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## Benefits to Consumers and Providers

As an organization of consumers, the CAG is positioned to assess the quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of funded services. The relationship between consumers and service providers creates an environment that fosters the following benefits to both consumers and the agencies or other community groups they advise.

- Consumer self-determination promotes self-management and independence through increased knowledge, the fellowship and support of other consumers, and fostering an environment with decreased stigma and isolation.
- Leadership skills and a sense of empowerment among consumers aid in their roles as advisors to agency CAGs, local service providers and each other.
- Build and maintain partnerships in wellness with consumers and providers in improving service quality, type of service, program evaluation and focus provider programmatic policies on consumer needs and concerns.
- Create networking opportunities to increase consumer knowledge and provider sensitivity to consumer needs.

## How to become a CAG member

To apply a consumer must be recommended by the area HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator and complete an application. The application may be obtained by calling (850) 245-4334 and asking for the Consumer Advisory Group Liaison.



Sponsored by the  
Florida Department of Health  
Bureau of HIV/AIDS

Department of Health  
Bureau of HIV/AIDS  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, BinA09  
Tallahassee, FL 32311-1715

For more information on peer programs in your area.  
Phone: (850)-254-4444 x 2540 or toll free (866) 560-4927  
Fax: 850-414-6719



# Florida Statewide Consumer Advisory Group



**CAG**  
Florida Statewide Consumer Advisory Group  
Working together, building a successful tomorrow  
for positive individuals today.



*Working together,  
building a successful  
tomorrow for  
positive individuals today.*

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# What is CAG?

**CAG stands for**

## **Consumer Advisory Group**

The CAG is a group of HIV+ consumers from around Florida selected through an application process and reflective of the profile of the epidemic in Florida.

Applicants must be HIV+ and have been or still involved with their local agency consumer groups, local Ryan White Consortium or other HIV related community-based groups.

Members are appointed for a two year commitment and may reapply for subsequent terms. The members serve under the guidance of the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS.



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The CAG exists to provide a mechanism in which consumers can have meaningful input into the development of policies and programs to address their needs with and under the auspices of the Bureau of HIV/AIDS.

## **Consumer Advisory Group**

### **Goals**

- Provide input on the quality, accessibility and function of existing and proposed HIV-related care and prevention services.
- Identify and provide input on gaps in HIV-related services and barriers to care.
- Recommend new programs and changes to existing programs
- Provide consumer input to the Bureau of HIV/AIDS and community-based providers regarding the development and implementation of programs and policies.

- Increase consumer participation on community-based agency Board of Directors and local planning bodies.
- Increase the number of persons at risk who know their status
- Decrease the number of new HIV infections.
- Improve the health and quality of life for those who are living with and at high risk of



*Consumer Advisory Group 2008-2010*

