



Gilead's HIV Age Positively[®] Phase Two 18-Month Progress Report

By Gilead Sciences | November 2023

Welcome Letter

Dear Community Partners,

Gilead believes that ending the HIV epidemic for everyone, everywhere requires an approach that is “more than medicine” – addressing the social and cultural issues that contribute to the ongoing transmission of the disease. For decades, we’ve proudly partnered with community-based organizations to help remedy health inequities and deliver adequate, culturally-competent healthcare to underserved populations around the world.

Over the past decade, older individuals living with HIV have emerged as a demographic that is often overlooked when it comes to HIV prevention, treatment and care. In fact, more than half of the adults living with HIV in the U.S. are over 50 years old, and by 2030, more than 80 percent of people living with HIV will have at least one age-related medical condition, such as cancer or heart disease. To address the lack of attention and resources given to these individuals, we launched Gilead’s HIV Age Positively® program in 2018 to directly support community-based organizations working to improve health outcomes for older Americans. Since inception, we’ve provided almost \$36 million in grant funding to 42 organizations working to reduce stigma and improve quality of care for older adults aging with HIV.

To build on this progress, we recently supported the first “Collaboration in Care Conference” hosted by The University of California San Francisco in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the Denver Prevention Training Center and many other organizations working to end the HIV epidemic for older adults aging with HIV. This event convened nearly 200 attendees from across the country to connect, collaborate and exchange insights around supporting individuals aging with HIV. Seventy five percent of these attendees directly interact with older Americans living with HIV and spoke highly of the honest and impactful conversations they had with other local leaders who are doing similar and essential work in their communities. In addition to this conference, our partners have convened collaborative sessions with more than 100 community partners to discuss the challenges and solutions associated with aging with HIV, focusing these conversations in the context of women’s health, mental health, HIV in the workplace and more.

These events underscored the powerful work that Gilead and our partners have accomplished together, and provided a forward-looking assessment on how we can evolve the program to adequately address the needs of the aging community. This report is a snapshot of all of our efforts over the past few years and we’re excited to share these insights with you as we continue to progress.

Together, we will make a real difference in the lives of those aging with HIV over 50 as we continue our programming through HIV Age Positively.

Carmen Villar

Vice President, Public Affairs
Gilead Sciences, Inc.

Introduction

In the early days of the HIV epidemic, an HIV diagnosis was considered a death sentence. However, thanks to progress in medical care coupled with advances in HIV education, HIV has transformed from a once-fatal disease to a chronic health condition that can allow individuals engaged in care to live longer, healthier lives.



Today, more than half of the adults living with HIV in the U.S. are over 50 years old. It is estimated that by 2030, that number will increase to nearly 70% – a number that was unimaginable 30 years ago. While this transformation is a tremendous step forward, it has ushered in its own set of challenges to support this new, aging population who has distinct care and treatment needs.

By 2030, more than 80 percent of people living with HIV will have at least one age-related medical condition, such as cancer or heart disease.

In addition to aging-related challenges, additional dedicated resources are needed to address the diverse needs of the growing population of older individuals living with HIV.

Older individuals living with HIV are less likely to access social services to support their diagnoses due to social isolation, insufficient social support and a service delivery system that's unprepared to meet their needs.

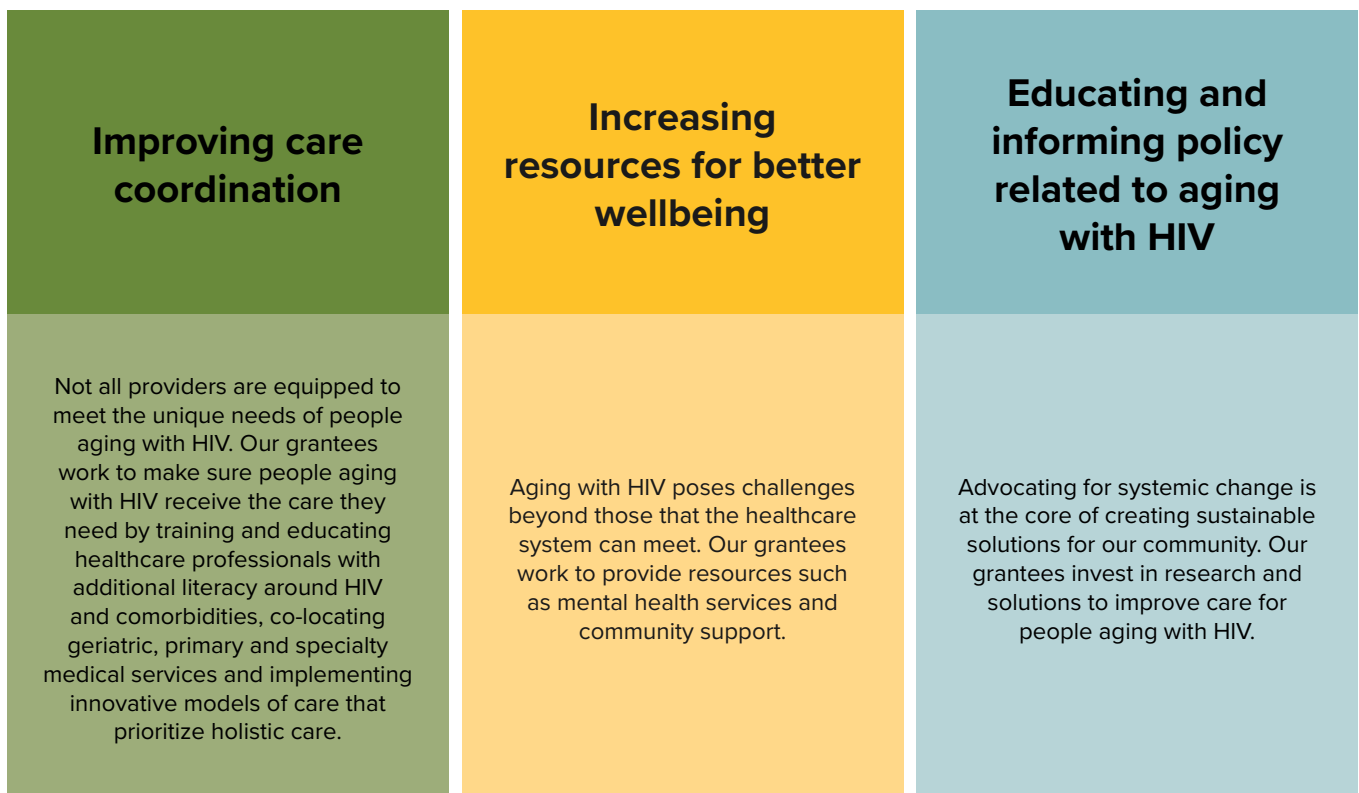
In 2018, Gilead Sciences launched the HIV Age Positively® grant program aimed at supporting community-based organizations focused on improving the quality of life and health for older Americans aging with HIV. Over the past five years, the initiative has awarded more than \$35.8 million in grants to support 42 organizations that are working to address stigma, loneliness and better coordination of care for impacted individuals.

Our Impact

By supporting community-driven solutions, HIV Age Positively helps to enhance the quality of life and care for people aging with HIV — and we're already seeing results. During the first 18-months of Phase Two of the HIV Age Positively program the grantees have achieved the following:



Our Guiding Pillars



Highlighting Our Grantees

Since the launch of HIV Age Positively, we've supported 42 organizations — from healthcare organizations to support and advocacy groups working to address the interrelated challenges within the healthcare system and the general HIV community — across 15 states. These groups are on the ground tackling barriers to equitable care and treatment, and working to improve care coordination, increase resources for a better wellbeing, expand education and inform policy.

Ribbon Organizing Center for HIV and Aging (ROC4Aging+)

ROC4Aging+ serves as a national technical assistance provider for Gilead's HIV Age Positively initiative. ROC4Aging+ develops and offers education, training and resources for the 23 national, regional and local grantees focused on five priority areas — strategic processing, policy, technical assistance, community and information dissemination.

ROC4Aging+ convenes a National Community Action Board which aims to contribute to the national advisement and advancement of HIV and aging efforts for persons over 50 in the United States.

SAGE

SAGE is the largest and longest-going U.S. advocacy and services organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ older people. SAGE has consistently led efforts to influence pro-LGBTQ+ policy at the local, state and national levels, and played an instrumental role in getting the LGBTQ+ and HIV Long Term Care Bill of Rights of 2023 passed in New York. The organization is also building the nation's largest affordable LGBTQ+-welcoming housing developments for those aged 62 and above in New York.

To date, SAGE has trained more than 122,000 staff at long-term and other care facilities on LGBTQ+ cultural competency.

The Reunion Project

Founded in 2015 by activists living with HIV, The Reunion Project (TRP) is a national alliance of long-term survivors of HIV that collaborates with local and national HIV advocates, providers and researchers. TRP provides a safe space for individuals living with HIV to share their stories of resilience, discrimination and stigma while developing new strategies to support and empower those aging with HIV.

Through their virtual and in-person town halls that include presentations on various topics of interest to HIV long-term survivors, interactive group discussions, and smaller breakout sessions, TRP has reached more than 1,300 individuals living with HIV.



Illinois Public Health Association

Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) is the largest public health association in Illinois and is a national leader at the intersection of public health and HIV advocacy, especially for Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, non-binary persons and Black women. As part of its efforts to support underserved individuals aging with HIV, IPHA hosts a statewide HIV and Aging Policy Corps that develops recommendations to improve Illinois' [Aging Plan](#) and integrate HIV into statewide long-term care services.

IPHA has trained over 100 individuals as part of its new HIV and Aging training series for long-term care providers in Illinois.

Professional Association of Social Workers in HIV/AIDS (PASWHA)

PASWHA supports the professional growth and development of HIV social workers and professionals, promotes evidence informed practices and advocates for policies that promote equity and justice in the fight to end the HIV & AIDS epidemic.

PASWHA launched their first peer learning cohorts with 40 social workers who provide services to persons living with HIV.

Los Angeles LGBT Center

The Los Angeles LGBT Center is the largest LGBTQ+ organization in the world. Through their range of services, including English and Spanish support groups, leadership development training and monthly activities to foster connection and community, LA LGBT Center empowers those aging with HIV and helps them advocate for quality care within their communities.

The LA LGBT Center has reached over 350 individuals aging with HIV through their small group and community-level activities including English and Spanish HIV support groups, small group leadership development classes and field trips to engage with community leaders.

Thrive SS

THRIVE SS supports Black same gender-loving men in Atlanta through a spectrum of services designed to build community and to share life-saving information and resources. The organization aims to help improve the lives of those aging with HIV through monthly meetings with financial and health subject matter experts, social events and community outreach.

Over 300 individuals took part in Thrive SS's group and community-level activities, including sessions with subject matter experts on health and financial literacy and their Change the Pattern initiative, where members addressed grief and trauma.

The Shanti Project

The Shanti Project seeks to build human connections across individuals aging with HIV to reduce isolation, enhance health and well-being and improve quality of life through a continuum of activities and services. supports older adults living with HIV to navigate medical services and hosts a monthly outing group for isolated HIV+ seniors, including events, shared meals and visits to important cultural spaces in San Francisco through their Finely Aged Project.

Shanti's individual, small group and community level events have reached over 600 individuals, including their Finely Aged Project, which supports monthly outings for isolated seniors with HIV and puts on quarterly dances where members share a meal, dance and connect with one another.



Our Grantees

