

Education and Advocacy in with Elected Officials and the HIV Advocacy Organizations



**Presentation to the SF HIV Community Planning Council (HCPC) by Lee Jewel, Communities Organization for Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition Member and HCPC Member and Bill Blum Director HIV Health Services, SF DPH and Chair of CAEAR Coalition
April 27, 2026**

Reflections on Creating Change

“Dripping water hollows out stone, not through force but through persistence.”

– *Ovid*

“You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.”

– *Mahatma Gandhi*

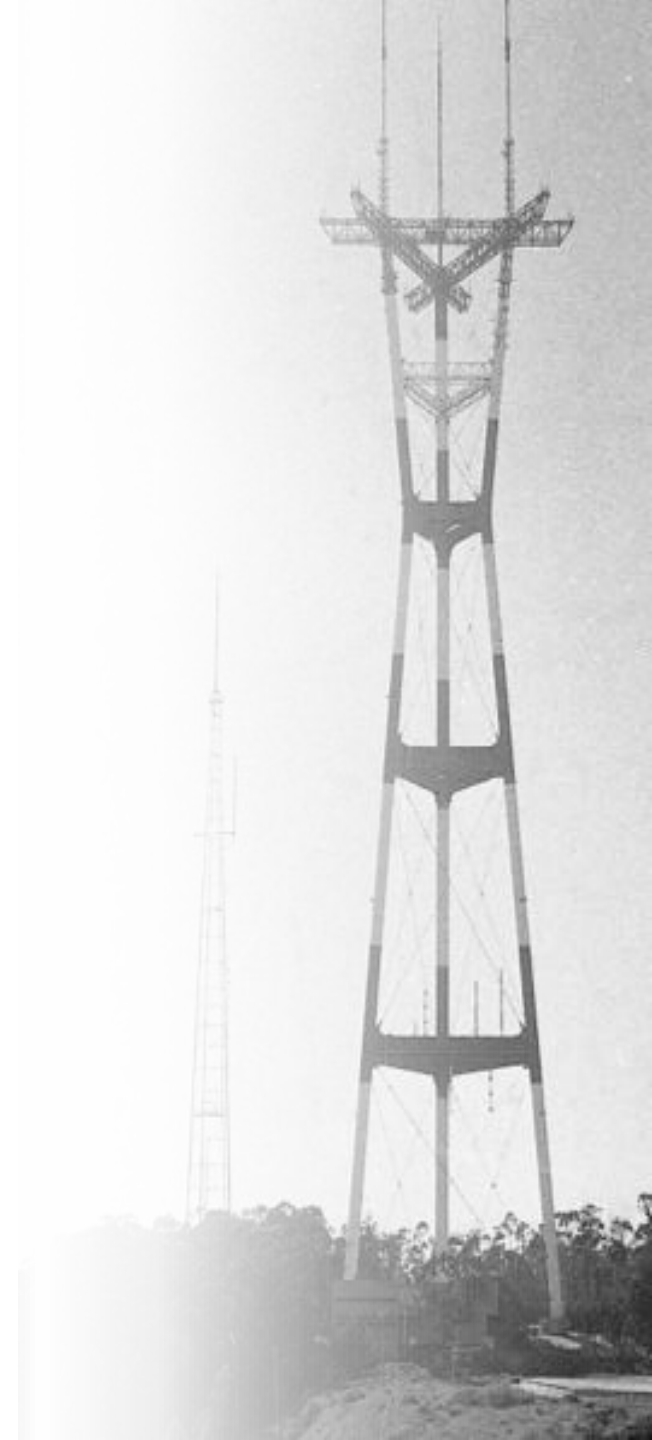
“When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. You have to say something; you have to do something.”

– *John Lewis*



Goals of the Presentation

- **Define education, advocacy and lobbying**
- **Describe the federal budget process**
- **Review Presidential “Skinny Budget”**
- **Orient on work of Communities
Advocating for Emergency AIDS Relief
(CAEAR) Coalition**
- **Briefly orient on some of the other major
national HIV advocacy for funding
agencies**
- **Questions**



What is Advocacy

Everyone is an Advocate!

Education:

- Explain the state of play on the ground and a program's impact.

Advocacy:

- Argue in favor of a cause or idea.



Advocacy Tools

- **Meetings and communications with government officials.**
 - **Share evidence-based policy approaches.**
 - **Share success stories and personal testimonies.**
 - **Share best practices.**
 - **Share nonpartisan study, research, and analysis.**
- **Testimony**
- **Public comment letters**
- **Work in coalitions**
- **Sign-on letters**
- **Nominating local health officials to advisory committees**
- **Grassroots advocacy**



What is Lobbying

- **IRS Definition of Lobbying:** An organization will be regarded as attempting to influence legislation if it contacts, or urges the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation, or if the organization advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation.
- Organizations may, however, involve themselves in issues of public policy without the activity being considered as lobbying. For example, organizations may conduct educational meetings, prepare and distribute educational materials, or otherwise consider public policy issues in an educational manner without jeopardizing their tax-exempt status.

Internal Revenue
Service Building



Abbreviated Review of Federal Budget Process

- **Now Let's Look at a brief video to recap the federal budget process**



Current State of Next Year's Budget

Review of Presidential Skinny Budget

HRSA-HAB & CDC Funding

On April 3, 2026, the Trump Administration released its Fiscal Year 2027 discretionary budget request aka the “skinny budget”:

- **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program**
 - The budget proposes flat funding for Ryan White Part A,B,C,D and Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE)
 - The proposal eliminates Part F programs, including AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETCs), Dental Programs, and Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS).
 - The budget proposes zeroing out of all funding for the Minority HIV/AIDS (MAI) Fund within HHS
 - The budget proposes moving the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program to be housed within the newly created Administration for a Healthy America (AHA)

The Congressional Justification for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Centers for Disease (CDC) was also released with following details:

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
 - More than \$1 billion in cuts to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and Tuberculosis Prevention, including the elimination of core HIV prevention funding
 - Division of HIV Prevention
 - The budget proposes eliminating HIV prevention activities at CDC, a decrease of \$793.7 million.
 - The proposal moves the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative (EHE) HIV prevention activities to AHA.
 - Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Tuberculosis Prevention
 - The budget proposes \$300 million for a consolidated grant program to address Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Tuberculosis Prevention. The stated goal is to “reduce administrative inefficiency and allow for more coordinated approaches. Also, the budget will be used to enhance surveillance and improve disease outbreak detection.”
 - Cutting \$77 million in funding for the CDC's work around viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, and infectious diseases and the overdose epidemic through the creation of a new consolidated grant program.



Current State of Next Year's Budget

Review of Presidential Skinny Budget

Other HIV & Related Funding

- **Department of Housing and Urban Development Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)**
 - The budget proposes to eliminate the HOPWA program, which the Administration describes as “outdated by focusing on housing low-income, homeless, and at-risk HIV-positive individuals, as the prognosis and medical care for HIV have significantly improved
- **Department of Health and Human Services Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy**
 - The budget proposal eliminates the Secretary’s HIV/AIDS Fund
- **340B Drug Pricing Program**
 - The budget proposes moving the 340B Drug Pricing Program oversight from HRSA to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- **Bureau of Primary Care**
 - The President’s Budget Request includes \$157 million for EHE at the Primary Care section of AHA.
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**
 - The budget proposes cutting NIH by ~\$5 billion.
 - \$5 billion in cuts to the National Institutes of Health, including \$1.8 billion in cuts to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is essential for continuing research on new treatments, prevention modalities, and cures for HIV and other infectious diseases.





Vision & Mission

Vision

- End of new HIV infections and full, healthy lives for all people with HIV.

Mission

- Advocate for robust federal funding and community-based responses to end the HIV epidemic. The CAEAR Coalition is a national membership organization rooted in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. It works to end the HIV epidemic by ensuring equitable access to welcoming, high-quality healthcare and support services.

Values Statement

- The CAEAR Coalition's goal is for people with HIV to live full and engaged lives. We commit to ensuring that both our and the federal HIV response centers diversity, equity, and inclusion. The CAEAR Coalition works to model the changes we advocate for in the larger service system to create equity for all and to embrace a status-neutral approach to end the epidemic.



COMMUNITIES ADVOCATING
EMERGENCY AIDS RELIEF

CAEAR

COALITION

Capital Hill Visits



Advocacy Priorities

- **Ensure the Voice of the Community Remains a Central Component of the Federal Response to the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.**
- **Increase Federal HIV/AIDS Resources**
- **Reduce the Administrative Burdens and Increase Flexibility of the RWHAP and EHE Initiative**
- **Promote the Integration of Federal HIV Care and Prevention Efforts**
- **Address Homelessness and the Housing Needs of PWH**
- **Focus on Social Determinants of Health and Promote a Syndemic Approach**

Advocacy Agenda Implementation

- **In-person and Virtual Meetings on Capitol Hill and at Local Congressional Offices**
- **Quarterly Calls with Ryan White Part A Planning Councils**
- **Quarterly Policy Calls with ArentFox Schiff**
- **Quarterly Calls with HRSA-HAB**
- **Member of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership**
- **Town Halls and Special Events to Showcase the RWHAP**
- **Strategic Partnership with NACCHO**



CAEAR & NACCHO Partnership

Ryan White Part A Community of Practice (COP)

- **Ensure Jurisdiction's Voice is Heard**
- **Help Create a National Voice for Local HIV Programs**
- **Inform Communications with HRSA-HAB**
- **Identify Emerging Issues**
- **Share Lessons Learned and Best Practices**



CAEAR & NACCHO Partnership

Quarterly Calls with HRSA-HAB

- **Present summaries of calls, survey results, reports, and pressing questions from our COP calls**
- **Identify needed administrative fixes.**
- **Ensure consistent Project Officer guidance.**
- **Work collaboratively to find solutions.**



AIDS United

<https://aidsunited.org/>

“We have all the scientific tools to end the HIV epidemic. What we lack is the political will to invest in these interventions.”

We bring together organizations from across the United States to advocate for people living with or vulnerable to HIV and the organizations that serve them.

The Public Policy Council operates as a standing committee of the AIDS United board of trustees, informing the policy priorities of the organization.

- *Educating Congress about HIV.*
- *Budget and appropriations advocacy.*
- *Integrating HIV prevention, care and treatment into health care.*
- *Strengthening the Ryan White Program.*
- *Investment in evidence-based prevention strategies.*
- *Greater diversity and inclusiveness.*
- *Pushing the president’s administration to prioritize HIV.*
- *Secure housing for everyone living with and vulnerable to HIV.*
- *Adopting a harm reduction approach.*
- *Ensuring the meaningful involvement of people living with HIV at all levels.*
- *Advocating for policy tactics to address the social determinants of health.*



Save HIV Funding Campaign

<https://savehivfunding.org/>

“Save HIV Funding- Save Lives. Save Costs”



Members of the Save HIV Funding campaign are united in our commitment to protect federal funding and infrastructure supporting access to HIV, STI, Viral Hepatitis, and Substance Use Prevention, Care and Support Services and the continuation of HIV research through collective action and the engagement of community members and legislators.

PrEP4All, AVAC, and the HIV Medicine Association in partnership with the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership launched the Save HIV Funding campaign in 2023 in response to proposed cuts to federal HIV funding.

Save HIV Funding consists over 150 organizations seeking to defend and advance the progress made over four decades

With bipartisan support Save HIV was able to successfully avert \$767 million in domestic HIV funding cuts proposed by Congress.

At the start of 2025, advocates expanded the campaign in response to the Trump Administration’s efforts to aggressively dismantle essential HIV funding and infrastructure.

- Save HIV funding continues to call on President Trump, his administration, and members of Congress to protect existing HIV funding and clearly communicate how HIV prevention, care, treatment, and related services will be protected.**
- Save HIV funding opposes any proposals that would reduce Medicaid funding or restrict access to essential HIV services.**

Federal AIDS Policy Partnership

<https://www.ncrights.org/our-work/legislation-policy/federal-aids-policy-partnership-fa>



- The Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP) is a national coalition of more than 120 local, regional, and national organizations advocating for federal funding, legislation and policy to end the HIV epidemic in the United States. These organizations represent people with HIV and those most affected including communities of color, gay men, women and transgender people, together with HIV medical providers, HIV housing, food and employment providers, HIV/AIDS service and prevention organizations, state and local HIV health department programs, and legal advocates from across the United States and its territories.
- **IDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition (ABAC)**
 - The AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition (ABAC) is an affiliated working group of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership that advocates for increased resources for federal domestic HIV/AIDS programs across the federal government. ABAC coordinates advocacy activities and appropriations requests among a variety of stakeholder organizations. ABAC authors an annual funding chart, a grassroots letter to Congress, and organizes Dear Colleagues in the House and Senate for increased funding. The membership of ABAC is over 110 national and community-based organizations.
 - Aging HIV Working Group (AHWG)
 - HIV Health Care Access Working Group (HHCAWG)
 - HIV/AIDS Prevention Action Coalition (HPAC)

Concluding Thoughts on Change-Related Advocacy

**“I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change.
I am changing the things I cannot accept.”**

– Angela Davis, Author & Civil Rights Activist

**“Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every
person a potential activist, every minute a chance to
change the world.”**

***– Dolores Huerta, American Labor Leader & Civil Rights
Activist***

