to the Commission's email list at: <https://tinyurl.com/y83ynuzt>