

# Health Department Seeks Community Participation in AIDS Prevention Planning

The Vermont Department Of Health AIDS Program is launching an unprecedented program to involve affected communities in HIV/AIDS prevention planning.

Through a new, federally mandated program, the AIDS Program is seeking community members to serve on a statewide HIV Prevention Community Planning group. The group will conduct a needs assessment of prevention priorities in Vermont and develop a comprehensive plan for prevention activities. This plan will then be the basis for future state activities.

The planning group, which will have approximately 20 members, must be composed of a membership roughly representative of the HIV/AIDS epidemic to date in Vermont. As gay and bisexual men account for two-thirds of the AIDS cases in the state to date, representation from the gay community will be essential. It is particularly important that the committee reflect the diversity of the community in terms of geography, age,

race, HIV status, "outness", and economic and educational backgrounds. In addition to gay and bisexual men, the group will also strive to have representation from past and current injection drug users, ethnic and racial minorities, rural populations, low income people, and people with particular expertise in various prevention issues.

"This is an exciting opportunity to really examine what we are doing and what we need to do for HIV prevention in Vermont" according to Terje Anderson, AIDS Program Chief at the Department of Health. "For prevention to really work, we have to involve affected communities at all stages of designing and implementing programs. This process will be a big part of doing that."

Anyone interested in serving on the planning group should contact Terje Anderson at the Department of Health 1-800-244-7639 or 863-7245 to receive a brief application form. **Applications must be received no later than April 21.** It is anticipated that most planning

group meetings will take place on weekends at relatively central locations, with the most intense level of activity taking place from late May through August. Community members will be eligible for stipends to help cover the cost of transportation, meals, child care and lost wages.

In addition to the planning group itself, community input will also be sought through community meetings, public hearings, surveys and focus groups. There will also be opportunities for community members to be part of workgroups and subcommittees of the planning group. ▼

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## Health Resource Organizations

### AIDS HOTLINES:

Vermont	1-800-882-2437
New Hampshire	1-800-752-2437
New York State	1-800-541-2437
Massachusetts	1-617-522-4090
Maine	1-800-851-2437
National	1-800-342-2437
Canadian	1-613-563-2437

**AIDS Community Awareness Project (ACAP)**  
PO Box 608  
St. Johnsbury VT 05819  
(802) 748-1149

**AIDS Community Resource Network (ACoRN)**  
PO Box 2057  
Lebanon NH 03766  
(603) 448-2220

**Bennington Area AIDS Project**  
PO Box 1066  
Bennington VT 05201  
(802) 442-4481 or 1-800-845-2437

### Brattleboro AIDS Project

PO Box 1486  
Brattleboro VT 05302  
(802) 254-4444 (Helpline)  
(802) 254-8263 (Office)

### Franklin-Grand Isle AIDS Task Force

P. O. Box 241, St. Albans VT 05478  
(800) 524-7742 • (802) 638-7834

### Friends Vermont

Emotional, Spiritual, & Psychological Support  
PO Box 402  
Bristol, VT 05443  
1 800 639-3316

### Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous

GLAA, P.O. Box 5653  
Burlington, VT 05402

### Lesbian Cancer Support Group

(802) 660-8386

### North Star (Holistic Health Care)

RR2 Box 3255  
Morrisville VT 05661 • (802) 888-2858

### Vermont AIDS Council

PO Box 275  
Montpelier VT 05601 • (802) 229-2557

### Vermont C.A.R.E.S.

**(Committee for AIDS Resources, Education, and Services)**  
PO Box 5248  
30 Elmwood Avenue  
Burlington VT 05401  
(802) 863-2437 (Burlington)  
1-800-649-2437 (Outside Burlington Area)

### Vermont Department of Health

1-800-882-2437 (AIDS Hotline) or  
(802) 863-7245 (AIDS Program office)

### VT PWA Coalition

PO Box 1055 • Brattleboro, VT 05302  
1-800-698-8792 or (802) 222-5123

### Vermont Women's Health Center

336 North Avenue  
Burlington VT 05401 • (802) 863-1386