



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

NCAIDSACTION
 **NETWORK**



NCAAN Staff (Left to Right): Christina Adeleke, De'Shea Coney, Lee Storrow, and Matt Martin

WE'RE INCREDIBLY PROUD OF THE WORK DONE BY NORTH CAROLINA AIDS ACTION NETWORK (NCAAN) IN 2020 TO CONTINUE FIGHTING FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV & HEPATITIS, EVEN UNDER THE CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES PRESENTED TO US VIA THE COVID PANDEMIC.

We kicked off 2020 by joining our partners at the Southern AIDS Coalition to host their annual Public Policy Committee Meeting in Charlotte, which helped to highlight some of the valuable work happening on the ground in Mecklenburg County and across North Carolina. We were also thrilled to welcome De'Shea Coney to our team to help lead our work in harm reduction and hepatitis advocacy.

And then the world changed. As executive director and board chair, we went from regular check-ins a couple times a month to almost daily conversations with each other and with the Executive Committee. We dealt with canceling events, ensuring we were financially strong, and thinking through how to support our staff, board, volunteers, and people living with HIV. The two of us reflected on the parallels between this moment in time and the start of the HIV epidemic, and all that could be learned from those past moments.

Our travel budget went way down, but our budget for postage went way up. We mailed ring lights to panelists, t-shirts to virtual conference participants, and NCAAN branded masks to our end-of-year donors. We had some fun on Facebook Live, including a virtual Broadway Twisted that featured some of our favorite performers from Playmakers Repertory Company in Chapel Hill and a conversation with Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of North Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services, on World AIDS Day about the important work of HIV advocacy in our state. And through it all, we still were able to host some masked up, social distance events in the fall, including seven socially distanced parties at the polls to help guarantee that elections across our state were safe and accessible.

We also felt moved to support and collaborate with partners working across NC to dismantle white supremacy. NCAAN staff and board members participated in numerous events to support the Black Lives Matter movement, and were proud to highlight leadership at partner organizations like Emancipate NC and the Durham Beyond Policing Coalition. We've got more work to do, and ongoing conversations are critical to work towards dismantling white supremacy within our organization, movement, and state.

Thank you for your support, and we hope you enjoy a snapshot of some of our work in 2020.

Tony Franco,
Board Chair

Lee Storrow,
Executive Director

2020 Board

Tony Franco,
Chair

Veleria Levy,
Vice Chair

Elaine Martin,
Treasurer

Alex Delaney,
Secretary

Adam Linker
Cindy Snyder
Michael DeMarco
Ciara Zachary
Jeffery Edwards Knight
Hector Salgado
Mike Weir
LaWanda Wilkerson
Grace Wilkins
Michael Wilson
Arianna Fischer

Staff

Matt Martin,
Grassroots Advocacy Manager

De'Shea Coney,
HepConnect Coordinator

J. Donté Prayer,
Health Access Coordinator

Matthew Harvey,
Administrative Assistant

Christina Adeleke, Esq.,
Fundraising/Policy and
Communications Manager

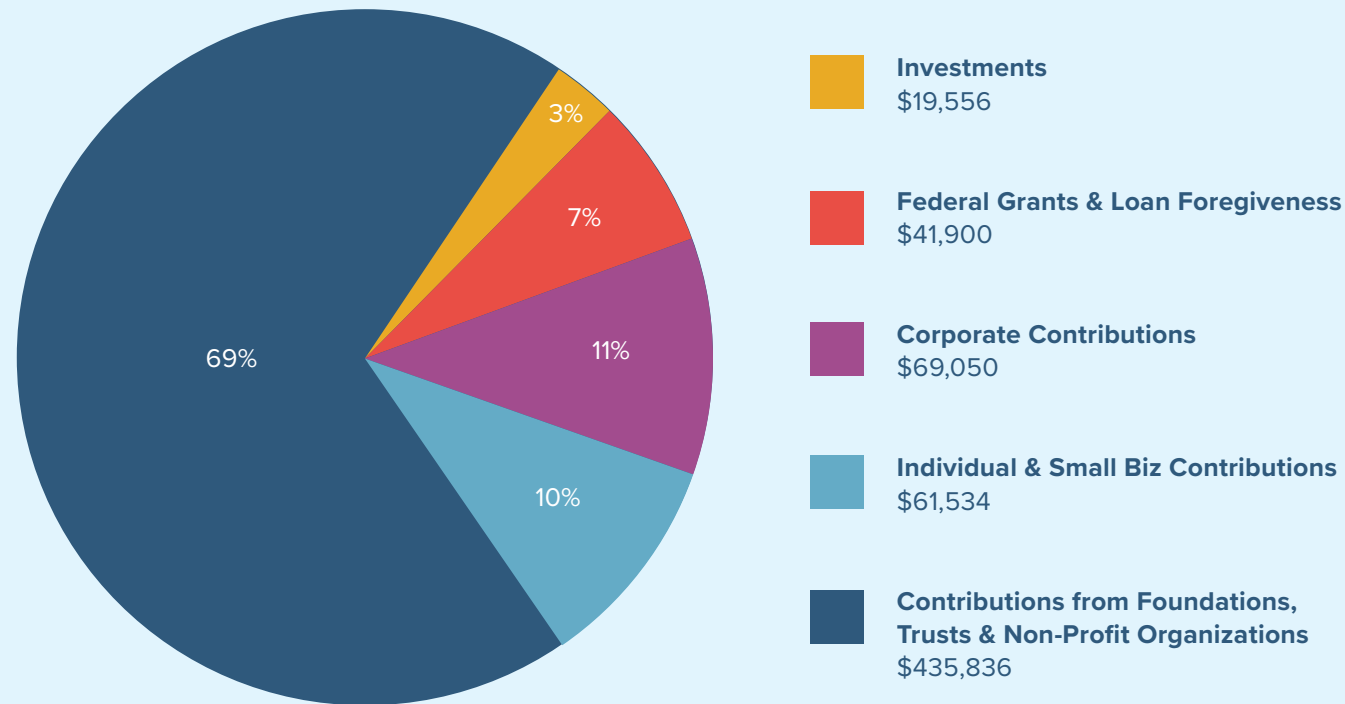
Rita McDaniel
Manager, Community Organizer

Get Involved!

Want to get involved with NCAAN? Fill out our volunteer form at <http://www.ncaan.org/take-action/>

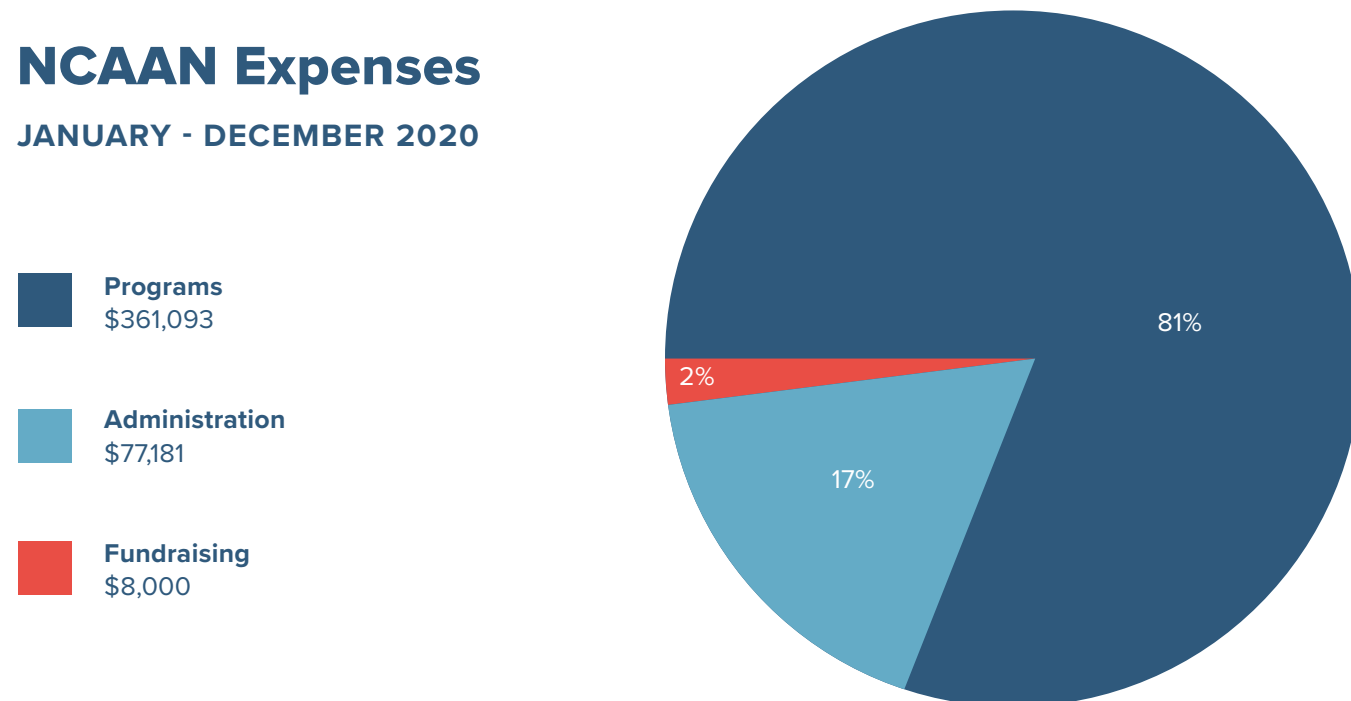
NCAAN Income

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2020



NCAAN Expenses

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2020



Thank You To Our Supporters!

INSTITUTIONAL

ACLU of North Carolina
 AIDS United
 Alliance of AIDS Services – Carolinas
 Avita Pharmacy
 Blueprint NC
 Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
 Campaign for Southern Equality
 Carolinas CARE Partnership
 Community Catalyst
 Cone Health Foundation
 Crape Myrtle Festival Inc.
 Elton John AIDS Foundation
 Equality NC Foundation
 Food Experience
 Gilead Sciences
 Harm Reduction Coalition
 Janssen Pharmaceuticals
 LGBT Center of Raleigh
 Merck
 NC Justice Center
 PhRMA
 Planned Parenthood
 RAIN, Inc.
 Schwab Charitable
 Southern AIDS Coalition
 The Pew Charitable Trusts
 Triad Health Project
 Triangle Community Foundation
 Triangle Empowerment Center, Inc.
 UNC at Chapel Hill - Care Cab
 ViiV Healthcare

INDIVIDUAL

Allison Altman	Elaine Martin
Tony Booe	Torin Martinez
Shirley Brazda	Carolyn McAllaster
Wanda Brendle-Moss	Lianne McCray
Mia Burroughs	Olga Mike
Nathaniel Claridad	Michael Parker
Paul Cook	Ethan Paulini
Wayne Cooley	Heidi Perry
Brandon Cordrey	Elizabeth Ray
Jeff Cornell	William Raynor
Travis Crayton	Allison Rice
Ty Day	Jeff Robinson-Thomas
Alex Delaney	Mike Robinson-Thomas
Allison DeMarco	Gray Rodgers
Molly DeMarco	Nick Romanos
Michael DeMarco	Antonyia Rumph
Jorge Donoso	Cindy Schneider
Jeffery Edwards-Knight	Asher Schranz
Daniel Ellison	Lauren Seegars
Anne Englot	Damon Seils
Charles Farnsworth	Audrey Shore
Arianna Fischer	Lee Storrow
Elizabeth Flemming	Beth Stringfield
Robert Fowler	Jane Sullivan
Tony Franco	Scott Taylor
Steven Gray	Tori Taylor
Sally Greene	Glenn Temple
Kaaren Haldeman	Wesley Thompson
Mark Hartman	Adam Versenyi
Wesley Hyatt	Valerie Watkins
Lucy Inman	Jennifer Whiteside
Laura John	Heather Wienke
Jason Keck	Grace Wilkins
Aaron Keck	Marques Wilson
Louis Kemp	Michael Wilson
Robin Kirk	Bob Winstead
Samantha Korb	Arielle Yoder
Connie Leeper	Ciara Zachary
Margot Lester	Denise Zambrana
Veleria Levy	Mason Zeagler
Adam Linker	Rui Zhao
Jodi Luther	

It's Easy To Donate!

Just scan the code to the right and follow the steps. Your gift strengthens our statewide community of advocates fighting for the rights of people living with HIV or AIDS, their loved ones, and those at risk. Thank you!





ABOVE: Staff and Volunteers from our partnership with the LGBT Center of Raleigh were big fans of the world's largest "I Voted" sticker.

Party at the Polls

As we entered election season in 2020, we were venturing into uncharted territory, one that our country and our Get Out the Vote efforts had never before experienced. In the midst of a disastrous pandemic, which has yet to abate, many folks were afraid to leave their homes. Voters across the country used mail-in/absentee ballots at unprecedented volumes, but local voting stations remained a critical venue for citizens to exercise their suffrage. With the support of Blueprint NC's "Power, Protection, and Encouragement at the Polls" program, NC AIDS Action Network and many ally organizations hosted hundreds of parties at the polls to ensure safe and fair elections for voters throughout North Carolina.

In October and November of 2020, the NCAAN team – in collaboration with the LGBT Center of Raleigh, VAE Raleigh, and R.O.L.E. Models – hosted seven Parties at the Polls in Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Charlotte. Food, games, music, giveaways, caricature artists and drag performances truly made 2020 the most exciting voting experience folks had ever had. Apart from providing a fun platform for voter engagement, these parties also served as a way for staff and volunteers to ensure that folks were able to vote without fear and intimidation. 2020 was a rough year with a lot of uncertainty and unrest, so we were grateful to be able show up for our communities across North Carolina and make sure that their rights to safe and fair elections were upheld.

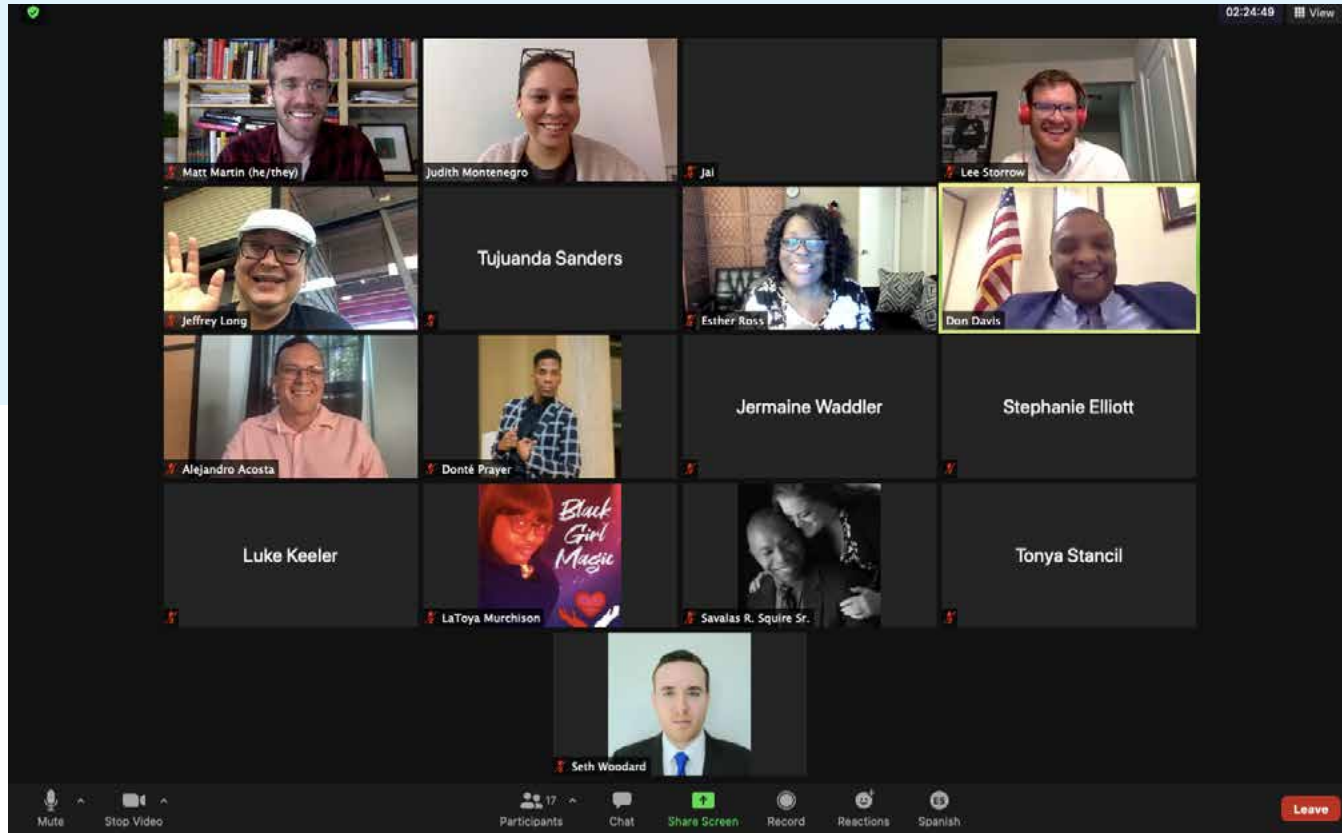
Hepatitis Ambassadors for Change

The North Carolina AIDS Action Network created the Hepatitis Ambassadors for Change Program in June 2020 and empowered champions of Hepatitis C and harm reduction through formal trainings, education, resource networking, and advocacy. Although a greater need for harm reduction and Hepatitis C providers exist in the western part of the state, the Hepatitis Ambassadors for Change come from all parts of the state, providing insight on disparities affecting central and eastern regions, as well as major metropolitan areas, suburbs, and rural communities.

The Hepatitis Ambassadors for Change program was created to be a network for resource and knowledge sharing. These regular trainings ensure that the information shared is up to date and that community leaders are effectively informed. Trainings engage essential and difficult topics, such as Overdose Reversal, Hepatitis C treatment & linkage to Hepatitis C treatment, and peer/community engagement imbued with empathy and compassion.

The Hepatitis Ambassadors for Change are also equipped with tools that enable access into various forms of advocacy, including storytelling, techniques to engage policymakers, and group-led community activation. The Hepatitis Ambassadors for Change program operates with an advocacy focus, engaging and activating community leaders when policies are introduced that threaten the health and livelihood of people living with Hepatitis C and people who use drugs. Although having existed for only 6 months by the end of 2020, the Hepatitis Ambassadors for Change made waves with the creation of a Public Service Announcement video on the gravity of Hepatitis C in North Carolina and advocacy engagement by supporting the state's harm reduction agencies against House Bill 918.





2020 PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT:

Latino Commission on AIDS

At the onset of the pandemic, the NCAAN team recognized the importance of staying engaged with our communities across the state, providing essential information, while also keeping folks safe at home. After some internal brainstorming, we reached out to our colleagues and friends at Latinos in the South to gauge their interest in partnering to host weekly webinars on various HIV and HIV-parallel community topics. Over the course of Spring and Summer 2020, our two teams co-hosted over 25 different webinars, reaching folks across our state and beyond.

Webinar topics ranged the gamut: from “Immigrant Rights” to “Defunding the Police” to “Molecular

Surveillance” and “HIV Criminalization” and kept us all looped into important discussions and notable trends in the movement. Our webinars became a space for community members across the state to see each other almost weekly, share updates, and stay engaged with partners and organizations across the nation. Having this partnership was critical to helping us feel connected with colleagues and grounded in our mission during this time.

Though the pandemic kept us away from each other physically, we are grateful to Latinos in the South for working with us throughout the year to keep folks together virtually.

2020 BY THE NUMBERS



1,669

Number of Tweets in 2020



4,539

of Facebook Live viewers in 2020



140

of Building Power Across the Spectrum 2020 attendees



20

of Webinars held (about COVID, Voting and Politics, Advocacy, and Healthcare)



86

of virtual attendees who met with legislators at HIV Speaks on Jones Street

It is no secret that in 2020, everything changed.

We pivoted to doing the bulk of our work virtually, and learned that virtual advocacy can also make a huge difference. In fact, in many cases legislators can actually be more accessible in a virtual world, and people from different parts of the state can come together more easily. In 2020 our focus became connecting people around our mission, so our team hosted 20+ webinars covering a wide range of topics that impact the HIV community. As our “Partnership Spotlight” page details, this weekly webinar series was hosted in collaboration with our friends at Latinos in the South.

BACKGROUND IMAGE: Our Party at the Polls in Raleigh was the ultimate costume party for Halloween. Not being able to vote would be just plain SPOOKY!

RIGHT: Voters were able to get a caricature drawn by a local artist thanks to our partnership with VAE Raleigh.



OUR WEBINAR TOPICS INCLUDED:



COVID-19

NC Latinx Response to CoVID-19
Harm Reduction and CoVID-19
NCAAN Chats: Long-term Survivors and CoVID-19
Let's Talk About Sex: Intimacy During CoVID-19
CoVID-19: News You Can Use



ADVOCACY

NC Advocates Respond to CoVID-19
We Nourish our Bodies and Fuel Our Souls: Selfcare for Advocates
Writing for Advocacy: Capture the Power of Your Ideas!
Abolitionist Organizing and Ending the HIV Epidemic in NC
Molecular Surveillance 101: What HIV Advocates Need to Know



VOTING & POLITICS

Voting Rights is HIV Advocacy!
Voting By Mail in 2020
The Upcoming SCOTUS Confirmation: What's at Stake?
Five Days Away! Let's Get Out the Vote!



MEDICINE & HEALTHCARE

Medicaid: A Critical Program in the Time of CoVID-19
PrEP and PEP for Pride!
NC's HIV Medication Assistance Program: Changes You Need to Know
PrEP Updates: The Forefront of HIV Prevention Policy
HIV and HepC in NC: Trial by Numbers

We hosted our annual advocacy day “**HIV (Virtually) Speaks on Jones St.**” Even in such wild times, we still had 86 attendees and conducted 10 virtual meetings with various NC policy makers.

NCAAN staff hosted seven “**Safe Sites: Power, Protection, and Encouragement at the Polls Parties**” with the support of Blueprint NC. We also called 1000 “low propensity” voters across NC and sent 1500 text messages (with 6.3% engagement rate), helping 157 folks across the state create their voting plans.

On World AIDS Day 2020, NCAAN delivered our **#PrEPWorks** petition to Dr. Mandy Cohen, the Secretary of NC Department of Health and Human Services, and to several key House Health Members at the NCGA, with 626 signatures advocating for expanded access to PrEP and PEP services.

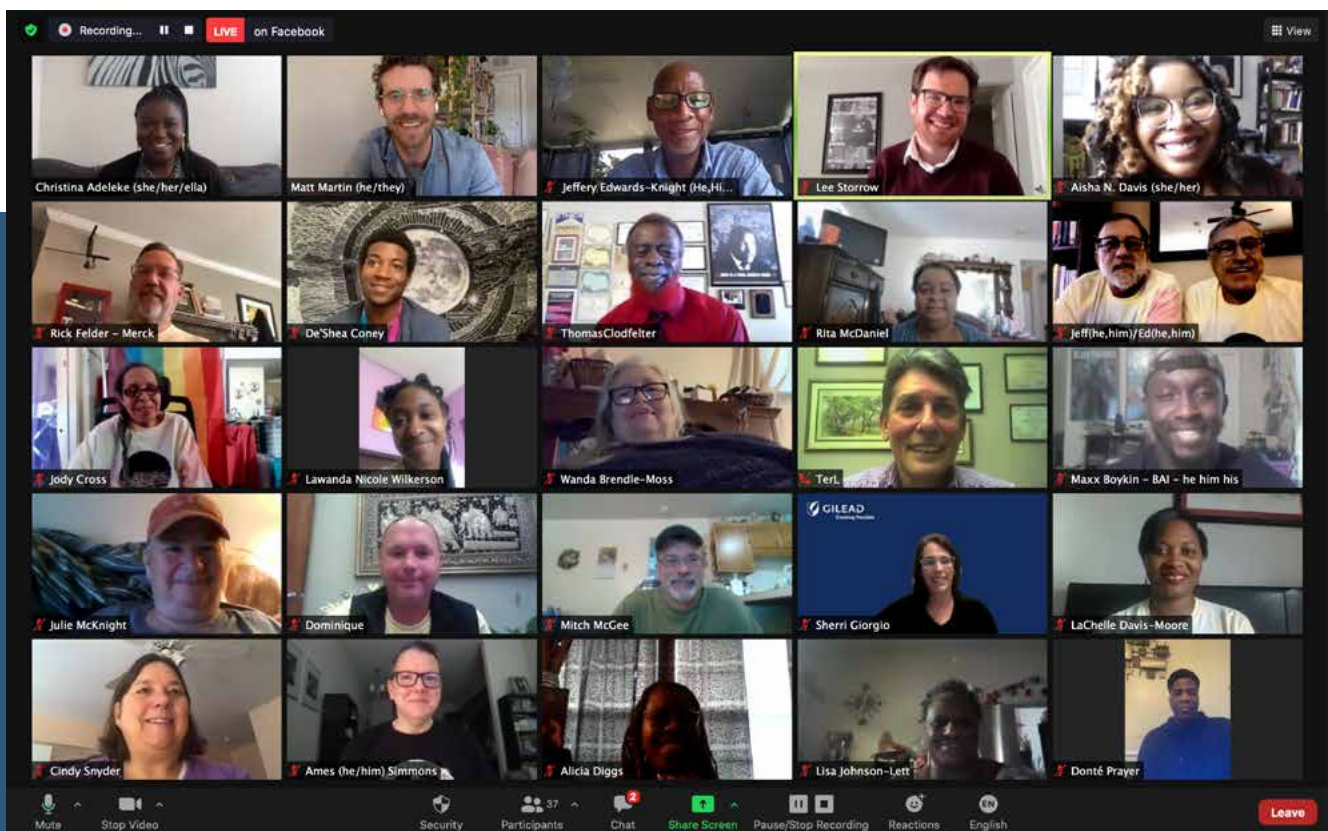
About NCAAN

OUR MISSION

To improve the lives of people living with HIV & AIDS and affected communities through outreach and public education, policy advocacy, and community-building to increase visibility and mutual support of people living with HIV & AIDS throughout our state.

OUR VISION

The North Carolina AIDS Action Network envisions a state that values the voices, knowledge, and life experiences of people living with HIV & AIDS – where HIV education and healthcare are accessible, fact-based, compassionate, and without moral judgment; and where people living with HIV & AIDS live in a community of mutual support and are treated as whole individuals worthy of love, respect, and dignity.



We are committed to building HIV & AIDS and Viral Hepatitis advocacy capacity at the grassroots by inviting every North Carolinian who cares about health equity to join our Action Team. **Join us at [NCAAN.org](https://www.ncaan.org)**