

# CHICAGO AREA HIV INTEGRATED SERVICES COUNCIL



# HEALTHY CHICAGO

**Do you want to give back? Do you want to be part of something?  
Join Chicago Area HIV Integrated Services Council**

Chicago Area HIV Integrated Services Council (CAHISC) is a working group where members establish plans and funding priorities for the Chicago service area in how housing, healthcare access treatment, substance abuse, mental health, community education and other essential services can affect the HIV epidemic.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What does CAHISC do?

In collaboration with Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), CAHISC is responsible for:

1. Assessing the need for HIV care and prevention, housing, and other related services in the Chicago service area
2. Setting priorities and allocating resources for available funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (“HRSA”), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), and other federal, state and/or city resources
3. Evaluating the administrative functions of the CDPH.

CAHISC informs the ongoing development of local integrated comprehensive plan. We assist with establishing HIV housing priorities and recommending funding allocations within the Chicago and Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) area.

We serve as an advisory body to the Mayor’s Office for recruitment and membership of the council.

### What’s in it for me? What does this have to do with my HIV?

- We assist the city decision on where money will go for HIV services so that government money comes back to us in the best way and that agencies don’t have to close their doors.
- Your voice will be heard. Members make decisions and learn how to make decisions. When government money can’t support *everything*, you can help decide where to put it. You don’t have to go all the way to Springfield.
- You may not understand everything at first, but after sitting in the meetings you start to pick it up. You’ll learn how money is being allocated throughout the Chicago area. It can be challenging at first, but things get done!

### What are CAHISC members like?

- Compassionate about letting people know that HIV positive people are in our communities living their lives and that there are options available to prevent HIV transmission and replication.
- Every member comes knowing something about HIV. Members are either living with HIV, working or living in communities that serve people living with HIV, know someone personally who is living with HIV or who is HIV negative and on PrEP or eligible for PrEP

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## What are the commitments?

- Monthly 3-hour full-body meetings, monthly 2-hour committee meeting, annual 2-day strategic planning session, a onetime participation in the new member orientation.
- Membership terms last 3 years
- Work as a community planner with a diverse group of people from the community and HIV service providers
- Contribute professional and personal expertise to further the work of CAHISC
- Participate in the needs assessment, gap analysis, priority setting, and resource allocation processes, as well as other quality management and evaluation activities

## How do I become a member?

- Complete Membership Application *in full*.
- Attend an in-person or telephone interview session.
- Make the necessary time commitment with your employer's approval, if applicable.
- Keep in mind that if you owe any money to the city, now may not be the best time to join.

## Do I need to be HIV positive?

- Our group is made up of both HIV positive and HIV negative people
- You don't have to be HIV positive. Everyone should have a hand in making these decisions.

## Where is it? How far is it? Do I have to pay to get there?

- Meetings are usually held downtown in the loop. Some people living with HIV may be eligible for a stipend that can be used for transportation.

## **For more information or to obtain an application:**

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