

Network Facts

Why is there a need for the Network?

- More than 40,000 new cases of HIV/AIDS are reported in the U.S. each year.
- HIV/AIDS is about behavior. Learning about and practicing HIV prevention can save your life.
- HIV/AIDS is expensive – to treat, to prevent, and in terms of lost productivity and lives.
- Long-term survival of persons living with HIV/AIDS requires costly support for years and decades. As the number of survivors grows, funding must also increase. Although death rates are down, AIDS is not over.
- Communities of color are being devastated by HIV/AIDS, especially African-Americans accounting for a large majority new infections.
- At particular risk are women in heterosexual relationships, youth/young adults, and men who have sex with men – whether they identify as straight or gay.

What is the purpose of the Network?

- Identify unmet needs and priorities for medical care and community support services.
- Strengthen collaboration and prevent unnecessary duplication of effort among service providers.
- Advocate for funding and policies to respond to the continuing impact of HIV/AIDS.
- Increase community awareness of the continuing assault of HIV/AIDS in our midst.
- Assist community-based efforts to promote HIV/AIDS awareness, encourage HIV testing, and support harm reduction and HIV prevention practices.

Network Functions

- Coordinate effort of services supporting HIV/AIDS clients in the community.
- Facilitate client/provider dialogue sessions to promote effective use of services.
- Conduct provider roundtables to increase collaboration.
- Provide skills-building advocacy training for persons with HIV/AIDS.
- Recruit and support programs responding to HIV/AIDS in communities of color.
- Conduct community awareness events to inform the public about HIV/AIDS and reduce HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination.
- Compile reports on HIV/AIDS impact and trends in Central New York and New York State.
- Conduct needs assessment and priority-setting to guide funding and resource development for the region.
- Prepare and revise Network planning tools including the *HIV/AIDS Service Delivery Plan* and *HIV/AIDS Resource Directory*.

For more information about the Network,
please contact:

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Network Participation

Who can join the Network?

- Anyone can join – persons infected or affected, service providers, and anyone else who wants to help overcome HIV/AIDS.
- A simple Network Registration form can be obtained from the Network at any time.

How does the Network do its work?

The Network conducts its business in Network membership meetings and in the following working committees:

- CHILD Coalition
- Community Awareness Committee
- Consumer Advisory Committee
- Services Coordination Committee
- Special work groups as needed
- Steering Committee

How does the Network protect HIV/AIDS confidentiality?

- No one needs to disclose HIV status to join the Network. This is a personal choice.
- The Consumer Advisory Committee is for persons living with HIV/AIDS willing to disclose their status. Meetings are open to Persons Living with HIV/AIDS only, except by special invitation for presentations and dialogue.
- The Network Registration form includes a Confidentiality Pledge documenting a commitment to respect the confidentiality of participants.

Network Mission

The **Central New York HIV Care Network** was established in 1991 to promote collaboration among those living with and responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Central New York. The Network now serves a 14-county region, and includes HIV/AIDS and other health care and social service providers, community-based support organizations, volunteers, and persons infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. The Network is one of eleven in New York State funded by Bureau of Community Support Services (BCSS), NYSDOH AIDS Institute from funds provided by the Ryan White HIV Modernization Act of 2006.

Network members are committed to identifying service and prevention needs and promoting and coordinating efforts to establish and strengthen resources in the community by:

- Improving timely access to high quality and culturally-appropriate care and support.
- Establishing priorities for funding and service enhancement.
- Promoting coordination and collaboration among resources serving the Central New York community to improve efficiency and outcomes.
- Collecting/distributing information about the AIDS epidemic to increase public awareness.
- Advocating for public policy and funding support for HIV/AIDS programs and services.
- Enhancing advocacy and care management skills for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS.

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HIV/AIDS Awareness Events

- AIDS Awareness Day -- Albany (February)
- National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (February)
- Black Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS (March)
- AIDS Watch -- Washington, DC (Spring)
- STAP AIDS Walk (April)
- Women in Search of Their Purpose Conference (May)
- International AIDS Candlelight Memorial (May)
- ACR AIDS Walk/Run (June)
- National HIV Testing Day (June)
- FACES Health Fair (summer)
- National Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (October)
- World AIDS Day (December 1)
- Other events as opportunities arise

Central New York HIV Care Network

A Program of **CNYHSA**

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Visit the Network
on the web at
www.cnyhsa.com

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