

About the Initiative

The Circle of Care Initiative was designed in response to women's own stated needs and interests. Its goals are to stabilize, strengthen and expand programs for women affected by HIV/AIDS across the City of Toronto.

The Circle of Care Initiative is a consortium of five AIDS service organizations including the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT), Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention (Black CAP), Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support Action Network (PASAN), Toronto People with AIDS Foundation (PWA), and The Teresa Group.



For More Information

Social Spaces and Learning Support
(WomenZone)

website: actoronto.org/women

African Caribbean and Black Women's Support
Program

website: black-cap.com

Community Support for Women Ex-Prisoners

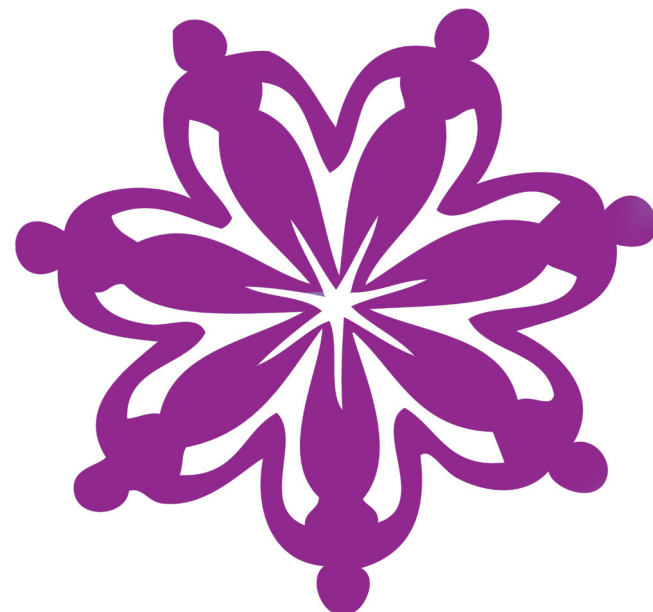
website: pasan.org

Peer Support Program

website: pwatoronto.org

Supportive Programming for HIV-Positive Mothers

website: teresagroup.ca/programs



circle of care

The Circle of Care Initiative is a collaborative approach to providing diverse, innovative and practical support services for women living with HIV/AIDS in Toronto.

Social Spaces and Learning Support

Lead: AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)

ACT provides opportunities for women living with HIV/AIDS to socialize and discuss current issues related to HIV. ACT's Circle of Care program is called WomenZone and is open to all women living with HIV, including trans women, WomenZone offers women the opportunity to learn about ways to better manage their health, the importance of nutrition, and an opportunity to interact with each other. WomenZone sessions are offered three times per month and each session includes a meal.

African Caribbean and Black Women's Support Program

Lead: Black CAP

With the goal of addressing the complex care needs of African, Caribbean and Black women living with HIV through increased access to relevant supportive programming, the services provided as part of the ACB Women's Support Program includes case management and counselling to help respond to complex individual and family needs/issues; group delivery, including trans women's programming; and service access/system navigation to help facilitate access to complimentary programs and services.

Community Support for Women Ex-Prisoners

Lead: PASAN

A combination of support services is available to help all women and trans-identified people to achieve their goals of connecting with other women/peers, addressing immediate and longer-term issues, building self-esteem and ultimately integrate into larger community(ies). One-on-one support and systems navigation assistance is available to HIV-positive women who are ex-prisoners in addition to a number of complimentary programs including: a harm reduction support group for criminalized women; a networking group for women to come together, socialize, and share experiences; and a trans women's group.

Peer Support Program

Lead: PWA

The Peer Support Program builds on the value, impact and benefit that can be experienced by women living with HIV when they are able to receive support from other HIV-positive women as well as for those HIV-positive women providing support. Peer Workers provide support to other women as they navigate the social service system by providing advice on accessing services, negotiating with

service providers, accompanying women to appointments, helping introduce them to other services and supports, providing interpretation and translation, as well as other supports. Peer Workers will also help to create social spaces that are welcoming and supportive.

Supportive Programming for HIV-Positive Mothers

Lead: The Teresa Group

Supportive programming for HIV-positive mothers represents a continuation and expansion of three core programs currently available at The Teresa Group: Prenatal Program, New Mothers Group and the Family Support Program to reach mothers in outlying areas of Toronto who traditionally find it difficult to access these services. As part of the Circle of Care, The Teresa Group will establish hospital visits, home visiting, and therapeutic follow-up to new mothers, and coordinate other community supports as required.