



Brian Solem <brian.j.solem@gmail.com>

Spring into advocacy

Getting to Zero Illinois <GTZ-IL@afcemail.org>

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Reply-To: Getting to Zero Illinois <reply-fec6157273630179-495_HTML-26477664-110006729-1@afcemail.org>

To: brian.j.solem@gmail.com



New funding opportunity for HIV community

In a first for GTZ-IL, we will begin an RFP process this spring to award one-year grants of up to \$30,000 to organizations across the state that are advancing GTZ-IL goals. The RFP packet will be available March 29 and be due April 26. These grants will and provide funding to scale up, supplement and grow existing projects that align with GTZ-IL goals and principles and uplift our priority communities. We will focus on awarding grants to small, Black and other BIPOC-led and BIPOC-serving

organizations. **Stay tuned for the March 29 announcement for more details.**



Data show declining cases of HIV, but disparities persist

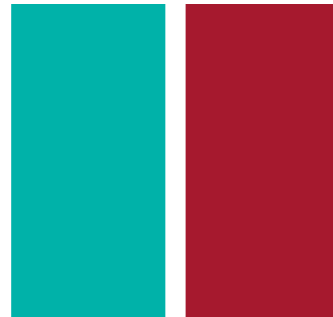
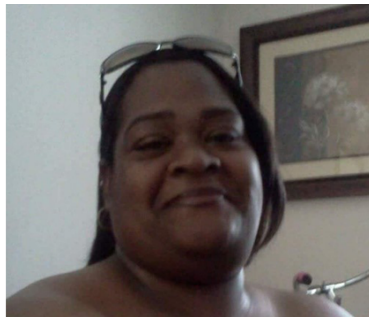
Even as we celebrate the decrease in HIV transmission that we saw in 2019, we must push to see a decline in the health inequities among Black Illinoisans. We can do this by learning from our Black-led community partners.

HIV is not a crime

Along with the Illinois HIV Action Alliance (IHAA) coalition, we celebrate the introduction of SB655, legislation that would repeal Illinois' law criminalizing people living with HIV. Join us by signing your organization on as a supporter!

Sign today

Read on



Community Board member highlight: Shawaughna

In 2021, GTZ is restructuring its Implementation Council with three subgroups making up the full body. Kennedy Brookins, GTZ's Community Outreach and Education Specialist, has been building one subgroup: our Community Board. New member Shawaughna Lewis is a 42-year-old Aquarius living in Mascoutah, IL. She has two children and two grandchildren. She is a [Pure Romance](#) consultant and also makes spiritual jewelry, baths, steams and more. As someone who has been living with HIV for 12 years, Shawaughna is passionate about living in her truth and encouraging others to do the same. "Know that HIV don't have you, you have HIV."



Advancing GTZ-IL goals with advocacy

A leading GTZ-IL partner, AIDS Foundation Chicago, has launched registration for its week of virtual advocacy events, set to begin April 19. This year, GTZ-IL will have dedicated actions and events to support legislation that will advance our priorities, including increased HIV funding from the state, the expansion of telehealth services and coverage, and improved sexual health education. Register today to receive updates, support and guidance to advocate directly with your legislator!

Raise your voice

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