The U.S. South is the epicenter of the nation’s HIV and AIDS epidemic. A group of funders has come together to change that.

Join us.

People living in the U.S. South experience tremendous gaps in access to health insurance and care, caused by structural barriers such as poverty, inadequate education, stigma, racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia. These issues, in turn, pose significant obstacles to accessing treatment and support for HIV and AIDS.

This confluence of barriers and obstacles is exemplified by the rates of HIV and AIDS in the region: The South is home to 44% of all people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. In some Southern states, those living with HIV are three times as likely to die as those in other states. Yet, annually, the region receives less than a quarter of total HIV-related philanthropy for the U.S. – $35 per person living with HIV in the Deep South, compared to $116 nationally.

We must dismantle the structural barriers preventing progress against HIV and AIDS and other health conditions in the U.S. South.

Private funders are acting to foster change

A team of partners, brought together by Funders Concerned About AIDS and including Gilead Sciences, Ford Foundation, the Elton John AIDS Foundation, and ViiV Healthcare, are launching the Southern HIV Impact Fund. Through coordinated investment, the Fund will:

• Catalyze a demonstrable increase in both leadership and collaboration across the region, creating a robust pipeline of leaders for today and the future;
• Engage and support the remarkable leaders of the social justice movements to help strengthen and lead the fight; and
• Foster a community of learning, to deepen relationships between communities and donors, that will sustain this effort over time.
Administered by AIDS United – the nation’s leading organization advocating for a coordinated response to HIV in partnership with community based groups around the country – the Southern HIV Impact Fund incorporates HIV into a broader, integrated movement for social justice and seeks to positively impact the social determinants of health in the region. Importantly, this work will be led by organizations representing communities most affected in the South.

You Can Make a Difference. Whether your funding focuses on health, poverty alleviation, LGBTQ rights, or other social justice issues, those same communities you support are also affected by HIV and AIDS. This is an opportunity to quickly and strategically increase your impact, and deepen your organization’s leadership in the South.

Please share this information with your grantees, and consider becoming a Southern HIV Impact Fund partner. Contact us to learn more.

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