Scholarship Application
Due October 31, 2017 – 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 (PLHIV) and their allies to Washington, DC for two days to educate Members of Congress and their staff about HIV. Participants will receive training on legislative priorities, relevant research that supports them, and how to conduct effective meetings with their elected representatives.

Scholarships Available for AIDSWatch: A total of 50 hotel & travel scholarships will be issued through this process. Travel accommodations will include two nights of room and tax costs (Sunday March 25th and Monday March 26th) at the Washington Marriot Wardman Park 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 incidental costs at the hotel, as well as any expenses for ground transport, and meals outside of those provided during AIDSWatch (breakfast and lunch on March 26th only).

Scholarship Criteria and Considerations

- **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 90 miles or more from Washington, DC to be considered for a travel and hotel scholarship.
- **Prior Scholarship awards**:
  - Applicants who have previously been awarded scholarships for AIDSWatch, but did not attend all sessions of AIDSWatch are ineligible for scholarships in 2018.
  - Applicants who have NOT received AIDSWatch scholarships in the past two years will receive higher priority for AIDSWatch scholarship.

To be considered for a scholarship, this form along with a required reference & personal statement must be completed, signed, and received by October 31, 2017 at 8PM ET/5 PM PT, by e-mail to 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.

What do we look for when reviewing scholarship applications? Successful scholarship applicants are likely to show us the following:

- Evidence that the applicant has a track record of being active in their community. It doesn’t have to be a long track record. Newbies are totally welcome! We just want to see that you are involved or getting involved in your local HIV community.
- Evidence that the applicant is committed to doing something in their home communities with the skills they gain at AIDSWatch. We are building a movement of leaders, and a lot of this advocacy needs to happen on the ground after you leave DC. These scholarship
opportunities are few, so we are looking for folks who are likely to share this knowledge and these resources with others in their community when they go back home.

- A track record of following through on commitments. We are investing in your leadership and we will be scheduling times for you to meet with Members of Congress, along with your local delegation. We want to know that you show up when you say you will and that you do what you commit to doing.

**AIDSWatch Registration**

Applicants selected to receive a scholarship will be automatically registered for AIDSWatch. For attendees who do not apply for, or receive a scholarship, registration will open December 4, 2017. There is a small registration fee for AIDSWatch, which can be paid by check, money order, or debit/credit card. The registration fee schedule is as follows:

- Regular: December 4, 2017 – February 26, 2018 - $35.00
- Late: February 27, 2018 – March 19, 2018 - $60.00

If this fee presents a challenge, special arrangements can be made to waive the fee by contacting AIDSWatch@aidsunited.org. For registration and more information on AIDSWatch, visit www.AIDSUnited.org/AIDSWatch.
Application Timeline

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<tr>
<td>October 31, 2017 - 8PM ET/5PM PT:</td>
<td>Applications due</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2017</td>
<td>Scholarship recipients selected and notified</td>
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<td>March 26 – March 27, 2017:</td>
<td>AIDSWatch</td>
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Attendance and Expectations

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

- **Training/Orientation:** Monday, March 26 – Washington Marriott Wardman Park 8:30am to 1pm
- **Positive Leadership Awards Reception:** Monday, March 26 – Capitol Hill 5:30pm to 8pm
- **Congressional Meetings:** Meetings with Congressional offices will be scheduled to occur on March 27. 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 fully complete and submit Congressional meeting feedback forms for each meeting they attend, listing who they met with and their contact info, describing how the meeting went and which topics were covered as well as any commitments made by the staffer or follow up information to be sent to the office. Forms will be provided at AIDSWatch.

Scholarship recipients who successfully fulfill the requirements listed above will be eligible to apply for AIDSWatch 2019 scholarships. However, recipients who do not fulfill these requirements will not be considered for scholarships in 2019.

Scholarships – Important Details

**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, March 25th, and departures will be booked for 6pm or later on Tuesday, March 27th to ensure that all participants can complete Hill visits. **Any costs incurred due to non-weather related modifications to ticketed air/rail travel are the sole responsibility of the scholarship recipient.** In the event of weather-related travel disruptions, scholarship recipients are required to communicate directly with the appropriate carrier on which they are ticketed.

**Hotel:** Recipients will receive two nights covered at Washington Marriott Wardman Park (2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC 20008), directly paid by the AIDSWatch organizers to the hotel – **Sunday, March 25 & Monday, March 26, 2018. Recipients should expect to share a room with another scholarship recipient.** Hotel reservations will be made by AIDSWatch organizers.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** **Scholarships cover hotel rooms and travel only** – any meals or incidental costs incurred by participants will be the responsibility of scholarship recipients. 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 transportation to and from the hotel and meetings. **Scholarships are non-transferrable.**
Scholarship Application
Due October 31, 2017 – 8PM ET/5PM PT

Applicant Information:

First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ____________________________

Organization or PLHIV Network Affiliation (Optional):
________________________________________________

Phone: _____________________________ E-mail: __________________________

Street Address: ________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ___________________ Zip Code: _____________

Have you received an AIDSWatch Scholarship before? If so, which year?

_____________________

Applicant Reference (Letter of Support):

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 the 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 reference letter should detail their knowledge of the applicant’s advocacy, community organizing or other participation at local levels. The letter should be no more than one page.

Demographic Data:

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. While answering these questions is not a requirement, please keep in mind that diversity is a consideration in scholarship decisions. Demographic data will also be used to inform future outreach efforts, ensure that a minimum of 50% of scholarships support engagement of people living with HIV in AIDSWatch and for potential room sharing arrangements.

Select all that apply:

HIV Status:  HIV-Positive      HIV-Negative      Unsure      Prefer not to disclose
Sex Assigned at Birth: Male Female

Current Gender Identity: Male Female Transgender

Other (write in) ______________

Sexual Orientation: Gay Lesbian Bisexual Heterosexual

Other (write in) __________

Age Range: 15-24 25 – 34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+

Race: African American/Black American Indian or Alaska Native Asian

Mixed Race Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Native American

White (Non-Hispanic) Latino or Hispanic Other (write in) __________

**Short Essays - tell us about yourself:** Attach brief responses to the questions below. Limit your response to one-page total, single-sided, 12 pt font, double spaced. We want to specifically hear: #1) why you want to come to AIDSWatch, #2) what you expect to get out of it, and #3) what you will do with the experience when you go home, including how you plan on sharing your policy training and AIDSWatch experience with other advocates. Successful scholarship applicants will answer all the questions below clearly and concisely.

1. Provide a brief (1 paragraph) statement summarizing your experience and interests related to HIV (if you have HIV, then how did this affect your life? How long have you lived with it? What has changed? Have you found another community of people living with HIV? If you do not have HIV, how have you been an effective ally? Be specific).

2. Describe your experience in HIV advocacy in 1 paragraph. What issues are you passionate about? What is the largest concern in your state? What issues do you want to know more about? Do you have any plans to participate in HIV advocacy other than AIDSWatch?

3. Explain how you plan to mobilize others to become advocates or allies when you go home in 1 paragraph. If you received a scholarship to AIDSWatch previously, tell us the year(s) and what you have done to build on those experiences. If you have participated in other HIV lobby days, please include that information as well.

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

- If I receive a scholarship, I commit to attend AIDSWatch, including a pre-AIDSWatch conference call, 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, March 25, and Monday, March 26. 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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