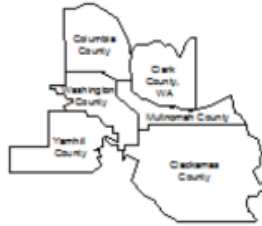




# Portland Area HIV Services Planning Council

*Advocacy and planning for people affected by HIV in the Portland metro area  
Ryan White Program, Part A*



## ***Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)***

### **1. What is the Portland Area HIV Services Planning Council (or “Planning Council”)?**

The Planning Council is a community planning group that oversees the prioritization and allocation of Ryan White CARE Act Part A funds. Part A funds pay for primary medical care, health insurance, mental health services, dental care, substance abuse treatment, medical case management, early intervention services, housing, psychosocial support, and food services for people living with HIV/AIDS who are low income or whose insurance does not cover their needs. Funds are distributed to community-based organizations, public health programs, and community health clinics.

### **2. What does the Council do?**

The Council has several major duties, including:

- determining the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS;
- setting priorities for the allocation of funds;
- developing a comprehensive plan for the organization and delivery of health services; and
- assessing the efficiency of the grant administration and the effectiveness of services;

### **3. Who is on the Planning Council?**

Council members represent a broad range of people involved in the fight against AIDS in the Portland area including people living with HIV/AIDS, service providers, public health officials, and community members. Federal legislation requires that at least one third of the Council members be unaffiliated consumers of Ryan White Program services and that they reflect the demographics of the epidemic in the Portland Transitional Grant Area (TGA). Planning Council members must live within the Portland TGA, which includes five counties in Oregon (Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Yamhill, Columbia) and one county in Washington (Clark).

### **4. What kind of expertise do I need to be on the Planning Council?**

We need various types of expertise on the Council. Those who live with HIV or AIDS, either through their own experience or that of a loved one, bring their lived expertise to the table. Professionals who have cared for patients or clients who are HIV positive have another kind of expertise to bring. It is critical that the Council listen to all types of expertise in order to make the best decisions for people living with HIV in the Portland TGA. Planning Council Support staff & members provide the necessary training to be able to participate in all the Planning Council activities and decisions.

### **5. How much time will I need to commit as a Planning Council member?**

The time commitment to the Planning Council is usually 10 meetings per year, usually the first Tuesday of the month, from 4-7pm (when in-person) or 4-6pm (virtually). The July meeting is 5 hours to allow sufficient time for the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation process. Members choosing to join sub-committees may be required to attend additional committee meetings. Current meeting information is posted on the website: [www.hivportland.org](http://www.hivportland.org)

## **6. Where are the Planning Council and committee meetings held?**

In-persona meetings are generally held at the Multnomah County Southeast Health Center, 3653 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland, OR 97202 and virtual meetings via Zoom.

## **7. How long can I be a member of the Council?**

Each member shall be appointed for a two year term beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>. A member appointed mid-year shall serve a partial term until the following September, at which point their two-year term begins. Members may serve on the Council as long as their interest and commitment exists.

## **8. What will I get out of being a Planning Council member?**

- Experience and knowledge working with Ryan White legislation and other HIV-related services
- Experience with decision making
- Experience with voting and prioritizing
- Leadership skills
- Networking with other stakeholders
- Updates on current HIV issues
- Experience with shaping the HIV service system by ensuring that resources are allocated where they are needed
- Making a real difference for people living with HIV in the Portland TGA

The Planning Council is a volunteer commitment. In addition, unaffiliated members living with HIV who serve on the Council, receive incentive gift cards for each Council meeting attended.

## **9. How does one join the Council?**

Membership application forms are available from Council staff and on the Council web site, [www.hivportland.org](http://www.hivportland.org). The Nominations Committee reviews applications and interviews potential applicants on an on-going basis. The Nominations Committee selects nominees and forwards names to the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee votes on the applicants, and the names are forwarded to the Multnomah County Chair of the Board of Commissioners for appointment. The Membership Committee strongly recommends that persons thinking about applying to the Council attend a full Council meeting first.

## **10. Is there a deadline to apply?**

No, you are welcome to apply for membership at any point during the year. Applications are available by request and online at [www.hivportland.org](http://www.hivportland.org)

## **11. Can one participate without becoming a member?**

All Council meetings and committee meetings are open to the public. Public comment is taken at the beginning of each full Council meeting. The Council also holds community forums throughout the year to gather input from specific communities or neighborhoods.

## **12. How does one contact Council members or staff?**

Contact and meeting information can be found at [www.HIVPortland.org](http://www.HIVPortland.org)

Planning Council staff can be reached at [pc.hgap@multco.us](mailto:pc.hgap@multco.us) or 503-307-9767