



ARIZONA
SWAG



Frequently Asked Questions

Thinking about joining SWAG? Here are a few questions and answers that might help you make a decision

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SWAG?

Advises Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) on community interests, and provides a space for collaboration among communities and members

WHO CAN JOIN SWAG?

Anyone can attend meetings. Membership is open to people who live or work in Arizona, and are interested having a voice in HIV activities in the state. While the SWAG is primarily an HIV advisory group, , hep C, and STIs are also included.

WHO ARE THE SWAG MEMBERS?

People with lived experience, community members, and members of the HIV workforce including Ryan White Part B, Care and Services, Prevention, hep C and STI and he harm reduction community.

HOW OFTEN AND WHERE DOES SWAG MEET?

SWAG members meet quarterly (4 times per year) on the 2nd Friday of February, May, August and November. Currently the group meets virtually from 10am to 12pm. However, there are opportunities to meet in person- for some meetings.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

Attend quarterly meetings, respond to group questionnaires or request for community input on SWAG topics, and attend engagement sessions.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER?

No applications are required; after attending two meetings, are eligible for membership. Participate in at least two meetings per year to retain membership.

WHAT DO SWAG MEMBERS DO DURING MEETINGS?

SWAG members share updates and highlight past or future community events. SWAG provides its members a space to share best practices, network, and support one another doing HIV work. During some quarterly meetings, SWAG members guide ADHS in decisions needing community input. SWAG is instrumental in developing the Statewide Integrated Plan, which is renewed every 5 years. During some meetings, the group will provide input to the plan or review the progress of plan activities.

ARE SWAG MEMBERS COMPENSATED?

Members who are part of the HIV workforce, and for whom participation in SWAG would be part of their job, or benefit their agency are not compensated. ADHS is creating a pathway for those community members who do not work in HIV, or related fields, to be compensated for their time spent doing SWAG work.

HOW TO BECOME A CO-CHAIR?

After attending two consecutive meetings, you may be nominated by any SWAG member. After a poll is collected, there will be an announcement followed by an orientation meeting.

WHAT DO CO-CHAIRS DO?

SWAG has available three co-chair positions. One of the things SWAG co-chairs do is lead quarterly meetings. Co-chairs guide ADHS on what activities should be included in meetings, and how those activities should be done and serve as liaison for the larger planning body. Meet with ADHS staff to develop meeting agendas, and guide anything relating to the administration of SWAG. However, co-chairs and members are not asked to do administrative work, ADHS provides this support to SWAG

HOW IS SWAG DIFFERENT FROM THE GREAT PHOENIX RYAN WHITE PART A PLANNING COUNCIL (PC)?

PC guides the Maricopa County Department of Health in funding allocation decisions, SWAG members do not guide ADHS in funding activities. Instead, it represents the community's interests to inform program funding.

HOW WILL SWAG HEAR MY VOICE?

SWAG offers a large platform, a cohort of HIV experts, and a direct line of communication with ADHS. ADHS prioritizes community input, however, due to its nature as a state entity is limited in activities such as advocacy or policy change.

WHAT ARE THE PAST ACTIVITIES SWAG HAS ACCOMPLISHED?

In the past, SWAG has supported the writing of the 2022-2026 Arizona Integrated Plan on HIV, STI, and Hep C, a quantitative and qualitative report that explains the resources and state of the epidemics in Arizona.