

IT'S ALL ABOUT LIFE



FOUR A's
ALASKAN AIDS ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION

2020
COMMUNITY
IMPACT REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CO-CHAIRS

2020 has been a year full of challenges and change for us all. We have struggled through political upheaval, witnessing and participating in powerful movements for social change. COVID-19 continues to sweep through Alaska, severely impacting our daily lives and communities.

COVID-19 hit the Four A's community hard in more ways than one. In the Southeast, many people who live with HIV also work in tourism and found themselves suddenly unemployed. Across the state we continue to see a drastic increase in requests for rent, food, housing and medical support. Staff are working overtime to move people out of the shelter system and into temporary housing, get mortgage and rental assistance out, and transition to home-delivery for our food pantry program in Anchorage. Our syringe access program (FASAP) experienced a significant increase in utilization as pharmacies ran low on syringes, and as isolation caused by the pandemic continues to take its toll on people who are struggling with their recovery.

Through it all, Four A's continued the legacy of those who fight in the struggle against HIV/AIDS—we are persevering. When COVID-19 hit, we immediately pivoted to adapt our services. FASAP moved to our mobile van and our case management team powered up their laptops and cell phones and began making sure our most vulnerable neighbors had the most important necessities.

In the months since the pandemic hit, we have grown as an agency, expanding our staff team and Anchorage office space as well as securing a new office space for our Juneau location as we work to meet the increasing demand in our community.

This is what the HIV community has always done. We meet challenges head on and push through hardships. When we think back to agencies like ours that started as small groups of volunteers who were reeling as they lost friends, lovers, and neighbors to HIV, we know that Four A's will continue to meet the needs of our community. There is no other choice. Until we end the epidemic and the stigma surrounding it, Four A's will be here, and we could not do it without you.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR FAMILY.

ROBIN LUTZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NICK WHITMORE
BOARD CO-CHAIR

HOPE McGRATTY
BOARD CO-CHAIR



ROBIN LUTZ



NICK WHITMORE



HOPE McGRATTY



HIV TODAY

Today, there are an estimated 1.1 million individuals living with HIV in America. In Alaska, 90% are engaged in care, and 92% of those individuals have an undetectable viral load. This is good news, but our work is far from over when it comes to ensuring community members living with HIV stay healthy, our fellow Alaskans unaware of their HIV status are supported, and those making the effort to reduce their risk of HIV have access to the resources they need.

Treatment options for people living with HIV are good for those who have access to quality health care and are not facing multiple life challenges. However, the barriers to health remain substantial for many of us. Poverty, lack of safe and affordable housing, restricted access to healthcare, and the crippling effects of stigma and racism continue to pose a threat to our community's health. Preventative services continue to be one of the most needed and difficult to access health resources.

We are proud to be one of over 400 Syringe Access Programs across the country. Science has clearly demonstrated that access to harm reduction services, such as syringe service programs, benefits communities in multiple ways. Communities with these services see a reduction in fatal overdoses, the number of used needles in public spaces, and number positive HIV and HCV test results among people who inject drugs.

Each year, more states and counties are recognizing the benefits of harm reduction and the decriminalization of drugs and those who use them. This November, Oregon became the first state to decriminalize drugs and offer addiction services instead of jail time to persons in possession of small amounts of substances. However, other proven harm reduction methods have not yet been successfully implemented in the U.S, such as safer drug consumption services (SCS). SCS are designated sites where people can use pre-obtained drugs under the safety and support of trained personnel.

The Four A's continues to search for new and effective ways to serve our community. In October, we co-sponsored the first Alaska Harm Reduction Conference which drew participants from all over our state, hungry to share and obtain knowledge about caring for the people who use drugs in their communities.

As we look towards the future, Four A's remains committed to embracing new and innovative ways to serve our community and work towards ending the HIV epidemic starting right here, in Alaska.

CLIENT RESOURCES

2020 has presented numerous challenges, but Client Resources continues to step up and support our community in creative ways. Four A's strives to support, empower, and surround those affected by HIV/AIDS with compassion and care.

In March, COVID-19 made closing our Anchorage and Juneau offices a necessity. Although COVID-19 changed our daily lives, our clients' needs for accessible medical care, food, housing and financial resources remain.

Case Managers wasted no time in adapting to this sudden change. Firing up their laptops and cell phones, they immediately began moving clients into emergency housing, transitioning others into permanent housing, delivering food boxes, assisting with transportation, rent and utility bills and ensuring that our clients knew they were not alone. Due to job loss, isolation, and new challenges in accessing resources during COVID-19, we have seen a sharp increase in requests for our services, pushing Four A's to grow as an agency in order to continue fulfilling our mission.

Four A's now has six Case Managers serving clients in Anchorage and outlying areas. The increase in Case Managers is due not only to an increase in clients but commitment to providing more individualized attention to each client. In Juneau, the South East Office welcomed back James Hoagland as the Southeast Program Manager, serving our clients in the South East communities.

An AIDS Drugs Assistance Program (ADAP) Manager was hired specifically to work with the pharmacy and clients to ensure clients feel empowered when navigating the world of insurance and to make sure medications are provided to them in a timely manner. To ensure all the different programs housed within Client Services are operating smoothly to meet client needs, a Quality Assurance Manager was hired.

In these times when the only thing that is certain is uncertainty itself, Client Services would not be successful without the collaboration of our partners in the community who continue to support our clients. It is a team effort of many agencies and caring individuals like you, working together for the betterment of our clients and community.



KIM STOLTZ

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

A few months ago, a man moved from out of state to be with his boyfriend who he had met online. When the relationship ended, he suddenly found himself homeless, without HIV meds, sleeping in a homeless shelter. He connected with Four A's and quickly joined us as a client and entered the Four A's Ryan White Housing subsidy program. The client now accesses his medications through the AIDS Drug Administration Program (ADAP) and found an affordable apartment and a job. Due to COVID, the bus system was not running, so the client walked to work every day until he was able to purchase a bike. He is currently in stable housing, taking his HIV medications, is virally suppressed, and has continued working through COVID-19 pandemic. Truly an extraordinary, resilient individual who has worked to be successful in trying times.

EJ JUGUILON

15

households provided utilities assistance including propane, electricity, or wood to maintain their homes.

47

households provided rental or mortgage assistance to prevent homelessness.

IN
2020

15

clients transitioned from being homeless to permanent housing.



ANGELA DUNN

Over
600

food boxes delivered to clients.

170

&
20 gas cards given so clients could attend medical appointments.

bus passes

“

My quality of life has improved a lot having Four A's through this journey. I needed a lot of support due to my condition.

- Four A's HIV Care Client

60

clients provided emergency funds and housing to prevent homelessness.

21

clients maintained stable housing through the Ryan White Housing Program



JACKIE LaBUEN

HIV PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

Four A's continues to invest in offering Prevention and Harm Reduction services to our community. Although COVID-19 drastically impacted the way we provide these services, our Prevention team worked creatively to ensure that the community continues to have access to these vital resources.

In March, we moved all Four A's Syringe Access Program (FASAP) services to our Mobile Health Unit, operating out of the Four A's parking lot and driving out to Mat-Su. In Juneau, Front Street Clinic partnered with FASAP to provide services after our Southeast office closed. To keep our clients and staff safe, bags of supplies are now premade for quick pick up, staff and clients are required to wear face coverings and masks are handed out to clients who need them. Throughout the summer, we saw a sharp increase in new participants for FASAP state-wide.

Four A's continues to encourage and empower participants to know their HIV status by offering at-home HIV tests. Community members can now call Four A's to schedule a time to pick up their test kit and a prevention staff member will be available to walk them through the process and provide follow-up care telephonically.

Through partnering with Project Homeless Connect, we were able to offer free HIV/ HCV testing, counseling services, and safe injection kits in Anchorage, Wasilla and Juneau this year. Four A's expanded to add Mountain View to our weekly FASAP schedule through partnership with the Anchorage Health Department and the State of Alaska - Division of Health.

As we look towards 2021, our goal for FASAP is to secure funding to truly meet the needs of our community. Although we have been able to meet this goal in our Mat-Su and Juneau programs, our Anchorage program remains underfunded with high participation, limiting the amount of supplies each individual can receive. We are optimistic that next year, all programs will be able to fully support our FASAP participants.

With the engagement and support from community partnerships and activated individuals like you, we continue to move Alaska closer to eliminating HIV while caring for our community's health.



EJ JUGUILON & BYRON KIM



VENUS WOODS



PREVENTION IN 2020 TOTAL NUMBER OF

179 individuals in Anchorage and Juneau now know their HIV status through getting tested at Four A's.

568 new participants chose to access FASAP Services.

106 individuals in Anchorage and Juneau now know their HCV Status through getting tested at Four A's.

724,920 sterile syringes were provided to Anchorage and Juneau participants.



597,681 syringes were returned by participants and safely disposed of.

STORY HIGHLIGHT

Sam first contacted Four A's in 2018, as he was facing a debilitating lymphoma diagnosis and advanced HIV infection in Anchorage. He had 6 T-cells and a viral load of almost one million on top of needing to undergo intense cancer treatment. A case manager met him in the hospital to find out how we could best support him at this time. He immediately started HIV medications to control his viral load and rebuild his immune system. Sam and his case manager worked together to enroll him Medicaid and get an expedited disability determination so that his medical care would be covered, and personal bills paid while not being healthy enough to work. After navigating the complex systems, Sam was able to obtain the necessary support to move to Juneau to live with family and continue focusing on his treatment for the next year. Overwhelmed with his own treatment and losing a parent to cancer in the process, Sam fell out of touch with Four A's. We were thrilled when Sam contacted Four A's again this spring, reporting he was cancer-free and ready to reconnect. With the assistance of his case manager and a housing subsidy, Sam moved into his own apartment and took the first steps towards re-entering the workforce. His viral load continues to be undetectable due to consistently taking his HIV medications. In just two years, Sam has gone through a tremendous change. Today, he is looking forward to a bright future. We are honored to walk this path with Sam.



“

Thank you for providing a safe place for users ... and for being non-judgmental because a lot of [persons who use drugs] struggle with that and tend to not associate with anyone because of it.

- Juneau FASAP Participant

FINANCIAL STATS FY20

%
42

42% OF TOTAL AGENCY BUDGET
USED FOR PERSONNEL COSTS.

Four A's is about connecting with people. Without investing in dedicated staff, we would not be able to meet our mission.

%
70

70% OF THE SUPPORT WE PROVIDED TO PEOPLE
LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS WAS RELATED TO HOUSING.

Housing remains one of the most important factors in HIV health outcomes. Access to safe and stable housing became even more imperative during COVID-19.

\$
6,237

\$6,237 DONATED BY FASAP PARTICIPANTS.

Dollar by dollar, nickel by nickel, our Syringe Access Program participants donated enough to cover an entire month of supplies.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

In FY20 Four A's was unable to hold two major fundraising events due to COVID-19: Dining Out for Life and Fetish Ball.

As a result, the agency missed out on \$28,000 of fundraising revenue in FY20. The prospect of being able to hold these events FY21 is increasingly doubtful. This would increase the agency's revenue loss attributed to COVID-19 to over \$50,000. Support from individuals and businesses within our community will be crucial in filling this gap.

YOU MAKE AN IMPACT

Although many of the services we provide are funded through grants, we are highly dependent on donations to support the purchase of injection supplies for Four A's Syringe Access Program (FASAP) and community outreach events such as World AIDS Day and our presence at PrideFest. Furthermore, your donations support the continued improvements to our agency's capacity, helping us better meet our mission.

THANK YOU

Four A's is not weathering the storm of this global pandemic alone. The stories of success, resiliency and progress in these pages are possible because of you. In a time when we are all facing uncertainty, you stepped up to support your neighbors and protect the health of your community.

You supported Four A's through a year of transition and growth. This year we welcomed a new Executive Director, Development Director, Finance Coordinator, Quality Assurance Manager, ADAP Manager, Case Manager, Office Manager and Southeast Program Manager to our team. We continue to work with our dedicated board, community partners, and clients to look critically at our work and how we achieve that work, striving for excellence and compassion in how we provide care. Thank you for standing by us.

In Southeast, big changes are underway thanks to you. Your dedication and financial contributions have allowed for our Juneau office to expand into a more accessible, confidential space. Stay tuned for a virtual grand opening and exciting developments as we continue to ramp up services in Southeast.

In the midst of these transitions, COVID-19 put a halt to many of the events and in person community moments we treasure. Dining Out for Life, Fetish Ball, PrideFest, National HIV Testing Day and Friday Lunches were canceled to keep those around us safe. The unanticipated cancellation of events like Dining Out for Life and Fetish Ball impacted Four A's through both the loss of revenue and the loss of community connection. Although we now have a financial gap to fill, we are incredibly grateful to our partners and invested individuals like you continue to support clients through these changes.

Although a substantial amount of Four A's funding is secured through state and federal grants, donor support plays a critical role in ensuring the complete, wrap-around care of our clients and community. This year, your support made sure that our clients received weekly food deliveries, our Prevention Program participants had access to safe injection supplies, HIV and HCV tests and condoms, and that all clients and staff had the PPE necessary to keep them safe.

As we look forward to the years to come, Four A's remains steadfast in our mission to care for those living with HIV/AIDS and advance our approach to preventative services. Know that it is the dedication and support of people like you that makes Four A's mission possible.



COREY CROWDER

REVENUE SOURCES

	FY18	FY19	FY20
Grants	1,579,271	1,623,129	1,799,530
Direct Giving	162,818	137,118	73,498
Earned Income	60,220	32,829	9,323
Other	18,555	7,973	26,579
TOTAL	1,820,864	1,801,049	1,908,930



JACOB HALE

*Financials for FY20 are unaudited and subject to change.

FY20 EXPENSES

%
73

1,529,269
CLIENT
RESOURCES

%
15

307,556
EDUCATION
& PREVENTION

%
8

177,445
MANAGEMENT
& GENERAL

%
4

91,764
FUNDRAISING

VOLUNTEER

In 2020, the face of volunteering with Four A's has changed, but the passion and commitment of our volunteers has not. Even with COVID-19 limiting our ability gathering in person, volunteers continue to reach out to offer support in unique ways. One such volunteer is Candace Bell.

Candace is a long-time supporter, volunteer and advocate for Four A's and our community. Since 2005, Candace has dedicated her time, energy, and passion to Four A's in many ways. From serving on the Four A's Board of Directors for 9 years, to volunteering at PrideFest, Fetish Ball and Friday Lunches. In 2016, Candace was recognized as Four A's Volunteer of the Year. When COVID-19 hit in March, Candace set to work sewing over 300 masks and donated them to Four A's to protect our staff and clients. Thanks to Candace, our staff and clients had access to masks at a time when securing any form PPE was difficult.

This fall, Candace stepped down from the Four A's Board after many years of incredible service. "It is my hope to continue to be a volunteer and a donor because I truly believe in the mission of serving the community by supporting our HIV clients, improving awareness and promoting harm reduction through our HIV and Hep C testing and syringe access programs" says Candace, "The dedication of Four A's staff is phenomenal. I wish every member of the community could see what they accomplish in any given day. It has been a privilege to be a part of Four A's. You will always have a piece of my heart."

To all our volunteers, thank you. We look forward to the time when we can serve with you in person once more.



CANDACE BELL

Over ten years ago, Lila reached out to Four A's looking to become a client in Southeast. When she first started accessing resources through Four A's, Lila was struggling with an alcohol addiction, and had trouble maintaining employment and stable housing. Lila has chosen to work with Four A's to access HIV care, housing support and addiction counseling services. For the past 4 years, Lila has been sober, maintained secure and stable housing and was working a hospitality job she enjoyed. Lila reached out to Four A's in March when she suddenly lost her job due to COVID-19. Four A's was able to increase the housing support Lila received as she searched for another job. At the beginning of November, Lila was thrilled to report that she not only found a new job but changed careers and is now working in health care. Lila is an extraordinary client and we are honored to be a part of the success she has built for herself on her own terms.



ADRIENNE BEANS



Earlier this year, a long-term client of Four A's in Southeast suddenly stopped going to medical appointments. Concerned, his case manager did everything he could to reconnect with the client with no success. Several months later the client reached out on his own terms and told his case manager that he was ready to access resources through Four A's once more. From then on, the client worked with Four A's to obtain stable housing and is currently doing well, looking for employment and is optimistic about his future. It is always a joyful moment when clients reach out to reconnect.

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

This fall, a couple was medevacked to Anchorage from a rural community. The husband was extremely ill, and when he arrived in Anchorage, he discovered that he had active TB and was HIV positive. Through their medical provider, the couple connected with Four A's for assistance with obtaining insurance, temporary housing, and translation services. While navigating the process of enrolling in Medicaid, Four A's provided the financial support for the wife to order bloodwork. It was confirmed that she too was HIV positive.

Four A's worked with the couple to secure a hotel room while the husband focused on recovery. Through choosing to enroll in the Ryan White Program, the husband and wife accessed the medications and medical treatment they needed. They were provided gas cards to support their transportation to and from medical appointments and their case manager delivered food boxes weekly. To ensure they would have their home to return to, Four A's was able to pay their rent for two months. We are thrilled to say that after two months, we purchased two plane tickets and the couple returned to their community. The couple continues to engage with Four A's for support as they need it and looks forward to a bright future.



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Staff are very open and friendly they make me feel comfortable.

- Four A's HIV Care Client

Dameon is a regular participant at the Four A's Syringe Access Program in Southeast. One day, he was getting ready to walk out the door after receiving his supplies, when he suddenly stopped. Turning around, he looked at the staff running the Syringe Exchange and said "Thank you. This means more than you know." We are so proud of our FASAP participants for taking their health and the health of our community into their own hands.



BYRON KIM

CONTACT INFORMATION

FOUR A'S

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STAFF

ADRIENNE BEANS | Case Manager
ANGELA DUNN | Hispanic Case Manager
ARIANNE KELSEY | ADAP Manager
BYRON KIM | HIV Prevention/Harm Reduction Specialist
COREY CROWDER | Case Manager
FRANCI VIENS | Ryan White/ADAP Specialist
JACLYN LaBUEN | Case Manager
JACOB HALE | Finance Director
JAMES HOAGLAND | Southeast Program Manager
JOSEPH (EJ) JUGUILON | HIV Prevention/Harm Reduction Specialist
KIM STOLTZ | Director of Client Resources
QUIANNA MAINER | Office Manager
ROBIN LUTZ | Executive Director
SHAINA CLEMENS | Director of Development
SONNY FABIANO | Quality Assurance Manager
TAMI WAGNER-LOOMIS | Case Manager
TERRI COKER | Finance Coordinator
VENUS WOODS | Director of HIV Prevention and Education



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