

# AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT

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UPDATES FOR JANUARY HIV PLANNING GROUP MEETING

# AD-HOC COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

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- Established in 2019
- Goals for the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan (p. 17 IHPCP 2022 – 2026)
  - *Increase capacity and implementation of vocational development and employment services*
    - *evaluation of these services on HIV health and prevention outcomes*
  - *Identify the employment needs of people living with or with greater vulnerability to HIV in Pa.*
  - *Increase involvement and collaboration to inform planning, implementation, and evaluation.*
    - *Pa. Department of Labor*
    - *Other chronic illness/ disability rights groups addressing employment needs*
  - *Provide training to case managers, HIV service providers, and Department of Labor staff*

# ACHIEVEMENTS

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- Collaboration with National Working Positive Coalition
  - Participation in National Convening on HIV and Employment
    - Ad-hoc committee members participated
    - Provided input to development of convening and its final recommendations
  - Collaboration with the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
    - Ryan Hyde, Executive Director, is a member of the committee
    - Kaitlin Salvati, VR Specialist, is a designated liaison and member of the committee
      - Presented an overview of OVR services at the November HPG Meeting
    - OVR appointed staff liaisons for Ryan White regional service providers
    - HIV training provided to OVR staff
    - Overview of OVR services provided to a number of HIV providers across the state.

# COLLABORATION WITH TEMPLE UNIVERSITY TO CONDUCT EMPLOYMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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- Invited by Dr. Eva Weiss of Temple University to contribute to a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment (CSNA).
  - CSNA informs the PA Vocational Rehabilitation State Plan, and consequently budget, and identifies evidence-based practices and recommendations to better meet the employment/employment service needs of Pennsylvanians with disabilities.
  - Ad-hoc committee role:
    - Assist with developing brief (5-7 item) online survey to identify employment needs of PLHIV
    - Assist with the distribution of the survey link to key stakeholders
    - Provide input to facilitating focus group and individual interviews to add qualitative data
    - Identify other existing data sources that may help to inform employment needs
      - Medical Monitoring Project

# HIV EMPLOYMENT SERVICE NEEDS SURVEY ITEM I

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**1. What is your current employment status? {select all that apply}**

- Working Full-time
- Working Part-time
- Temporary/Seasonal
- Gig work
- Self-employed
- Not working

# HIV EMPLOYMENT SERVICE NEEDS SURVEY ITEM 2

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**2. Do you know where to get resources about addressing any health and/or financial barriers to getting or changing your job?**

- Yes, and I have used these resources
- Yes, but I have not used these resources
- No

# HIV EMPLOYMENT SERVICE NEEDS SURVEY ITEM 3

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**3. Would you like to learn more about how you could work without losing any benefits such as: (e.g., SSI, SSDI, HOPWA)?**

- Yes
- No

# HIV EMPLOYMENT SERVICE NEEDS SURVEY ITEM 4

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**4. Would you like any support or resources to help get a job, change jobs, or advance in your current position?**

- Yes
- No

# HIV EMPLOYMENT SERVICE NEEDS SURVEY ITEM 5

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## **5. Are you familiar with the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation?**

- Yes, and I have used these resources
- Yes, but I have not used these resources
- No

# HIV EMPLOYMENT SERVICE NEEDS SURVEY ITEM 6

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## 6. Are you familiar with Skill-up PA?

- Yes, and I have used Skill-up PA
- Yes, but I have not used Skill-up PA
- No

# HIV EMPLOYMENT SERVICE NEEDS SURVEY ITEM

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## **7. What are the reasons you do not need employment support? (check all that apply)**

- I am happy with my current job
- I am retired
- I don't need help
- I am afraid of losing my benefits
- I have too many health concerns
- Stigma, I don't want anyone to know my HIV status.

# EXIT MESSAGE

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- Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions. We appreciate your input and will use this information to do our best to address your needs and preferences. Below we list several employment and job-training related resources for you to explore, as interested. We also provide an opportunity to be listed as a contact for any future paid research participation opportunities.
  - PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Skill-up PA
  - PA Career Link

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- **Are you interested in participating in any potential paid research opportunities related to vocational training and/or employment opportunities for people living with HIV?**

- No {Exit survey}
- Yes {Link to separate survey to ensure anonymous responses to the main survey}

- Please let us know how you prefer to be reached.

1. First name, Phone option, Email option

# RECOMMENDED DISTRIBUTION

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- **PA Positive Women's Network**
- **PA US Caucasus of People Living with HIV .**
- **Ryan White Part B Regional Stakeholders**
- **PPA providers**
- **Project Teach**
- **HIV Justice Alliance**
- **Sero List serve**
- **SPBP**
- **AIDS Law Project of PA**
  
- **Private HIV providers – look into more**
- **National Assn for Peer Support -- look into more**

# NEXT STEPS

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- Temple Staff
  - Complete literacy test and edit for literacy, as needed.
  - Complete IRB review through Temple
  - Program survey for online distribution
- Ad-Hoc Committee
  - Pilot survey prior to distribution
  - Assist with coordination of distribution to recommended sites
  - Provide input to summary of results for the CSNA Report
  - As appropriate, use outcomes to seek funding for greater access to needed services
  - Provide input into the focus groups and/or individual interviews.