



## Center for AIDS Research Community Action Board Stigma Working Group

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**Key Question:** Can community mobilization reduce HIV stigma among gay, bi, and other MSM?

**Population:** Gay, bi and other men who have sex with men, including transmen along the I-5 corridor in Oregon and Washington

**Focus:** Interrupting stigmatizing behavior in yourself and in others

### 2016/2017 Activities:

- Perform a systematic literature review and write a journal article describing the findings
- Perform formative qualitative research including focus groups and interviews  
Engage elected officials to proclaim National Gay and Bi Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on September 27th to be -anti-stigma day (Wording to be developed)
- Engage social, community and health organizations to design their own anti-stigma activity to be implemented on or around September 27<sup>th</sup>. (Think of it as crowd sourcing and/or grassroots organizing.)
- Using all of the information gathered from the various activities above, write an R21 research grant proposal to NIH

### Description:

The CFAR CAB, in collaboration with community-based organizations and health departments, proposes to organize a community mobilization campaign to reduce HIV stigma among men who have sex with men (MSM). HIV stigma impacts both sero-positive and sero-negative MSM, causing significant drop-off on the HIV care continuum in the areas of testing/diagnosis, linkage to care, and viral suppression, as well as perpetuating stigma associated with sex and sexuality. Among people living with HIV/AIDS, the stigma attached to this disease is a primary determinant of health and well-being, especially when coming from members of their own communities.

To increase awareness of the 2016 National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, address HIV stigma and empower MSM communities, this collaboration will promote community mobilization activities with the central theme of "A Call to Action to Reduce HIV Stigma among Gay Men and Other MSM Populations". We will work with community organizations to develop culturally appropriate, community-centered activities to increase awareness about and reduce HIV stigma, as well as interrupt stigmatizing behaviors. In support of and to promote the day, we will collaborate with elected officials to issue a proclamation. We will offer a workshop series describing the elements of HIV stigma and basic HIV reduction strategies. These strategies will be demonstrated on a day of action to reduce HIV Stigma, and will be collated and presented as an ongoing resource.

*If funding allows, these organizations will also be able to apply to the CFAR CAB for seed funds to develop their activities. After the awareness day, descriptions of a videos or other social from their events will be posted on a website to serve as an ongoing resource for addressing HIV stigma. One organization will receive an award for the best stigma-addressing activity.*

The proposed activities will target MSM populations along the I-5 corridor in Washington and Oregon, in which incidence of HIV infection has decreased except in MSM populations. HIV stigma within the MSM community continues to be a major barrier to prevention practices and HIV care engagement for this population.