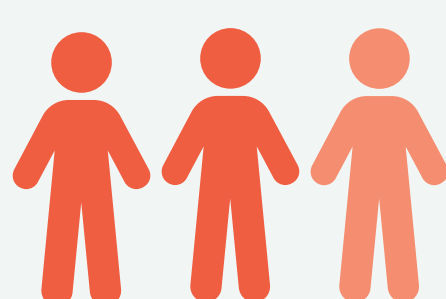


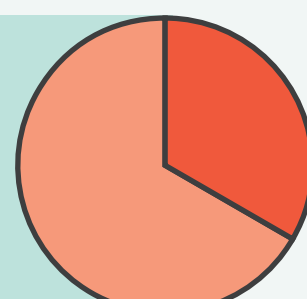
RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM PART A COMMUNITY PLANNING: WAYS FOR PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE TO PARTICIPATE

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION BY PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) recognizes the essential role of people with HIV, especially those who are clients of RWHAP-funded services, in planning programs to successfully serve people with HIV in all their diversity. A hallmark of RWHAP Part A planning councils (PCs) is meaningful and substantial involvement by people with lived experience in strengthening the local HIV service system.



The RWHAP legislation requires that at least 33 percent of planning council members "shall be individuals who are receiving HIV-related services".



ROLES FOR PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE IN RWHAP PART A PROGRAMS



Planning Council (PC) membership is just one essential kind of participation — people with lived experience also play many other important roles.

Planning Council Members: PC members make decisions about funding for medical and support services needed by people with HIV in their local area.

Consumer Committee/Caucus: Open to both PC members and non-members, this group participates in service planning and coordination.

Needs Assessment: People with lived experience can participate in needs assessment surveys and focus groups to identify service needs, barriers, and gaps.

Town Hall Meetings: Public meetings where people with lived experience can provide feedback and receive information from the planning council.

Clinical Quality Management (CQM): People with lived experience may complete surveys to provide feedback on service quality and any issues that need to be addressed.

Task Forces: People with lived experience may participate in short-term task forces established to address specific service issues.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION BY PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

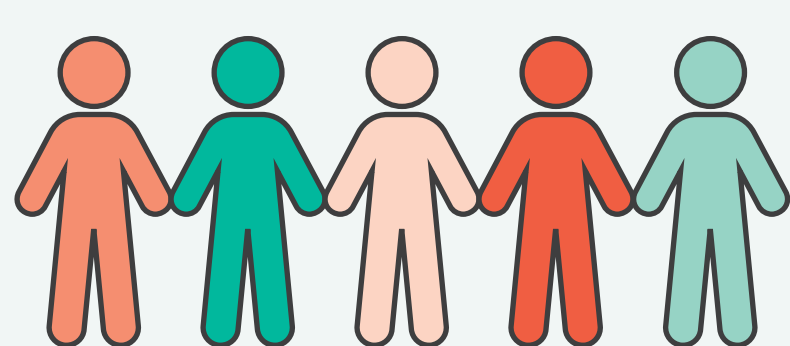
Builds relationships between the planning council and the community it serves, ensuring community involvement in decision making about HIV services.



Provides opportunities for real-time feedback on service issues, which helps the planning council act quickly to strengthen HIV services.



Helps the planning council to understand the service needs of diverse subgroups of people with HIV living in the community.



FOUR WAYS PLANNING COUNCILS CAN ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

PLANNING PROCESSES:

Calling for **public comments**, allowing participants to **join virtually**, and regularly **offering surveys and focus groups** to receive input from people with lived experience.

BYLAWS:

Bylaws provisions that provide **opportunities** for people with lived experience to participate in planning council processes and **create structure** for non-member involvement.

INDIVIDUAL OUTREACH:

Individuals can support participation of people with lived experience by **personally encouraging their network** to attend meetings, representing the planning council at events, and serving as mentors for people who want to become involved in planning council activities.



PROACTIVE EFFORTS:

Actively reaching out to diverse groups of people with HIV, offering **leadership opportunities**, and providing **ongoing forums** for the voices of people with lived experience.

