

2023

ANNUAL IMPACT



Table of Contents

Message from Danny	3
Vision and Mission	4
About EAC	5
Milestones	6
2023 Goals & Strategy	7
Staff Growth: Building from Within	8
Board and Staff Directory	9
Positive Miles	10 - 11
PrEPared for Life	12 - 13
Digital Media	14 - 15
MPowerU	16
Leading the Way	17 - 18
Financial Stability	19 - 20
2024 Goals	21
Contact Information	22

MESSAGE FROM DANNY

HELLO COMMUNITY,

As I reflect on the past year, I realize just how far we have come in such a short time. Our first two years (2021-2022) were the end stages of the COVID epidemic which created hardships in achieving our goals as a small community-based organization. We had dreams of meeting our mission and values quickly, but it was exceedingly difficult because of the limitations of the epidemic. But this past year (2023) EAC picked up the pace to accomplish all those goals that we wanted to attain.

The experiences of this past year have left me full of gratitude. I'm thankful for the commitment and dedication of our staff. I am thankful for the love that they show for their communities and determination to reach them. I am grateful for those that have donated to the efforts of reaching these communities. Without you, this work just couldn't have continued. I'm grateful for the efforts of the board of directors for their guidance, support, and investment in the mission and vision of EAC. All these things work together to produce the spectacular results that we see in numbers, outcomes, and the lives that are changed by the efforts of EAC.

Considering from where we started in 2021 to where we are today reminds me of a quote from my childhood, that says, "From small acorns mighty oaks grow." Watch as EAC—which started from such humble beginnings—becomes a mighty oak reaching the communities of the state of Arkansas.

Danny Harris

Executive Director

Danny Harris



Vision and **Mission**

Vision

We envision a state with no new HIV infections, communities who provide prevention resources to its residents, and where those living with HIV do so with equality and the support they need.

Mission

Engaging Arkansas Communities is Always EPIC.

Together we are **empowering, preventing, innovating,** and **connecting** to serve marginalized communities in Arkansas:

- **E = Empowering** overlooked and underserved communities
- **P = Preventing** new HIV/STI exposure until there are no new transmissions
- **I = Innovating** comprehensive sexual health strategies
- **C = Connecting** with communities to provide prevention resources

Our Common Values

- Every person with HIV deserves the opportunity to live a fulfilling, purpose-filled life.
- Community is at our core and underserved communities in Arkansas are our focus.
- Engaging people living with HIV in addressing unmet needs in the Arkansas is key.

ABOUT EAC

Engaging, Preventing, Innovating, & Connecting with Communities Who Need Us Most in Arkansas

EAC is a nonprofit organization based in Arkansas with a mission centered on the true concept of community engagement. In 2019, a group of people joined together, determined to provide HIV and STD resources, education, awareness, and testing in rural, Southern communities that don't normally have access to these services.

We know HIV cannot be stopped with medication and science alone. It truly requires the power of community to stop this epidemic, and this has continued to center and shape our key accomplishments over the past five years. Each milestone in our brief but powerful history aligns with EAC's ultimate goal to unite, work within, and build up the communities we serve.

WHAT WE DO

Our mission guides every single program we offer. Over the past five years, we've built programs to:

- **Amplify Peer Voices**
- **Educate Our Community**
- **Link People to HIV Care**
- **Prevent HIV/STIs**
- **Share Peer Experiences**
- **Train Peers as Leaders & Advocates**
- **Provide Short-Term Relief to People Living with HIV**



MILESTONES

2023

- Recognized as **HIV Community Champion of the Year** by the *Arkansas HIV Planning Group*
- Received **Chancellor's Community Research Partner Award** from the *Translational Research Institute, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences*
- Awarded Wake Forest University COMPASS Faith Action Project Grant
- Awarded Arkansas Community Foundation Equality Fund Project Grant, funding LGBTQ Safe Space in Texarkana
- 340B Program launches, offering PrEP, DoxyPEP, and HIV treatment
- Number of people tested surpasses 2,000

2022

- Awarded *Arkansas Department of Health* contract to coordinate a team of Community-Embedded Disease Intervention Specialists in Central, Northwest, and Southwest Arkansas
- Awarded *ViiV Positive Action Grant* supporting empowerment activities for what will eventually become *MpowerU*
- Awarded *Southern AIDS Coalition Transformative Grant* supporting the *E-P-I-C Peer Leadership Training Program*
- Awarded *University of Houston LEARN Harm Reduction Grant* supporting basic harm reduction training
- *E-P-I-C Empowerment Center* in Texarkana officially opens
- First client transported with the Positive Miles program
- Number of people tested surpasses 1,000

2021

- Awarded *Emory University COMPASS Transformative Grant*
- Awarded *Gilead FOCUS Partnership*
- Awarded two *Ending the HIV Epidemic Grants* funding prevention and Community Health Workers in Northwest & Central Arkansas
- Planning phase begins for what will become Positive Miles
- Comprehensive Screening for HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis C begins
- Initial offices open in Little Rock, Rogers, Fort Smith and Hot Springs
- First full-time staff hired

2019-2020

- Initial planning phase begins
- Recognized by IRS as tax-exempt, 501c3 nonprofit organization
- Board of Directors expanded to statewide representation
- Partnership with *Washington County Drug Court* to provide testing and counseling services begins

2023 GOALS & STRATEGY



“We aren’t where we want to be just yet, but we’ve made great strides toward getting there this past year.

Now, we know who we are and are ready to make the dream a reality.”

- Danny Harris, Executive Director

This year, EAC broadened its programs to empower, prevent, innovate, and connect with communities throughout Arkansas. By forming new partnerships and grant initiatives, we enhanced our outreach efforts, amplified community voices, and delivered vital resources to over 3,000 Arkansans.



Expanded Transportation

Through diversification of funding sources and leveraging key partnerships across the state, we expanded our flagship Positive Miles transportation assistance program, growing it to serve more people in more areas than ever before in 2023.



Initiated 340B Program

Partnering with Avita Care, EAC now offers telehealth-based HIV/STD prevention services for PrEP and DoxyPEP. Savings from our 340B drug discount program allow us to reinvest back into EAC programs, increasing access to care for more people in Arkansas.



Increased Outreach

Capacity building efforts in team-building, staff development, and leadership training led to a significant increase in community education, STD and Hepatitis C screenings, and active engagement in comprehensive prevention services in 2023.



Elevated Peoples’ Voices

Through leadership and advocacy training, EAC elevated the voices of dozens of people living with HIV to overcome stigma and inspire positive change. Messages of hope were incorporated into audio/video and print media in new and exciting ways.

BUILDING FROM WITHIN

Fueling the team leading HIV work in Arkansas

In 2023, we hired exceptional staff and equipped them to do their job well. Training and workshops furthered staff development, including Mental Health First Aid, phlebotomy training, and ESCALATE Stigma Reduction training facilitated by the National Minority AIDS Coalition (NMAC). One staff graduated as a fellow from the SERO Institute Justice Project and several staff completed the LEAD Academy facilitated by the Southern AIDS Coalition. At the close of 2023, EAC employed 26 full-time staff, 2 part-time workers, and 3 contracted staff. The growth in staff and investment in their development opened doors to new communities in Arkansas that were not being served previously.

Additionally, employee benefits such as medical, dental, vision, and group-term life insurance were all initiated in 2023. These benefits are a critical component to our long-term strategy to care for and retain our valuable team members.

*Figures reported taken from an Employment Engagement Survey conducted on November 13, 2023.



9/10

EMPLOYEES FELT SUPPORTED TO CHOOSE HOW TO DO THEIR JOB*

94%

STAFF FELT INVOLVED IN MEANINGFUL WORK*

“

It has been amazing to watch my team of Community Health Workers grow in their positions and really become part of the communities they are serving.

- Whitley Hopkins, Program Coordinator

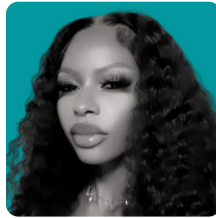
Our EPIC Team



KeAndre' A.
Operations Director



Billy B.
Community Health Specialist,
Southwest Arkansas



Taylor B.
Outreach Specialist



Angel C.
Community Health Specialist
Program Coordinator



Kyra C.
Community Health Specialist,
Northwest Arkansas



Andrea D.
Community Health Specialist,
Central Arkansas



Eddie D.
Board President



Robbie G.
Board Member



Mai G.
Positive Miles Dispatcher



Robert G.
Board Treasurer



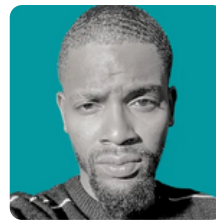
Danny H.
Executive Director and Chief
Servant



Meloney H.
Board Vice President



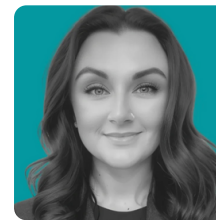
Renee H.
IT & Data Specialist



Johnnie H.
Community Health Worker,
Northwest Arkansas



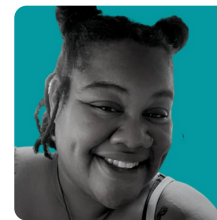
Amy H.
Administrative Specialist



Whitley H.
Community Health Worker
Program Coordinator



Larry H.
PREP Navigator



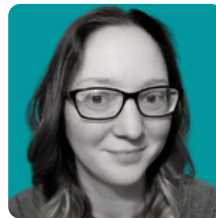
Ash H.
Field Service Specialist



Pam L.
Board Member



Lauren M.
Community Health Worker,
Northwest Arkansas



Kimberly N.
Community Health Worker,
Central Arkansas



William N.
Field Service Specialist



Will O.
Community Health Specialist
Central Arkansas



Bobby P.
Community Engagement Director



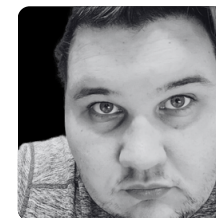
Dee P.
Community Health Worker,
Southwest Arkansas



Anthony S.
Community Health Specialist,
Southwest Arkansas



Kodee Jane
Community Health Worker,
Central Arkansas



Drew T.
Board Secretary



Brian T.
Board Member



Vadi V.
Community Health Specialist,
Northwest Arkansas



Dwyn W.
Comprehensive Prevention
Specialist



Arlee W.
Board Member



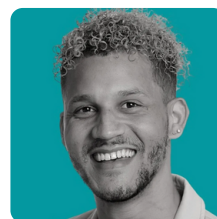
Eddie W.
EAC Speaks!



Jeff W.
Grants & Finance Director



Aaron W.
Media & Communications
Coordinator



Justin W.
Outreach Specialist

POSITIVE MILES

Linking More People to HIV Care



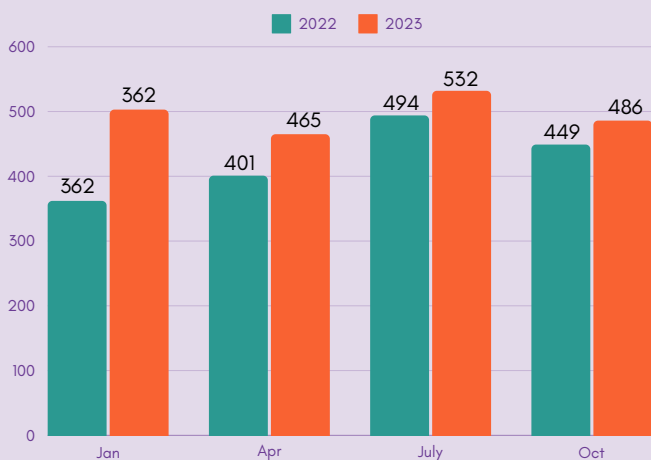
A FOCUS ON GROWTH

Positive Miles is EAC's flagship program, ensuring individuals living with HIV can access essential medical and supportive services in Arkansas by providing rides to and from services no matter where a person lives in the state. The program was EAC's first project launched in 2021 and has now served nearly 350 clients and driven over 77,000 miles across the state to do so.

This past year, hiring a dedicated dispatcher, onboarding additional drivers, and the acquisition of two initial company vehicles were significant steps toward building a sustainable transportation program to serve the entire state.



Number of Trips Made Per Quarter



“

I am proud of the feedback received from our clients who consistently express gratitude for our support and guidance. Their words serve as a reminder of the profound impact we have on the communities we serve and the lives we touch.

- KeAndre' Arnold, Operations Director

SPONSOR-A-RIDE

Kick-off event for our annual campaign to raise funds for Positive Miles

This past June, EAC held a special event at Club Sway to raise awareness and funds for the Positive Miles program. Staff and board members in attendance provided personal testimony of what the program means to our clients.

The event helped kick off an annual campaign in which community members were asked to sponsor one, six, or twelve rides. Over the course of the year, more than \$3,200 was raised to benefit the program, helping us provide 1,971 trips to care for people living with HIV in Arkansas.



Impact of Your Donation

Through our Annual Sponsor-a-Ride Campaign, your support helped us provide 1,971 trips to care for people living with HIV.



\$25
1 ride



\$150
6 rides



\$300
12 rides



PrEPARED FOR LIFE

Increasing Access to Comprehensive Prevention Services

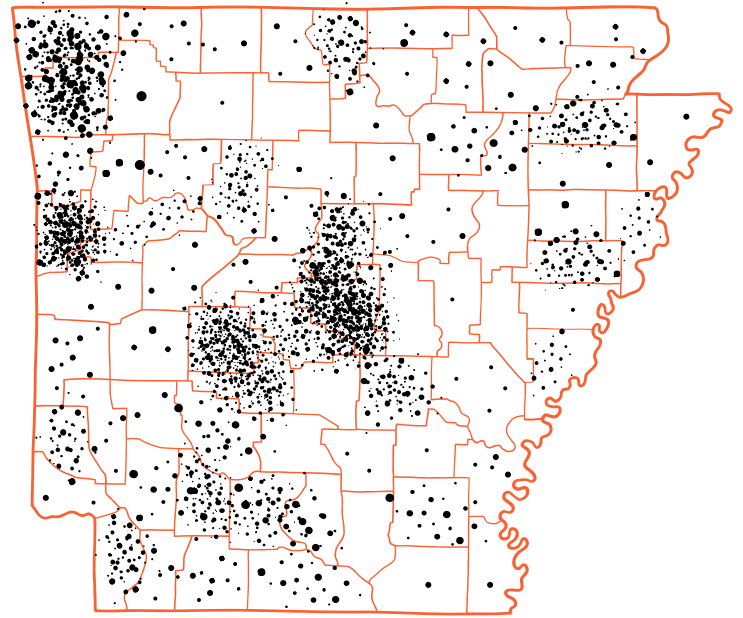
DOUBLING OUR IMPACT

Our *PrEPared for Life* comprehensive prevention program grew exponentially in 2023, ultimately doubling previous years' goals for testing and touching the lives of thousands of individuals in almost every county in Arkansas.

Our peer navigation staff were determined to make an impact this past year--and what an impact they made! Staff participated in 171 outreach events, distributed more than 250,000 condoms, linked 705 people to care, and helped 2,254 people know their status.

Staff also worked to find supportive services in the community and made new partnerships with agencies to better serve our clients, particularly in harder to reach, rural areas of Arkansas. As a result, we established 45 new partnerships and engaged with 3,624 new individuals.

TESTS COMPLETED BY COUNTY IN 2023



“

I'm extremely proud of the work we've accomplished forming key partnerships throughout the state.

These partnerships enabled EAC to stretch our reach further than we could on our own and are critical in fulfilling our mission to connect with different communities in Arkansas.

- Bobby Pierce, Community Engagement Director

2,254K

PEOPLE WHO LEARNED
THEIR STATUS

705

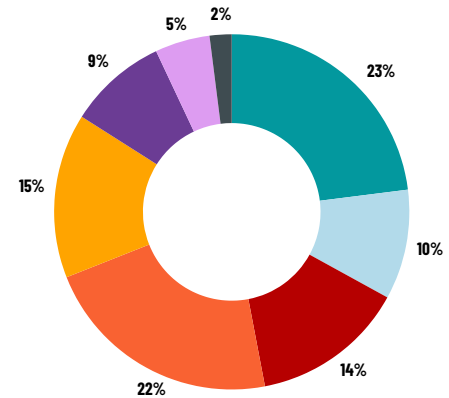
PEOPLE LINKED
TO CARE



STATUS-NEUTRAL APPROACH

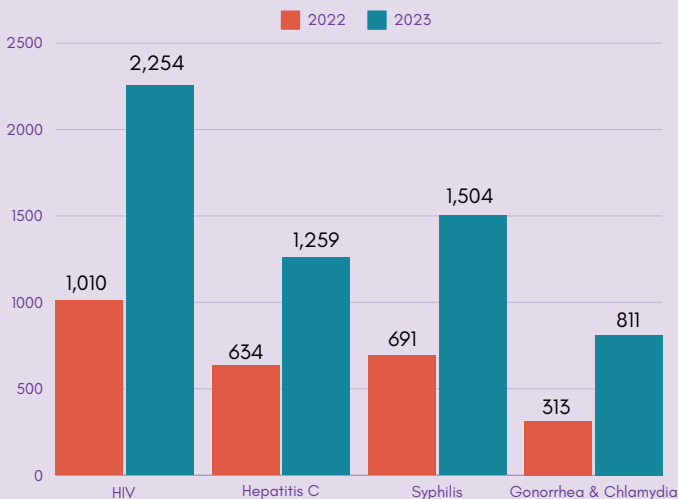
EAC is focused on the use of multiple testing technologies (also called “multiple syndemic”) while maintaining a status-neutral approach. This means no matter the result of a test, our team’s ultimate goal is to identify a client’s needs and link them to a program with EAC or a referral partner to best meet those needs.

OUTREACH EVENTS BY TYPE



- Substance Use Treatment
- Schools & Colleges
- Churches & Faith Groups
- LGBTQ & Pride Events
- Shelters & Temporary Housing
- Community Organizations
- Residential
- Correctional Facilities

Number of People Tested By Screening Type



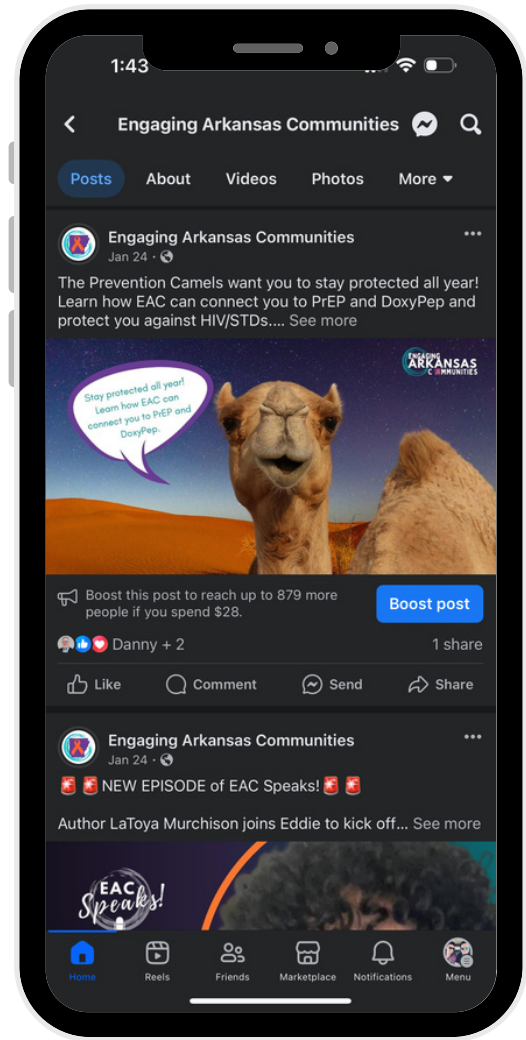
PrEP'D & READY

In 2023, EAC expanded PrEP services and hired two dedicated prevention specialists to ensure more people in Arkansas receive assistance to obtain and remain in PrEP care. At the end of the year, 563 people were referred for PrEP with an average of 20 prep prescriptions filled per month under EAC’s first 340B pharmacy partner, Avita Care.

DIGITAL MEDIA

In the past year, our digital media efforts experienced significant growth across various platforms. To enhance our communication efforts, we strategically produced more video and audio content, thereby amplifying our voices and extending our reach. Additionally, we focused on establishing a stronger presence for our staff in the public sphere through digital media channels. These initiatives have not only bolstered our online visibility but also reinforced our commitment to effective and dynamic communication strategies.

As you will see below from our Facebook metrics, our engagement online far exceeded the goals we had for digital media in 2023. Going into 2024, we plan to further optimize our digital media presence by implementing targeted strategies aimed at increasing audience engagement and brand awareness. We want to position EAC as not only a thought leader in the industry but continue to foster meaningful interactions with our audience.



670

FOLLOWERS

6.9K

FACEBOOK PROFILE VISIT

4.5K

CONTENT INTERACTIONS

6.7K

LINK CLICKS

334.5K

OVERALL REACH



To capture the heart of EAC, I wanted to grow our media presence through authentic storytelling and firsthand experience video testimonials. We want EAC to resonate with our online audience on a deeper level, forging connections with the community.

TOTAL POSTS

Aaron Wallis, Media and Communication Coordinator

AMPLIFYING OUR VOICES

Through leadership and advocacy training, EAC elevated the voices of dozens of people living with HIV to overcome stigma and inspire positive change. Advocacy training culminated in providing opportunities for leaders to share their stories in public settings, including video, podcast, blog, and speaking engagements. Additionally, EAC conducted video testimonials with staff, board members, and volunteers to showcase the EPIC work we are doing to make a difference in our communities.



The MpowerU client empowerment program and the EPIC+ Peer Leadership Training Program are highlights from our efforts in 2023 to elevate peer voices in Arkansas.

EAC SPEAKS! PODCAST

Our podcast, EAC Speaks!, explores HIV and sexual health through engaging conversations that amplify peer voices. You'll hear innovative approaches to HIV outreach, inspiring stories, and how we can overcome the challenges of HIV stigma in communities across Arkansas.

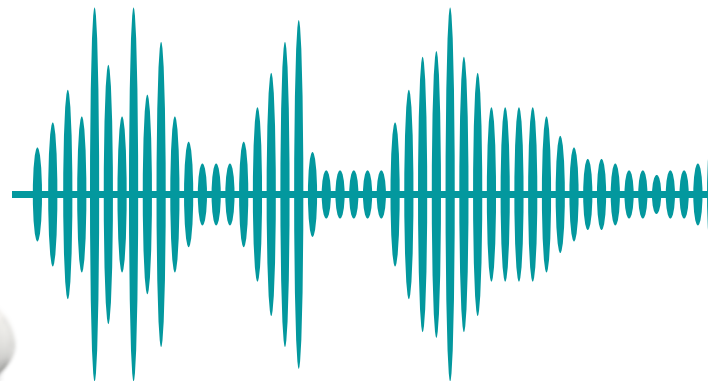


“

Being an EPIC advocate with EAC is really sharing my personal testimony and experience with living with HIV and being that voice of reason within my community.”

- Pamela L, Board Member

MpowerU and the EPIC+ Peer Leadership Program were made possible through grants received from ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action Program, Southern AIDS Coalition's Gilead COMPASS Transformative and Spark! Projects, and the AIDS United POP (People Organizing Positively) Project.



MpowerU

Providing safe spaces for peer-to-peer support in Arkansas

Challenging HIV-related Stigma One Voice At a Time

Through our peer-based empowerment and support programs, we were able to equip 25 people living with HIV with tools to manage internalized and external HIV. Their skills are being put to work in day-to-day life by coordinating placement of our trained peers on advisory boards, housing advocacy, and in new support groups.

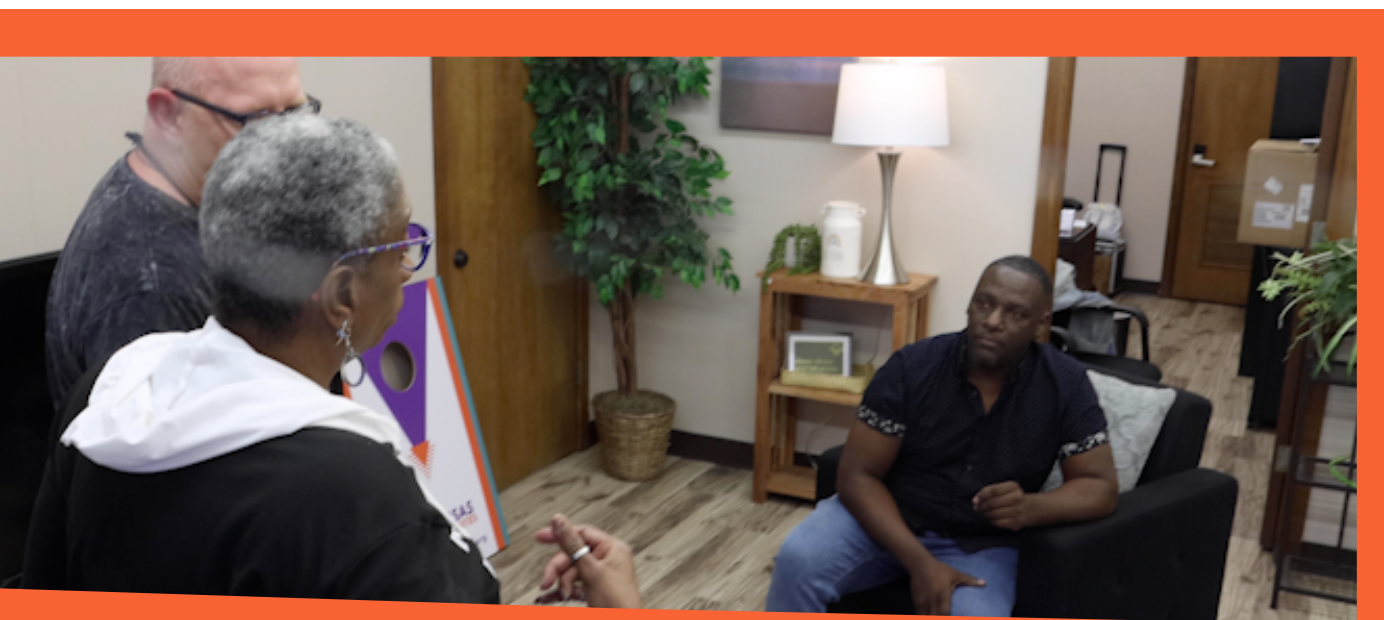
Changing Lives for the Better

It's really the people who are proof of the MpowerU model's success. And we know it was a success because of the lives we see changed. Our community is boosted by the safe environments we create together, the lasting tools created, the many personalized stories of those who participated, the voices of overcomers, and the number of prepared leaders who are now active on planning boards and groups, HIV-related employment, and much more.



CLIENT IMPACT: DEE'S STORY

Dee was so stigmatized by her diagnosis and subsequent inability to get adequate treatment and resources. She went through the program and is now an employee and strong advocate in the transgender and LGBTQ communities in Southwest Arkansas. Dee is also very active in support and prevention efforts. Others with similar stories have now been trained as leaders and serve as advocates and mentors around the state.



LEADING THE WAY

A Community Voice for HIV Work in Arkansas

A LEADER IN ARKANSAS

EAC has quickly risen as a leader in HIV work within the state, assisting in planning and leadership including committee work, discussion, facilitation, and retreat planning activities. This past year, our team--many with valuable lived experiences to share--held more representation in the *Arkansas HIV Planning Group (HPG)* than any other single organization.

In 2023, EAC was honored to be recognized as the very first **HIV Community Champion Organization of the Year** by our peers with HPG. In addition, EAC's Executive Director was one of six individuals recognized at this past year's HPG retreat for his many years of service to the HIV community in Arkansas.

EAC has also been recognized as a viable partner for research projects involving HIV. Exemplifying this effort, EAC was honored to receive **The 2023 Chancellor's Community Research Partner Award** from the *Translational Research Institute, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences*.

UAMS

Translational
Research Institute



Executive Director Danny Harris receiving the HIV Community Champion Organization of the Year at the 2023 Arkansas HPG Retreat, presented by National HIV Advocate Jeffery Haskins.



Executive Director Danny Harris presenting at the 2023 Arkansas HIV Planning Group Retreat in Hot Springs.

NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Sharing Best Practices in the Field

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Our impact doesn't stop at the state border. In fact, EAC is fast becoming a nationally recognized voice in HIV. This past year EAC's continued efforts toward community-based, routinized screenings for multiple syndemics as a partner with *Gilead Sciences FOCUS Initiative* offered a fantastic opportunity to shine the spotlight on EAC nationally.

At the **2023 National FOCUS Partner Summit**, Danny Harris gave two formal presentations and facilitated a panel discussion on best practices in community-level screenings to audiences of peers working in the healthcare field.



Executive Director Danny Harris facilitating a panel discussion at the 2023 National FOCUS Partner Summit in Foster City, California.

FOCUS Regional Director Liz Mallas Law (L), Grants and Finance Director Jeff Walker, and Executive Director Danny Harris (R) at the 2023 National FOCUS Partner Summit in Foster City, California.

“

“EAC's approach to a rural, public-private partnership by piecing together different mechanisms for testing, linkage to care, and community-embedded health specialists is incredible.”

- Liz Mallas Law, FOCUS Regional Director

FINANCIAL STABILITY

making every dollar count

Thanks to the generosity of our many donors, sponsors, grantors, and support from state agencies, EAC is in a stable financial position to continue our mission as we enter 2024.

INCOME

Our financial stability in 2023 saw remarkable growth, with a consistent rise in grant funding from corporate foundations, a substantial increase in state contracts, and the first program income generated by our new 340B program.

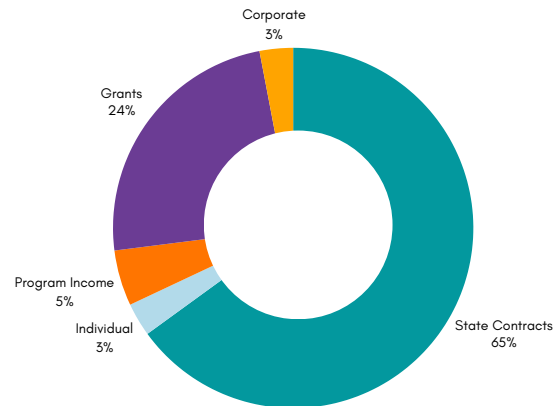
EXPENSES

EAC continues to maintain a focus on programming, spending 73% of all funds raised in 2023 to sustain and grow our operational capacity and life-changing programs.

Although marketing accounted 7% of annual expenses, the majority of marketing efforts were for program-focused campaigns, such as our *PrEPared for Life* and *Arkansas Resource Hub* ad campaigns to promote outreach events and mail order testing to the public.

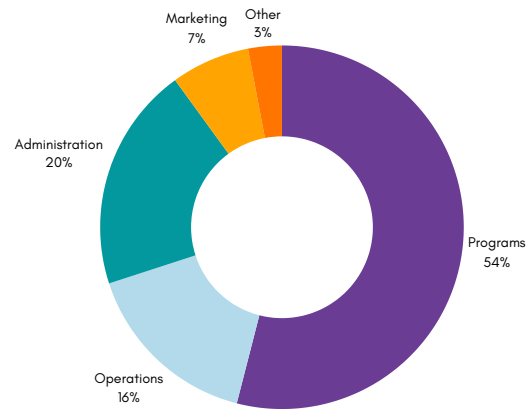
2023 INCOME

\$1,666,504



2023 EXPENSES

\$1,666,504



Our focus in 2023 was on financial sustainability. We will continue to seek out diverse sources of income to ensure EAC's critical programming is around for years to come.

- Jeff M Walker, Grants & Finance Director

340B PROGRAM

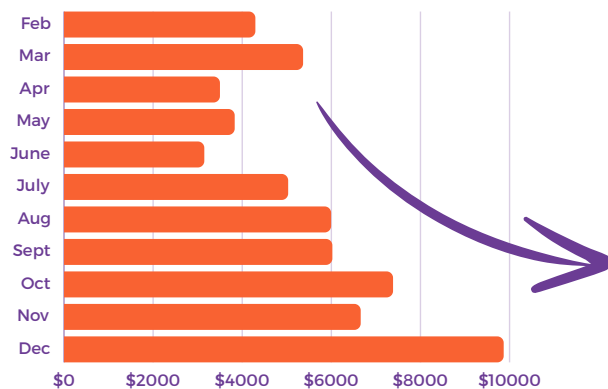
RE-INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

WHAT IS 340B?

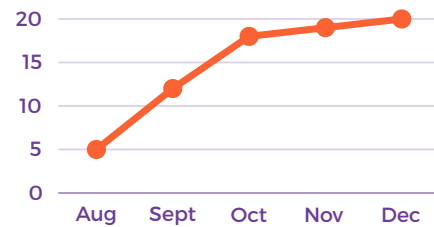
340B is a federal drug price control program that allows covered entities serving uninsured and low-income patients in rural communities to purchase medications from manufacturers at discounted prices.

As a covered entity, EAC is allowed to bill the full price for drugs from insurance companies. Buying drugs at a discounted rate and billing the full price generates surplus funds, or “program income,” which EAC then reinvests back into our program to serve more people in Arkansas with prevention, care, and support.

PROGRAM INCOME BY MONTH



PREP PRESCRIPTION UPTAKE PER MONTH



MAKING THE MOST OF OUR INCOME

Since the 340B program began in February 2023, income totaled \$226,824. A critical way we re-invested this income is through key partnerships with *Avita Care* and *PrideLife*.

With *Avita Care*, EAC now offers telehealth-based HIV/STD prevention services for PrEP and DoxyPEP. *PrideLife* is a free service to assist our clients in enrolling in health insurance to best meet their health needs.



65K

in Program Income
reinvested back into EAC
programs in 2023

20

average number of people
per month receiving a
PrEP prescription

44%

growth in 340B activity
since program kick-off in
February 2023

GOALS FOR 2024

We are poised and ready to continue expanding transportation services, increasing our testing and outreach to all four corners of the state. To do this, we have set lofty, yet attainable goals:

Expand Reach for Positive Miles

Despite rapid expansion over the last two years, Positive Miles is still a relatively small program making a big impact. We need more manpower and vehicles available in each of the 5 public health regions to ensure we can serve the entire state. To meet this goal, we are looking to acquire 3 new vehicles and hire 2-3 additional field service specialists.

Increase HIV/STD Outreach

Having doubled our testing goal in 2023, we are confident we can increase our reach by 50% this coming year when it comes to testing. Specifically, we are looking to facilitate 2,500 comprehensive screenings, increase our outreach to priority populations by 10%, and conduct outreach in all 75 counties in the state in 2024.

Expand Services into Eastern Arkansas

Our initial strategy to provide community services in the Central, Northwest, and Southwest regions of Arkansas has proved successful. With this in mind, we are looking to open a satellite office in Eastern Arkansas over the next year to help support our plan to provide increased transportation, education, and outreach throughout all of Arkansas.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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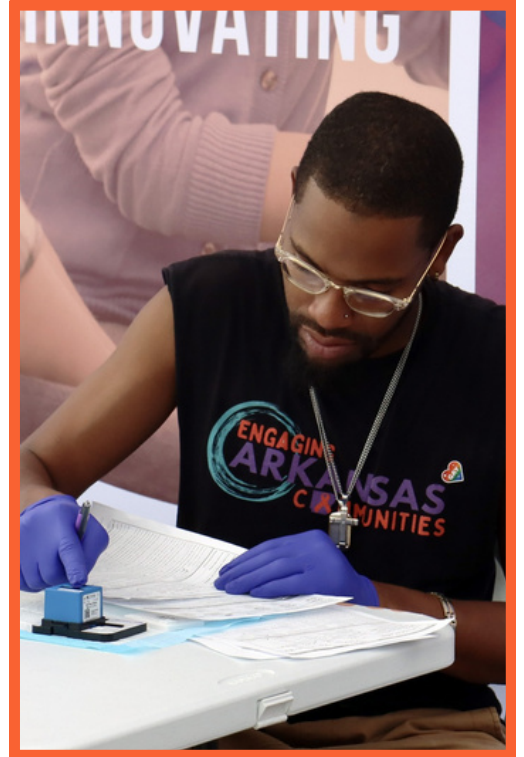
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