AIDS ACTION

Mission

To stop the epidemic and related health inequities by eliminating new infections, maximizing healthier outcomes for those infected and at risk, and tackling the root causes of HIV/AIDS.

Programs and Services Guide

Photos by Caitlin Cunningham Photography
OUR WORK

Started in 1983, AIDS Action (now the public health division of Fenway Health) is New England’s largest HIV/AIDS services organization.

Fenway Health, The Fenway Institute, and AIDS Action work together to prevent new HIV infections, provide services to those living with HIV, and conduct groundbreaking research on HIV/STI treatments and prevention while searching for a cure. At AIDS Action, we provide prevention services, including HIV/HCV/STI testing to those populations most at risk, such as men who have sex with men and Transgender individuals, and people who inject drugs, we offer legal and housing assistance, fight HIV-related discrimination, and advocate for governmental policy changes to help those at risk or living with HIV.

As a result, our clients are more likely to know their HIV status, connect with the health care system, and keep themselves and their families safer from HIV infection.

AT-A-GLANCE

During our 2020 calendar year, AIDS Action:

- Tested more than 1,359 gay and bisexual men, transgender people, and people who inject drugs for HIV.
- Trained 556 people in overdose prevention. Individuals trained to administer Naloxone through our overdose prevention programs helped save the lives of 46 people in overdose situations. Additionally, we distributed 2,168 doses of Narcan.
- Distributed 8,391 condoms in an effort to prevent HIV transmission.
- Distributed 240,682 clean syringes and collected 271,810 used syringes.
- Helped 136 clients impacted by HIV avoid becoming homeless through our Rental Assistance Program.
- Took on 214 cases, which covered a wide range of client needs, including: housing and eviction, SSI/SSDI denial, and family law cases.
- Served 46 transgender or gender-diverse clients across all of our housing, supportive services, housing, RAP, and Youth on Fire programs.
- Provided drop-in services to 116 at-risk, street-involved youth through Youth on Fire.

STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Health care inequity is a social justice issue that impacts BIPOC communities, people who are LGBTQIA+, those who inject drugs, and other marginalized communities. We are committed to breaking down barriers and working towards the principle that healthcare is a right, not a privilege.

Fenway Health and AIDS Action advocate for legislation and budget priorities that align with our mission to serve vulnerable communities and combat inequalities in health care access. We work with community members and elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels to take action around issues that are important to people living with HIV/AIDS/HCV and the communities we serve.

To learn more, visit the Fenway Health Advocacy page on the web at fenwayhealth.org/press/advocacy

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Expanding education and awareness to fight HIV

AIDS Walk & 5K Run Boston
The largest community awareness and fundraising event for HIV/AIDS in New England. aidswalkboston.org

Bayard Rustin Community Breakfast
An annual call-to-action for LGBTQIA+ communities of color in Boston. aac.org/rustin

Getting to Zero Coalition
We lead the Getting to Zero Coalition, which works to create public health policies and systems that reduce HIV infections and connect those who are infected to care. gettingtozeroma.org

Please note: Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, some of AIDS Action’s in-person services were closed. This resulted in the organization being able to serve a reduced number of clients in several areas.

Visit www.aac.org/programs for more information about our services.
SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

Our navigation, housing and legal programs provide a comprehensive set of services for People Living with HIV (PLWH) to support access to medical care, address health-related social needs, and help them achieve HIV viral suppression. Call our front desk at 617.437.6200 for more information.

Integrated Navigation Services

Our Integrated Navigation Services Program provides short-term advocacy for People Living with HIV (PLWH) to support linkage to medical care, retention in care, access to treatment and viral suppression. Advocates provide assessment and referrals for health-related social needs, including housing, food, transportation and legal.

Our Client Intake Specialist, Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) Navigator and Linkage to Care Coordinator work collaboratively across departments to create systems and practices that provide a continuum of care and services through coordination with Housing, Medical Case Management and clinical providers. Call our front desk at 617.437.6200 for more information.

Housing

Housing staff support clients with housing search, rental and utility assistance, and housing stabilization support.

• The Housing Search Program helps clients obtain safe, affordable housing. Advocates assist clients with applying to a wide variety of affordable housing options, accompany clients to housing appointments, and navigates the appeals process if a denial occurs to help clients obtain housing that meets their needs and goals. The team compiles information about open waitlists, affordable housing lottery deadlines, and other affordable housing opportunities. More information at 857.313.6768.

• The Rental Assistance Program provides short-term navigation and emergency financial assistance for households who face eviction or unaffordable housing, need assistance with move-in costs, face utilities shutoff, or need assistance with heating costs. We help individuals in emergency situations, and work to create long-term, sustainable, and improved living conditions. More information at 857.313.6756.

• The Supportive Housing Program provides housing subsidies and services to people who are exiting homelessness. These programs match clients with safe, affordable housing throughout Greater Boston. Households are offered case management services and housing stabilization support. Clients work with housing case managers to improve their health, build tenancy skills, improve self-sufficiency, and work on individualized goals. More information at 857.313.6770.

Legal Services

The Legal Services Department provides direct representation and legal advice in a variety of civil matters. The goal of the department is to advocate for the legal rights of those living with HIV/AIDS in the Boston metropolitan area and throughout Massachusetts. We believe that access to legal services will allow our clients to live healthier and safer lives. Call 857.313.6841 for more information.

DRUG USER HEALTH SERVICES

The ACCESS: Drug User Health Program is a state funded and sanctioned syringe service program (SSP) serving people in the Boston and Cambridge service areas who inject drugs (PWID).

Service offerings include:

- Syringe Exchange and Harm Reduction supplies including injection supplies and safe smoking materials
- Overdose prevention/Narcan training and distribution
- HIV/HCV/STI testing, treatment, and connections to care
- Linkages to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Medical Clinic (Wed. and Fri. mornings) w/walk-in and appointment-based availability
- Walk-in Behavioral Health hours

Please call 857.313.6800 to speak with a staff member about any questions you have.

SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES

Our programs are focused on HIV and STI prevention, particularly among men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender individuals, populations at higher risk for HIV. Call 617.267.0159 for more information.

HIV/HCV/STI Testing

We deliver HIV, hepatitis C, and STI (gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis) confidential testing and counseling services within our targeted prevention programs. For individuals who test positive for an STI, a public health nurse on staff can provide treatment.

HIV Medical Care

Linkage to Care Coordinators help navigate newly identified HIV-positive individuals to medical care. They can also assist with reengagement for individuals who may have fallen out of care. Through their navigation, they can assist with insurance needs, transportation, and make the proper referrals to other services where needed.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV Prevention

Health Navigators provide PrEP education and help connect at-risk individuals to providers who can prescribe PrEP, an antiretroviral medication taken daily, that helps prevent HIV.

Youth On Fire

Our drop-in center for unstably housed youth ages 14–24 offers basic necessities, case management, health systems navigation, and access to medical care and community resources.
GET INVOLVED

There are many ways you can support Fenway Health in our work to stop the HIV/AIDS epidemic. No matter how you choose to contribute, your efforts ensure we will continue to provide people with the services they need to live healthy and productive lives.

Give
Your financial gift supports our innovative programs and services. Visit aac.org/donate to make a gift today.

Become a Corporate Sponsor
Investing in community health is investing in your business. Help the people in our communities thrive by sponsoring Fenway Health and our many community events. Email the Development team to learn more at development@fenwayhealth.org.

Take Action
Learn about our policy and advocacy agenda and how you can work with your elected officials to support better policies and increased funding. Sign up at fenwayhealth.org/press/advocacy.

Volunteer
Giving your time is another way to fight HIV/AIDS. For more information on volunteer opportunities, visit fenwayhealth.org/about/get-involved.

Participate
Support our work by participating in a fundraising or community event. Find out more at fenwayhealth.org/upcoming-events.

Donate and Shop at Boomerangs
Do good. Look great! Shop our award-winning Boomerangs resale stores in Jamaica Plain Central Square, and the South End. All proceeds support the work of Fenway Health. More at shopboomerangs.org.

CONTACT US

Are you HIV Positive?
Call our Client Hotline at 617.450.1303 for assistance.

Are you HIV Negative?
Call 617.267.0159 to get connected to HIV & STD testing and other services
Main: 617.437.6200
Fax: 617.437.6445
TTY: 617.437.1394
Email: information@fenwayhealth.org

AIDS Action Locations

Boston Office (Main Office)
75 Amory Street
Boston, MA 02119

Cambridge Office
359 Green Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Youth on Fire
Drop-in Center for Homeless and Street Involved Youth
1 Church Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Boomerangs Stores

Jamaica Plain
716 Centre St.
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Central Square
563 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Special Edition in the South End
1407 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02118
Visit online: shopboomerangs.org

AIDS Action is the public health division of Fenway Health.