

PEER EDUCATORS: The Peer Education and Evaluation Resource (PEER) Center

The Peer Education and Evaluation Resource (PEER) Center trains HIV/AIDS peer treatment educators to work with clients and medical providers in engaging persons of color in high quality HIV/AIDS care. Peers do this work through outreach with clients and education of health care professionals. Training targets peers who are indigenous to communities of color located in areas highly impacted by HIV/AIDS. The three funded peer education training sites of the PEER Center use innovative peer training curricula to educate peers from the local community to work in various capacities and settings in HIV care delivery. The PEER Center also supports the training sites in their implementation efforts. This initiative is funded by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and its HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) as part of the Minority AIDS Initiative. It is designed as a complement to the HRSA/HAB-funded AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETC), which train clinicians in HIV care delivery.

PEER Center: Training of Peers

Peer educators are typically not clinically trained health care professionals and may include peer counselors; community health center workers; promotores; outreach workers; treatment educators; HIV peer educators, consumer trainers, and peer advocates. The PEER Center trains peer educators by: (1) replicating successful HIV Peer Education models through "Training of Trainers" to organizations similar to the PETS that train peers in order to increase the number of organizations involved in peer education; (2) increasing the number of organizations that properly utilize peer educators (paid or volunteer) and incorporate them into a multidisciplinary approach to HIV clinical care management, and (3) providing model peer education training that addresses different aspects of peer influence in HIV patient adherence and health outcomes.

PEER Center: Supporting the Use of Peer Educators

The PEER Center promotes the use of peers to help HIV infected individuals enter and stay in care, adhere to treatment protocols, and improve their quality of life. The Center enhances peer educator services through capacity building and technical assistance to Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grantees, clinics, AIDS Service Organizations and other training organizations that want to develop and expand peer programs in addition to supporting the peer education training sites. Boston University School of Public Health, Health and Disability Work Group is the PEER Center. Contact: Carol Tobias, tc Carol@bu.edu, 617 426 4447 ext. 11 and/or Serena Rajabiun, rajabiun@bu.edu, 617 426 4447 ext. 15. See: http://www.hdwg.org/peer_center/contact.html.

The Ryan White Program works with cities, States, and local community-based organizations to provide services to more than 500,000 individuals each year who do not have sufficient health care coverage or financial resources for coping with HIV disease. The majority of Ryan White Program funds support primary medical care and essential support services. A smaller but equally critical portion is used to fund technical assistance, clinical training, and research on innovative models of care. The Ryan White Program, which was first authorized in 1990, is currently funded at \$2.1 billion.

Training Sites

Oakland, CA

Lotus Project (Center for Health Training [CHT] and Women Organized to Respond to Life Threatening Disease [WORLD]), Oakland, CA, trains women of color especially African-Americans and Latinas serving women living with HIV. Contact: Shailey Merchant, merchant@jba-cht.com, 510.835.3700 x.119 and/or Shalini Eddens, seddens@womenhiv.org, 510-835-3700. See: http://www.centerforhealthtraining.org/searchable/pr-ntl_lotus.html

St. Louis, MO

People to People (American Red Cross St. Louis Chapter/Kansas City Free Clinic/Midwest AETC), St. Louis, MO, trains HIV+ peers and affected peers who reflect the epidemic in the St. Louis/Kansas City 11 county metropolitan area. Partners include the Kansas City Free Health Clinic and the Midwest AETC. Contact: Salim Phillips, SPhillips1@redcrossstl.org, 314-516-2888.

New York, NY

PACT (Harlem Hospital Center), New York, NY, trains minority populations affected by HIV/AIDS. Initial training sites include the five boroughs of New York City. Contact: Tara Herlocher, info@peernyc.org, 212-939-4364. See: <http://www.peernyc.org/>



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