

Positive Actions: Breaking HIV Stigma

Empowering peer leaders through positive actions to end HIV stigma in Canada

Funding Overview

Purpose of Document: to provide an overview of the grant and guidelines for potential teams to access positive action seed funding.

Overview

REACH Nexus, with financial support from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), is providing funding and leading a national effort and coordinated strategy to implement and scale up multiple HIV stigma reduction positive actions. We're going to emphasize intersectional approaches and consider how people's different backgrounds and experiences, like their race, gender, sexuality, and economic status are taken into account. Plus, we're going to help out with evaluation processes and make sure there are chances to share what we've learned both regionally and nationally.

Throughout this initiative, we have chosen to use the term positive action rather than intervention, but you can use the terms interchangeably. Both represent initiatives, activities, or actions that promote health at a community, regional, or national level. They also address the social, behavioural, or systemic factors that impact our health by creating change. But after discussions with our community advisory committee, we decided to use the term 'positive action' rather than 'intervention.' We feel it fits better with our vision and more openly inspires strengths based, inclusive, and equitable approaches.

Grant Details:

Number of grants: 3-4*

Amount per grant: up to \$20,000.00

*One grant may be dedicated to a positive action focused on reducing HIV-related stigma in healthcare settings, contingent upon successful completion of all review stages.

Goals

We will strive to support teams to implement and evaluate HIV stigma reduction positive actions that aim to meet one or more of the following goals:

1. Change attitudes and behaviours to reduce HIV-related stigma where it happens.
2. Change stigmatizing policies or practices in healthcare settings, workplaces, and community organizations.
3. Ensure that people living with HIV can access culturally safe and stigma-free services.
4. Improve the health of people living with HIV.
5. Enhance the capacity of and empower people living with HIV (peers) to become stigma reduction champions.

Submission Process

1. We will only require one submission for this funding cycle. A submission template will be provided.
2. Submissions should be sent to Alex Tran – alex.tran@unityhealth.to.
 - a. The deadline for submissions is **Friday January 16, 2026**.
3. Submissions will first undergo a **relevance review** followed by a **full review**. Details are outlined in the submission rubric.
4. Funding results will be announced latest by **February 27, 2026**.

Eligibility criteria

- **Administration of funds**
 - Any team, large or small, existing or just beginning, can apply for a Positive Action grant. However, all teams must have an association with an organization or institution willing to hold and administer grant funds. Please contact us if you have questions about this process.
- **Team Composition**
 - Each team must have one or more persons living with HIV (a peer) in a leadership role (no maximum number).
 - *Optional/Suggested Team Members*
 - A person who works for a frontline organization
 - A person to manage and coordinate positive action activities
 - An academic or student with issue expertise
 - Someone with experience in program evaluation

All funded projects will be required to submit or contribute to:

1. Interim and final narrative reporting
2. Evaluation planning and reporting
3. National KTE activities
4. Financial report(s)

For questions related to this funding overview, please contact Alex Tran (alex.tran@unityhealth.to).