

## Scholarship Application

Due Nov. 20, 2015 – 8PM ET/5PM PT

**About AIDSWatch:** AIDSWatch is the largest annual national constituent-based advocacy event focused on HIV policy in the United States. The event draws hundreds of people living with HIV and their allies to Washington, DC for two days to educate Members of Congress and their staff about HIV. Participants will receive training on current science, legislative priorities, and how to conduct effective meetings with their elected representatives.

**Scholarships Available for AIDSWatch 2016:** A total of 50 hotel & travel scholarships will be issued through this process. Travel accommodations will include two nights (Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup> and Monday February 29<sup>th</sup>) at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, DC along with airfare, train, or mileage reimbursement for transportation. Hotel rooms will be shared (two scholarship recipients in a double room) and participants will be responsible for all incidental costs at hotel, ground transport, and meals outside of AIDSWatch plenary meals (breakfast and lunch on Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>).

### Scholarship Criteria and Considerations

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- **Involvement of people living with HIV:** A minimum of 50% of scholarships are designated for people living with HIV.
- **Geographic Diversity:** Attendees from across the United States are encouraged to apply. Applicants must live at least 90 miles or more from Washington, DC to be considered for travel scholarship.
- **Prior Participation:** Applicants who have previously been awarded scholarships for AIDSWatch, but did not attend all sessions of AIDSWatch will not be considered for scholarships in 2016.

To be considered for a scholarship, this form along with required supplemental materials (reference & personal statement) must be completed, signed, and received by November 20, 2015 8PM ET/5 PM PT, by e-mail to [AIDSWatch@aidsunited.org](mailto:AIDSWatch@aidsunited.org), or by fax to **(202) 408-1818**.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please submit all materials together in one packet. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

### AIDSWatch Registration

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Scholarship recipients are automatically registered for AIDSWatch. For attendees who do not apply for, or receive a scholarship, registration will open September 30, 2015. There is a small registration fee of \$20.00 for AIDSWatch, which can be paid by check, money order, or debit/credit card. If this fee presents a challenge, special arrangements can be made by contacting [AIDSWatch@aidsunited.org](mailto:AIDSWatch@aidsunited.org). For registration and more information on AIDSWatch 2016, visit [www.AIDSUnited.org/AIDSWatch](http://www.AIDSUnited.org/AIDSWatch).

## Application Timeline

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November 20, 2015 8 PM ET/ 5PM PT:	Applications due
December 11, 2015:	Awardees selected and notified
February 28 – March 1, 2016:	AIDSWatch 2016

## Attendance and Expectations

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Scholarship recipients are **REQUIRED** to fully participate in all AIDSWatch 2016 activities including:

- **Training/Orientation:** Monday, February 29 – Washington Court Hotel 8:30 to 1pm
- **Positive Leadership Awards Reception:** Monday, February 29 – Capitol Hill 5:30 to 8pm
- **Congressional Meetings:** Meetings with Congressional offices will be scheduled to occur on March 1. Most attendees will conduct meetings in small teams and will have at least 3 to 5 half-hour meetings scheduled (two Senate, and 1 to 3 House of Representatives). Meetings will be scheduled and confirmed approximately one week before AIDSWatch.
- **Meeting Follow-Up:** Scholarship recipients will be asked to submit Congressional meeting feedback forms for each meeting they attend, describing how the meeting went and which topics were covered. Forms will be provided at AIDSWatch.

## Scholarships – Important Details

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**Travel Arrangements:** Travel arrangements will be made directly by the AIDSWatch organizing team. Travel will be booked to guarantee arrival in Washington, DC no later than 5pm on Sunday Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, and departures will be booked for 6pm or later on Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup> so as to ensure all participants can complete hill visits. **Any costs incurred due to modifications to ticketed air/rail travel is the sole responsibility of the scholarship recipient.**

**Hotel:** Recipients will receive two nights covered at Washington Court Hotel (525 New Jersey Avenue, NW; Washington DC, 20001), directly paid by organizers to the hotel – **Sunday, February 28 & Monday, February 29, 2016. Recipients should expect to share a room with another scholarship recipient.** Hotel reservations will be made by AIDSWatch organizers.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Scholarships cover rooms and travel only** – any meals or incidental costs incurred by participants will be the responsibility of attendee. Recipients will be required to provide their own credit or debit card to check in at the hotel for coverage of incidental expenses (debit cards will have a hold placed on them for \$100 per night in advance by the hotel, and any funds not spent will be released back to card holder, credit cards will be charged as expenses are incurred). Scholarship recipients are responsible for their own local ground transport to and from the hotel and meetings. Scholarships are non-transferrable.

## Scholarship Application

Due Nov. 20, 2015 – 8PM EST/5PM PST

### Applicant Information:

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First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization Affiliation (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### Applicant Reference (Letter of Support):

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Due to considerable resources invested in scholarships, and to ensure all scholarships get utilized to full potential; organizers require scholarship applicants to provide a letter of reference that can speak to applicant's engagement in the field, reliability, and accountability.

References may be provided by allied staff at local agencies, case managers, or other colleagues. The letter of support should clearly identify the reference's name, full contact information, organizational affiliation, how the individual knows the scholarship applicant, in what capacity, and for how long. The letter should be no more than one page.

### Demographic Data:

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Please note – All demographic data requested is optional and applicants completing this section should feel free to check as many boxes as needed to describe themselves. (With exception of ensuring minimum of 50% of scholarships support engagement of people living with HIV in AIDSWatch and for potential room sharing, demographic data is collected simply to inform future outreach efforts).

<b>HIV Status:</b>	HIV-Positive	HIV-Negative	Unsure	Prefer not to disclose		
<b>Gender:</b>	Male	Female	Trans*man	Trans*woman		
	Gender Non-Conforming					
<b>Sexual Orientation:</b>	Gay	Lesbian	Bisexual	Heterosexual	Other	
<b>Age Range:</b>	15-24	25 – 34	35-44	46-54	55-64	65+
<b>Race:</b>	African American/Black		American Indian or Alaska Native		Asian	
	Mixed Race	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		Native American		
	White (Non-Hispanic)		Latino or Hispanic			

**Short Essays -Tell us about Yourself:** Attach brief responses to the questions below. Limit your response to one page total, single-sided. We want to hear why you want to come to AIDSWatch, what you expect to get out of it, and what you will do with the experience when you go home. Successful scholarship applicants will answer all the questions below clearly and concisely.

1. Provide a brief statement summarizing your experience and interests related to HIV.
2. Describe your experience in HIV advocacy, if any, and any plans you have to participate in HIV advocacy other than AIDSWatch 2016. If you received a scholarship to AIDSWatch previously, tell us what you have done since then.
3. Explain how you plan to mobilize others to become advocates or allies when you go home.

**By signing this application, I acknowledge the following:**

- ✓ If I receive a scholarship, I commit to attend AIDSWatch, including all AIDSWatch sessions and all Congressional meetings I am scheduled to attend.
- ✓ The hotel room covered by the scholarship is only for the nights of Sunday, February 28, and Monday, February 29. All meals and/or incidental costs incurred by me at the hotel will be my responsibility to cover.
- ✓ I understand that I am expected to stay involved in AIDSWatch follow-up activities, including a post-AIDSWatch webinar organized by the US People Living with HIV Caucus.
- ✓ I have included my one-page statement and reference letter with this application as a single submitted application package.

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**Name** (please print neatly)

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**Signature**

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**Date**