

PHA Training Programs: **Toronto**

**Toronto Community Planning Initiative &
Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment**
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PHA Training Programs – Background

People living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) have been at the forefront of Ontario's HIV/AIDS movement since the beginning of the epidemic. Over the years the populations affected by HIV/AIDS have become increasingly diverse and their needs have also become increasingly complex.

Various organizations and networks have developed many innovative program initiatives and training activities to ensure and promote the greater involvement and leadership of PHAs in addressing the different social determinants affecting their health and well being. This occurred in response to the changing needs of PHAs and the development of the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV (GIPA) principles.

In addition, recent community planning initiatives and research studies conducted by the Toronto Community Planning Initiative Education & Training Working Group, the Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment and the OHTN's Living & Serving II study, all identified and highlighted the need to have enhanced planning and coordination on PHA capacity building and training initiatives. This requires the development of strategies that will help improve PHA participation and leadership; enhance their physical and mental health; and improve service delivery and coordination in Toronto.

It is recognized that amongst the richness of the programming initiatives related to PHA capacity building, there are significant gaps in comprehensive planning, limited coordination in areas including program collaboration, quality assurance and knowledge transfer, and little formal recognition and deployment by potential employers and organizations for PHAs trained through all these community based training initiatives.

This document is the result of a call to community organizations to submit any PHA training programs that their organization is providing to PHAs in Toronto. Once we know where we are at, the community will be able to strategize around initiating programs that will fill the gaps.

AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)

Phone: 416-623-1782

Web: www.actoronto.org

Program Name: Employment ACTion

Description of program...

This unique service is open to all individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The program provides all service users with the information, tools and support needed when exploring, seeking and securing (re)-employment.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

Employment services include:

- benefits consulting;
- employment planning;
- career exploration;
- skills,
- interest and abilities assessments;
- job trials;
- employment skills development;
- assisted job placement;
- employment support resources

What is the required time commitment for this program?

Services are based on an individual's employment goals and what is required for success.

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

Yes

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

Employment skills as required for successful (re)entry into workforce.

When and how often is this program offered?

Ongoing programming

Who can participate in this program?

People living with HIV/AIDS

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

Call 416-623-1782 to make an appointment.

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

Call 416-623-1782 for more information

Is there any additional information?

No

AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)

Phone: 416-340-2437

Web: www.actoronto.org

Program Name: Volunteer Training & Opportunities; Core Skills & Other In-depth Volunteer Training

Description of program...

This training gives the volunteer-to-be candidate skills required to perform the volunteer duties accordingly. It starts with Core Skills Training and depending where the volunteer will work, complimentary training is provided, such as: Join Volunteer Outreach Training (JVOT), Library, Employment (including computer training), Facilitation, Access Training (including referrals), Buddy Program, Income Tax, Food Programs, Youth, Ethno-specific, Development, and other specific training.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- Introduction to Volunteering/Team Building
- HIV/AIDS 101 and Psycho-social Issues
- Concepts in Communication
- Assessment and Referral
- Anti-Oppression and Cultural Competence
- Confidentiality
- Outreach Skills

What is the required time commitment for this program?

You must complete 20 hours of Volunteer Core Skills Training and additional program training as required.

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

Yes

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

Training is transferable both internally and externally

When and how often is this program offered?

Core Skills Training - Two times per year.

JVOT – once a year

Others: not specified

Who can participate in this program?

Volunteers and staff of ACT and TPWA. Some space is reserved for partnering organizations.

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

Booking one appointment with the volunteer coordinator and going through screening process.

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

Call 416-340-2437 for further information or visit our website at www.actoronto.org

Is there any additional information?

To become a volunteer with the AIDS Committee of Toronto, you must first attend one of our volunteer information sessions. The info session is an opportunity to learn more about ACT's programs and services, to hear about volunteer opportunities and to find out what is involved in becoming a volunteer.

AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)

Phone: 416-340-2437

Web: www.actoronto.org

Program Name: From My Community

Description of program...

From My Community project is a peer-led HIV/AIDS prevention program for women from African, Caribbean and Aboriginal communities. Women at risk for HIV are being reached by trained peers where they live and socialize.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

Training to become peer educators by training on:

- issues related to sex and sexuality,
- HIV prevention, testing,
- Socio-cultural issues including stigma, discrimination, anti-oppression, spirituality,
- employment,
- legal implications,
- communication
- team building skills.

What is the required time commitment for this program?

This is in-depth training with the time commitment varying depending on one-on-one and group assessment.

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

Yes

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

All skills learned are transferable.

When and how often is this program offered?

This is a pilot program, future training is to be determined

Who can participate in this program?

African, Caribbean and Aboriginal women who have an interest in prevention of HIV/AIDS in their communities.

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

Contact ACT or the Ontario Aboriginal AIDS Strategy (OAAS), numbers below, to set up a meeting.

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

For further information please call ACT 416-340-2437 or OAAS 416-944-9481

Is there any additional information?

This project is moving into phase II.

AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)

Phone: 416-340-2437

Web: www.actoronto.org

Program Name: Community Health Forums

Description of program...

Community Health Forums feature expert presentations and panel discussions about health issues relevant to PHAs.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

Health related issues relevant to PHAs such as:

- medication and side effects
- new drugs available
- fertility and reproduction for PHAs
- eating healthy
- holistic approach

What is the required time commitment for this program?

No registration required or time commitment beyond each forum required.

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

No

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

Increased knowledge of issues that may be relevant to other settings.

When and how often is this program offered?

Four to Six times a year

Who can participate in this program?

Open to PHAs and the General Public.

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

No pre-registration required.

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

Call 416-340-2437 for further information or visit our website at www.actoronto.org

Is there any additional information?

These forums are mainly attended by PHAs.

AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)

Phone: 416-340-2437

Web: www.actoronto.org

Program Name: Positive Youth Outreach

Description of program...

Positive Youth Outreach (PYO) is a peer-driven program with the AIDS Committee of Toronto. PYO's mission is to empower, support, and affirm the lives of young people (29 years and under) living with HIV/AIDS. PYO's programming aims to address all aspects of young people's lives, in order to reduce isolation, risk-taking behaviours, and the cycle of oppression. We advocate for ourselves to ensure that as young people living with HIV/AIDS we can live happier, healthier, and productive lives.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

We support the leadership and personal development of our fellow HIV positive peers through education, and support by providing new opportunities.

What is the required time commitment for this program?

Varies

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

Yes

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

Varies

When and how often is this program offered?

On-going programming.

Who can participate in this program?

PHAs 29 years old and younger

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

Come into the organization and talk to the PYO Coordinator or attend PYO drop-in Thursday evenings.

NOTE: THIS PROGRAM IS FOR PHAs only.

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

Call 416-340-2437 for further information or visit our website at www.actoronto.org

Is there any additional information?

No

Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP)

Phone: 416-599-2727

Email: info@asaap.ca

Web: www.asaap.ca

Program Name: PHA/Volunteer Program

Description of program...

Providing culturally and linguistically accessible services, counseling, legal, employment and immigration referrals and support. Holding monthly client meetings and an annual retreat. Providing relevant and current HIV information and resources on: treatment, nutrition, housing, health etc.

Offering treatment-based workshops and a culturally-specific treatment info on www.asaapchai.ca (under construction). Offering free and relevant training to PHAs by encouraging them to participate in OAN-conducted PHA leadership development; ETSN's Learning and Helping Out Peer treatment and Counseling support; CAAT's various PHA initiatives etc.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- leadership skills
- resourcefulness
- learning practical knowledge about their treatment and care.

What is the required time commitment for this program?

Varies

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

Yes, volunteers are recruited to directly assist in the PHA program. PHAs are hired, if they meet job posting requirements. Others are recruited on the ASAAP Board, if there is an opening.

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

PHAs can transfer the acquired skills to assist us in our programs. These could range from translations, to sitting on Project Advisory Committees, to spearheading some initiatives within the PHA program

When and how often is this program offered?

On-going programming.

Who can participate in this program?

PHAs and/or PHA volunteers

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

Book an appointment with the coordinator

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

PHA Support Coordinator

Is there any additional information?

The program is constantly looking for ways to evolve. This year, we are adding a treatment info website and holding 7-8 treatment-based workshops. We are planning to start a South Asian Food Bank and get PHAs involved in several research initiatives in the coming year.

Asian Community AIDS Service (ACAS)

Phone: 416-599-2727

Email: info@acas.org

Web: www.acas.org

Program Name: Peer Mentorship Program

Description of program...

The ACAS Peer Mentorship Program provides meaningful and active participation of East and Southeast Asian PHAs. Through job shadowing of our Support Workers, this opportunity facilitates training and capacity building through experiential hands-on learning.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- professional development
- counseling skills
- group facilitation skills
- organizing and coordinating
- project management
- administration skills

What is the required time commitment for this program?

2 days per week

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

Yes, opportunities in both paid and non-paid capacities

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

Skills learned through this program are transferable and broad enough to use in a variety of not-for-profit and for-profit environments.

When and how often is this program offered?

4 times per year

Who can participate in this program?

Any East or Southeast Asian PHA, priority given to ACAS clients

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

Interested applicants will submit a resume and be interviewed by Support Program staff

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

ACAS Support Program 416-963-4300
extension 23, womensupport@acas.org
extension 22, support@acas.org

Is there any additional information?

None

Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE)

Phone: 416-203-7122

Email: dtaylor@catie.ca

Web: www.catie.ca

Program Name: Learning Institute

Description of program...

CATIE Learning Institutes (LI) offers opportunities for community conference attendees to become better prepared to learn and understand research findings by offering pre-conference sessions such as: overviews of the conference sessions, updates on HIV treatment, opportunities to discuss HIV-related topics with researchers, information about how to disseminate research conference findings in your communities.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- Understanding HIV treatment
- Learning the language of research, statistics and/or clinical results
- Learning how to interpret the research for discussion with healthcare provider and /or researcher

What is the required time commitment for this program?

LIs are held prior to major research conferences and/or online. The onsite learning opportunities usually involve an evening networking dinner and a one day information session. Online LIs vary in terms of structure, curriculum and time commitment. They may allow the learner to proceed at his/her own pace or involve scheduled e-learning opportunities.

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

No

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

LIs aim to build the HIV treatment capacity of an individual who works or volunteers at an AIDS service organization. S/he is able to directly or indirectly build treatment knowledge and skills in understanding the complexity of HIV treatment and research and simplify it for staff and peers.

When and how often is this program offered?

Prior to International AIDS Conferences, CAHR and OHTN conferences. This year, CATIE will hold an LI in Quebec prior to Les Journées Québécoises.

Who can participate in this program?

Staff, PHA's and/or volunteers

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

The LI is advertised through ASOs and/or interested persons can contact CATIE

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

Darien Taylor
416-203-7122 extension 250

Is there any additional information?

None

Coalition on HIV and Mental Health

Phone: 416-340-8484 Extension 410

Web: www.fsatoronto.com

Program Name: Themed Groups

Description of program...

The Coalition on HIV and Mental Health is a collaborative service delivery project made up of representatives of the HIV community, staff and volunteers from community-based AIDS service organizations and social workers from hospital-based HIV medical and mental health clinics. Since 1999, Coalition sponsored groups have been offered on a number of HIV and mental health related themes. Groups are co-facilitated by Coalition members, using a model that is based in mutual aid and empowerment.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- Equality
- New roles
- Communication

What is the required time commitment for this program?

20 weekly sessions of 2 hours each. There is also a one hour intake interview for the programs

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

No

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

All skills are useful and transferable to a variety of settings

When and how often is this program offered?

Typically offered in the Fall and Spring of each year

Who can participate in this program?

PHAs

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

Individuals can self-refer to participate in Coalition-sponsored groups. Before beginning a group, potential group members meet individually with the group co-facilitators for a one hour intake interview. This interview allows potential group members to find out more about the group and determine their interest in participating.

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

Updates on upcoming groups can be heard on the phone line of the Coalition on HIV and Mental Health. People wishing to talk with a Coalition member about upcoming groups can leave a confidential message on that telephone voicemail. The number to reach the voicemail for the Coalition on HIV and Mental Health is 416-340-8484 ext. 410.

Is there any additional information?

No

Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment (CAAT)

Phone: 416-364-2261 Extension 2277

Email: coordinator@hivimmigration.ca

Program Name: HIV & Immigration Service Access Training - Basic

Description of program...

The program is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of Immigrant, Refugee and Non status people living with HIV and service providers' on the Canadian Immigration and refugee system, issues affecting immigrant/refugees with HIV/AIDS; and ways to improve access treatment and support services for these populations.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- Knowledge on Canada's Immigration and Refugee policy and system
- Knowledge on service eligibility for different groups of newcomers
- Skills in advocating for and accessing services for immigrant, refugee and non-status PHAs
- Knowledge on issues affecting immigrant, refugee and non-status PHAs
- Skills in working with culturally diverse and marginalized populations

What is the required time commitment for this program?

2 Full Days

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

- PHA graduates of the program will be invited to return as guest speakers and co-facilitators of future training,
- Participants will be invited to volunteer for various projects and ongoing activities of the Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

All skills are useful and transferable for other HIV, settlement and health service organizations, as well as for PHA peer support networks

When and how often is this program offered?

The training is currently offered twice a year and additional training may be organized on as needed basis.

Who can participate in this program?

- PHAs who are immigrants, refugees or without full status in Canada
- Service providers or caregivers working with the above PHA populations/communities

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

PHA can register for the training directly or register through any of the partner organizations of CAAT (see <http://www.hivimmigration.ca/links.html>)

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

Maureen Owino, Program Coordinator

Is there any additional information?

No

Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment (CAAT)

Phone: 416-364-2261 Extension 2277

Email: coordinator@hivimmigration.ca

Program Name: HIV & Immigration Service Access Training – Advanced Level

Description of program...

The advanced program builds on the skills of the basic program and is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of Immigrant, Refugee and Non status people living with HIV and service providers' on the Canadian Immigration and refugee system, issues affecting immigrant/refugees with HIV/AIDS; and ways to improve access treatment and support services for these populations.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- More in-depth understanding on cultural competency and advocacy skills
- In-depth knowledge and skills in preparing for different stages of the refugee claim processes
- Case management skills in accessing and coordinating various services to address the needs of Immigrant, refugee and non-status PHAs

What is the required time commitment for this program?

2 Full Days

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

- PHA graduates of the program will be invited to return as guest speakers and co-facilitators of future training,
- Participants will be invited to volunteer for various projects and ongoing activities of the Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

All skills are useful and transferable for other HIV, settlement and health service organizations, as well as for PHA peer support networks

When and how often is this program offered?

The training is currently offered twice a year and additional training may be organized on as needed basis.

Who can participate in this program?

- Those who have completed Basic Level Training
- PHAs who are immigrants, refugees or without full status in Canada
- Service providers or caregivers working with the above PHA populations/communities

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

PHA can register for the training directly or register through any of the partner organizations of CAAT (see <http://www.hivimmigration.ca/links.html>)

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

Maureen Owino, Program Coordinator

Is there any additional information?

No

Ethnoracial Treatment Support Network (ETSN)

Phone: 416-963-4300

Program Name: Learning and Helping Out: Peer Treatment & Counseling Training for Culturally Diverse Communities

Description of program...

An intensive training course facilitated by treatment experts, HIV positive peers and health service providers for PHAs, service providers and caregivers from culturally diverse communities. ETSN is a partnership initiative of the five Ethnoracial AIDS services organizations in Toronto. (see contact section for list)

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- Understanding the health and treatment issues related to HIV (ie. understanding and monitoring lab results, starting or changing HIV therapy, side effects and making sense of HIV research information)
- Peer based counseling skills on treatment issues and support.
- Addressing the cultural specific issues affecting treatments.

What is the required time commitment for this program?

Training normally includes 2 weekday evenings and 7 full days over consecutive weekends. In addition, a retreat of 2 full days will be conducted during the program.

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

Some of the previous trained peers will be trained to become peer facilitators on subsequent trainings and are encouraged to share their learning with peers in their supporting agency.

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

Our peer graduates can use their skills in many different organizations, including ASOs, health care services, settlement or community services and in employment or volunteering.

When and how often is this program offered?

The program is offered based on the availability of resources, usually once a year.

Who can participate in this program?

PHAs, service providers and caregivers from the culturally diverse communities who are actively involved in PHAs support and education.

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

They can register through the support service coordinators of the partner AIDS service organizations when recruitment is announced and all potential participants undergo a screening process.

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

Support service coordinators of the partner ethnoracial AIDS Services organizations.

Asian Community AIDS Services - 416-963-4300 Africans in Partnership Against AIDS - 416- 924-5256
Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention - 416-599-2727 Black-CAP - 416-977-9955
Centre for Spanish Speaking People - 416-925-2800

Is there any additional information?

Since our first training in 2003, more than 70 participants had completed the training programs. We continue to provide mentorship support and ongoing training to them through treatment updates, workshops, reunion meetings, and other skills development activities.

Ontario AIDS Network (OAN)

Phone: 416-364-4555

Email: tegdorf@ontarioaidsnetwork.on.ca

Web: www.ontarioaidsnetwork.on.ca

Program Name: PHA Leadership Development

Description of program...

The PHA Leadership Development series of workshops work to teach general leadership skills and practices to PHAs. Currently there are three levels, one builds on the previous level. Level I focuses on Leadership Skills and Practices, Building Community Knowledge and Awareness; and understanding our Personal Values and Philosophy. Level II focuses on Communication, specifically meeting planning and chairing skills; developing effective presentations; public speaking. Level III focuses on Organizational Governance.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- 5 practices of exemplary leadership with the 10 commitments
- Building self esteem
- Giving effective feedback
- Understanding values and personalities.

What is the required time commitment for this program?

Level I 4 Days

Level II 3 Days

Level III 3 Days

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

No

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

The skills taught are general leadership skills that are transferable to charitable and for profit sector

When and how often is this program offered?

Workshops are run several times per year. Check the OAN website for up to date event listings

Who can participate in this program?

Any PHA over the age of 19 who is a resident of Ontario. This program is for HIV positive individuals only.

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

Download the application for the Level you are interested in and fax or email it to the OAN

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

Thomas Egdorf

Is there any additional information?

A detailed description of the program is available on the OAN Website under PHA Leadership

Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN)

Phone: 416-642-6486

Email: info@ohtn.on.ca

Web: www.ohtn.on.ca

Program Name: Community Network

Description of program...

Part of the OHTN's mandate is to support community efforts to address the social determinants of health. This involves supporting community-based, research-related capacity building initiatives, as well as community-based research that promotes skills building and the sharing of research information among people living with HIV/AIDS and other community stakeholders.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- Understanding abstracts presented at conferences (OHTN/CATIE Learning Institute)
- Presentation skills (OHTN/CATIE Learning Institute)
- Abstract writing (OHTN Abstract Writing Workshop)
- Grant writing (CBR Grant Writing Workshop)

What is the required time commitment for this program?

Time commitment varies by session. Usually 1 day.

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

Yes. Our organization is committed to upholding the GIPA principle in all of our organizational practices, and we are currently exploring best practices for meaningful engagement of PHAs in research initiatives and through the development of a peer research training program

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

These skills are transferable to any organization that conducts or participates in community-based research.

When and how often is this program offered?

Sessions are offered several times a year, as appropriate, for addressing knowledge gaps prior to specific events such as the OHTN Annual Research Conference and the International AIDS Conference.

Who can participate in this program?

Our sessions are open to anyone in the HIV Community in Ontario.

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

Contact the OHTN for more information. Information related to training events is posted on our website and through our email list – please visit www.ohtn.on.ca.

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

Robb Travers, Director of Community-Based Research

or

Anna van der Meulen, Assistant Director of Research Development

416-642-6486

Is there any additional information?

No

Toronto People With AIDS Foundation

Phone: 416-506-8606 Extension 625

Email: gdowner@pwatoronto.org

Web: www.pwatoronto.org

Program Name: Speakers' Bureau

Description of program...

The Speakers Bureau promotes HIV prevention and helps reduce behaviors that put people at risk of HIV infection by sharing personal experiences of living with HIV that address social determinants of health related to HIV transmission, challenge the stigma associated with seropositivity and correct misconceptions about HIV/AIDS.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- public speaking,
- group facilitation,
- knowledge about HIV/AIDS and harm reduction.

What is the required time commitment for this program?

New volunteers are required to attend approximately 60 hours of training by attending PWA's Volunteer Core Skills and public speaking trainings; the Ontario AIDS Network Leadership I training and the Toronto Public Health's HIV/AIDS Train the Trainer program.

Existing volunteers must commit to at least 3 hours each month

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

People who complete the required training and fulfill the monthly commitment can become Speakers Bureau volunteers. Additionally, the Speakers Bureau Coordinator staff position has been designated as a PHA position. While any PHA can apply to an external posting of this position, Speakers Bureau volunteers are strongly encouraged.

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

The public speaking and group facilitation skills learned can easily be applied to any role that requires training, presentation and/or focus group facilitation. The knowledge of HIV/AIDS and harm reduction can be used in roles in ASOs, social services and even human resources in corporate settings.

When and how often is this program offered?

While the majority of the trainings required to join the program are offered year-round, the Speakers Bureau only accepts a limited number of new volunteers each year.

Who can participate in this program?

Any person living with HIV/AIDS

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

Any PHA interested in joining the Speakers Bureau should contact the Speakers Bureau Coordinator at (416) 506-8606 ext. 625.

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

See above.

Is there any additional information?

No

Toronto People With AIDS Foundation

Phone: 416-506-8606 Extension 622

Web: www.pwatoronto.org

Program Name: Core Skills Volunteer Training

Description of program...

Core Skills Volunteer training, a partnership between the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation and the AIDS Committee of Toronto, offers new volunteers opportunities to learn the essential skills and knowledge needed to volunteer at PWA and ACT.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- HIV/AIDS 101
- Psychosocial issues surrounding HIV/AIDS
- Concepts in Communication
- Assessment and Referral
- Anti-Oppression and Cultural Competence

What is the required time commitment for this program?

Approximately 25 hours

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

People who complete the program can become volunteers of PWA and ACT. While completion of Core Skills is not a hiring requirement for employment at PWA, it is seen as an asset.

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

The skills and knowledge learned can be applied to customer service and interpersonal skills required at other organizations.

When and how often is this program offered?

Core Skills is offered biannually in the Spring and Fall.

Who can participate in this program?

The program is open to anyone who has attended a Volunteer Information Session and completed an interview with the Volunteer Coordinator.

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

By attending a Volunteer Information Session which occurs the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm at PWA

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

PWA's Volunteer Coordinator at (416) 506-8606 ext. 622

Is there any additional information?

No

Women's Health in Women's Hands

Phone: 416-593-7655

Email: whiwh@web.net

Web: www.whiwh.com

Program Name: Health Promotion and Skills Development Project for African and Caribbean Women Living with HIV/AIDS

Description of program...

A collaborative program developed to promote the well-being, foster skills development through increased access to services for African and Caribbean women living with HIV/AIDS.

What are the key skills gained by a PHA during this program?

- Will writing
- Technical skills in legal issues and how they relate to HIV
- Learn how treatment work and importance of adherence
- Self care techniques, make up application, yoga etc
- Hobbies that can develop into income generating projects e.g Jewellery making
- How to go back to college/university in the education system e.g bridging programs
- Facilitation, training and peer educator skills
- How to deal with stigma, discrimination and disclosure

What is the required time commitment for this program?

Once a month from 10:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.

Is there employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training within your organization?

Volunteer opportunities are available and employment or volunteer opportunities related to this training are potentially available in the collaborating organizations. Women are the first to receive any job advertisements within organizations.

How can a PHA use the skills learned for another organization or workplace?

Technical knowledge is always transferable; it provides a basis from which they can expand their skills. From the skills they develop in the group they can further pursue them with the agencies that they would have identified in their specific interest.

When and how often is this program offered?

The women meet every month with different topics.

Who can participate in this program?

HIV positive African and Caribbean women in Toronto and surrounding communities.

How does a PHA become involved in this program?

Contact one of the groups below....

Who should the PHA contact for more information?

Marvelous Muchenje	WHIWH	marvelous@whiwh.com	416-593-7655 ext 4882
Lena Soje	Blackcap	support@black-cap.com	416-977-9955
Fanta Ongoiba	APAA	Fanta@apaa.ca	416-924-5256
Esther Guzha	VOICES	eguzha@vopw.org	416-324-8703
Anna Laziri	ACHES	communityworker@africancommunityhealth.com	416-859-1315

Is there any additional information?

Women from this program have become peer educators.