



GILEAD

Funder Spotlight: Gilead Sciences

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017

*Gilead Sciences is a strong community partner and funder to Positive Resource Center (PRC) and AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF). You may know them as the pharmaceutical company that manufactures Truvada®, a key antiretroviral drug and the backbone of the PrEP™ (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) movement. The company has supported PRC's Equal Access to Healthcare Program and AEF's emergency financial support services for several years now. And, we would like to take this opportunity to present a SPOTLIGHT on this community-minded philanthropic company based here in the San Francisco Bay Area. **Questions in bold** were asked by Positive Resource Center to Gilead Sciences, their answers follow each question.*

- 1. Gilead Sciences has a longstanding history of philanthropy and community involvement. For how many years has it been going on? Please tell us about this history of giving back.**

Gilead was founded in 1987 in the Bay Area, one of the epicenters of the HIV crisis in the United States. We have spent the past 30 years working to develop life-saving medicines for this disease, and we have witnessed first-hand the devastation it has caused in communities around the world. Our partnership with and support for community has existed for almost the entire history of the company, and has increased over time as the company has grown here in the Bay Area and around the world.

As a company, our goal is to help end the AIDS epidemic. Through our corporate giving programs, we partner with organizations in raising HIV prevention awareness, support people living with HIV and partner with scientific, academic and community groups who are working in the field of HIV cure.

In 2016 alone, we partnered with more than 2,000 nonprofit organizations that address unmet needs and lessen the impact of diseases, with grants totaling almost \$460 million.

2. What motivates your current philanthropic giving? What key topics of interest inspire the company's priorities?

Our corporate giving programs are designed to advance Gilead's mission of addressing unmet medical needs for patients living with life-threatening diseases around the world in four key ways: to improve health access - enabling access to appropriate care to achieve the best health outcomes; to reduce health disparities for communities who have disproportionately been impacted by the diseases our medications treat/cure; to advance disease awareness and education among healthcare professionals and patients; and to support local initiatives that promote the holistic health and betterment of communities where we live and work.

3. How do you set about figuring out which worthy agencies to pick as grants beneficiaries?

We support projects across all of our therapeutic areas of focus — HIV/AIDS, liver diseases, hematology and oncology, inflammatory and respiratory diseases, and cardiovascular conditions. We assess about 4,000 proposals from different organizations per year and consider a number of factors when reviewing grants. Most importantly, we look to support organizations that have an understanding of the state of the field and how the proposed approach can make a unique and important contribution, clear program logic and a timely approach to address an identified unmet need, staff expertise and experience in-line with project scope, and a lasting impact.

4. Besides critical funding, what are some other ways in which Gilead tries to impact our communities?

We have several different programs with partners that enable us to expand diseases awareness, address stigma and facilitate the delivery of front-line services and care. Through our access initiatives, more than 10 million people have received our antiretroviral therapies in resource-limited countries in 2016. Our FOCUS initiative supports routine HIV and HCV testing and linkage to care in U.S. healthcare settings. AIDSvu is a partnership between Gilead and Emory University with the mission to make HIV surveillance data widely available and features searchable service locators for HIV

testing, prevention and care services. Our U.S. patient support and assistance programs help people by providing information regarding insurance coverage, financial assistance and eligibility for free medication. Those are just a few examples but regularly collaborating with community organizations and policymakers help us think of new ways to impact our communities beyond funding.

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ka59D-OWetI>

5. With Truvada® being such a huge cornerstone to the PrEP™ (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) movement, what are your thoughts on how this HIV drug has been used as preventive medicine?

For nearly 30 years, Gilead has been at the forefront of innovation in HIV, from treatments to prevention to cure research. Truvada for PrEP was approved in the United States in July 2012 and is currently the only medication indicated for in combination with safer sex practices for PrEP to reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV-1 in adults at high risk. We've seen significant uptake in Truvada for PrEP usage in 2017, with an estimated 125,000 patients using Truvada for PrEP in the first quarter.

6. Collectively, we have seen a tremendous amount of progress on the HIV/AIDS pandemic. And this progress has impacted the independent sector tremendously, most notably in the number of HIV cases and how our services are tailored to respond to the evolving needs of those living with HIV/AIDS. How has this evolution impacted the work at Gilead?

Our commitment to HIV includes numerous educational campaigns for people living with and at risk of HIV. In the past year, we have launched disease-education campaigns focused on sexual health and comprehensive HIV/STI prevention for both consumers and healthcare providers. This summer we will be embarking on new marketing efforts in the United States to raise awareness specifically of Truvada for PrEP.

Additionally, Gilead's Corporate Grants program supports the efforts of community-based organizations, public health entities and similar nonprofit organizations to educate their constituents about comprehensive HIV prevention, including the role of PrEP, and to engage communities and individuals at risk for HIV infection in prevention efforts. Gilead's Medical Affairs function supports community-based demonstration projects that are seeking to identify optimal implementation strategies for PrEP worldwide. We also provide continuing medical education funding to educational providers who reach family practice physicians, internal medicine physicians and obstetric/gynecology physicians to teach them about HIV prevention.

- 7. A group of employees who are a part of the LGBTQ Employee Resource Group (ERG) are coming to volunteer with us at PRC. How are Gilead employees engaged in our communities?**

Our LGBTQ employee resource group is one of several groups at Gilead that engage directly with our communities through service. Diverse groups of Gilead employees – including women, Black and Hispanic individuals and veterans, have participated in volunteerism and have activities planned over the coming months. In addition to these employee groups, our Volunteer group organizes activities that benefit four areas of focus: poverty, education, environment and health awareness/outreach.

- 8. If there's just one thing that you'd like to let the community know, what is that?**

We're very proud to work with organizations such as yours and inspired by all that you do. If you'd like to know more about our giving and access activities, our Year in Review 2016 was just published and is available here:

<http://www.gilead.com/responsibility/yir2016>.