



## Advanced Skills for Consumer Education and National Development (ASCEND) Leadership Training Program

AIDS Alliance for Children Youth & Families has been selected to deliver the ASCEND Leadership Training Program to consumers of Ryan White Parts A and B services. The Advanced Skills for Consumer Education & National Development Leadership Training has been developed to build skills and facilitate “Consumer Involvement to Respond to Unmet Need” in eligible metropolitan areas, states, and territories that are most severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

This program has evolved in direct response to estimates at least 250,000 people living with HIV/AIDS are aware of their HIV infection, but do not receive primary medical care. Additionally, it is estimated that at least 250,000 people are unaware of their HIV+ status and therefore, also do not receive care.

The program will provide an interactive three-day comprehensive skills-building and leadership training with concrete and ongoing support. AIDS Alliance contends that consumers who possess both cultural competence and appropriate skills, talents, and experience are viable partners in the dissemination of information to their peers. Newly trained peers are charged with developing and delivering an innovative message to reach individuals in their local communities. These individuals often represent the most difficult to reach populations. The goal of the peer-led initiative is to reach out to those not-in-care or lost-to-care and help them gain and retain regular primary medical care.

AIDS Alliance training and technical assistance activities have been essential in empowering consumers through education that improves their likelihood of obtaining and remaining in care. AIDS Alliance has a proven approach to increase peer-to-peer trainings, peer-led and innovative outreach interventions, and nationwide community dissemination through a train-the-trainer model. Our curriculum is a coordinated approach to address the education needs of consumers related to epidemiology, adherence, co-morbidities, substance abuse, risk reduction, resource allocation, disclosure, self-care, assessment tools and evaluation in the learning process.

### ASCEND’s consumer participants will be:

- updated on training related to the Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act of 2006,
- provided with accurate and compelling information that both recruits and retains them in care,
- motivated to become confident in their capability to deliver prevention, recruitment, and treatment messages,
- empowered to increase their individual and group capacity to deliver these messages, and
- educated in strategies that resolve the barriers and challenges of access to care for isolated, homeless, mentally ill people living with HIV/AIDS whose access to care is often frustrated by the stigma of HIV/AIDS.

### Eligibility

- Enthusiastic to be a leader who is receiving care and living openly with HIV,
- Connected to a program that is funded through the Ryan White CARE Act, Part A or B, either as a person who receives care, a volunteer, or a staff member,
- At least 18 years old,
- Willing to commit to the program and do the hard work necessary to be successful and to succeed,
- Able to participate in a three-day training in your community,
- Able to participate in up to six months of follow up with program staff and community leaders,
- Able to participate in one online-based training session,
- Willing to complete required paperwork,
- Willing to identify organizations in your community that will host a community education session on Unmet Need (we will help you learn how).

### About AIDS Alliance

AIDS Alliance for Children Youth & Families is a national non-profit membership organization. We give voice to the needs of women, children, youth, and families living with, affected by, and at risk for HIV/AIDS. Our vision is that no voice be diminished in spirit or volume because of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any other factor. AIDS Alliance accomplishes our mission through education and training, policy analysis and development, product development and dissemination, research, coalition building, and advocacy.

### For More Information

We invite you to learn more about AIDS Alliance, the ASCEND Leadership Training Program, and our other programs and services. Give us a call at 202-785-3564 or visit our website at [www.aids-alliance.org](http://www.aids-alliance.org). You can also write to us at:

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