

NATIONAL WORKING POSITIVE COALITION

*Strengthening Responses to Employment Needs of
People Living with or at Greater Vulnerability to HIV*

We are deeply thankful to NWPC's powerhouse partners, volunteers, allies, and staff for multi-directional collaboration in our activities in 2024 - and for full strength commitment to our work together to address vital needs of people living with HIV in 2025!

NWPC presents a full-day employment forum for long-term HIV survivors in Jackson, Mississippi with The Reunion Project on November 8



Many thanks to the extraordinary group of community members and leadership representatives of local and statewide employment, training, and education resources that assembled for a landmark connection and exchange of information and support to expand employment opportunities for people living with HIV across Mississippi!

NWPC work supported by new 3-year grants from ViiV Healthcare

We are deeply grateful to ViiV Healthcare for their award of 3-year

grants to NWPC for program and general operating support. These empower us to deepen our education, training, and technical assistance activities to strengthen responses to the employment needs of people living with or at greater vulnerability to HIV.

NWPC leaders present and participate in White House Office of National AIDS Policy convening, Enhancing the Lives of People Living with HIV: A Quality of Life Symposium on December 5



NWPC's Executive Director, Mark Misrok, participated with the U.S. People Living with HIV Caucus Steering Committee and the White House Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) in planning Enhancing the Lives of People Living with HIV: A Quality of Life Symposium at the White House on December 5. Mark presented on Employment and Economic Justice for People Living with HIV and co-facilitated a breakout discussion with Liza Conyers, Co-chair of NWPC's Research Working Group and Vice President of the NWPC Board of Directors. Dr. Conyers presented in the Symposium as well, on HIV and employment research and needs assessment findings, and she and Mark co-presented recommendations emerging from the breakout discussion in the Symposium's closing plenary report-back session. Much thanks to Francisco Ruiz, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, working with Tyler James Prah, from the CDC, for making this landmark convening happen!

NWPC Training Team provides a virtual training on HIV stigma for statewide vocational rehabilitation counseling staff of the Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services on December 10

NWPC developed a curriculum on HIV stigma for the Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), and presented it virtually for vocational rehabilitation counselors from across the state on December 10. Vanessa Johnson, NWPC's Board President, and Co-Executive Director of Ribbon, with Heather O'Connor, NWPC's Communications and Administrative Specialist, joined Mark Misrok, NWPC's Executive Director, in developing and presenting the two-hour training.

NWPC Executive Director addresses the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) on December 12



Mark Misrok, NWPC's E.D., calls for action while spotlighting the lack of and need for federal responses to the employment needs of people living with HIV, including stark recent statistics shared by the CDC showing extremely high percentages of people living with HIV living in poverty (33%), closely matching percentages of people living with HIV who are not employed (35%).

NWPC leaders meet with Assistant Secretary of Labor Taryn M. Williams from the Department of Labor (DOL)/Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) on December 19

As a follow up to discussions in the December 5th Symposium at the White House on addressing quality of life needs of people living with HIV, the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy

(ODEP) leadership hosted NWPC leaders for a discussion of possible next steps to take action. Taryn M. Williams, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, and Jennifer Sheehy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, met with NWPC's E.D., Mark Misrok, and Board President, Vanessa Johnson, for discussion of potential strategies to close gaps in the federal response to the needs of people living with HIV for access to employment-related information, services, and resources, with efforts to potentially include DOL's Employment and Training Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services' HIV/AIDS Bureau, the CDC, and the Administration for Community Living.

Additional Updates:

- Chicago HIV Employment Services Network builds momentum in 2024
 - National HIV and Employment Resource Center, a centralized online information resource, to be launched in 2025
 - Training webinars for people living with HIV and for service providers in NY state, Chicago/New Orleans/Baton Rouge, and Hartford presented in 2024
 - NWPC to present full-day employment forum for long-term survivors in Norfolk, Virginia on Friday, February 28, 2025
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