

ABOUT US: ACHIEVING BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES ONE CLIENT AT A TIME

Empowerment Resource Center, Inc.
236 Auburn Avenue NE, Suite 200
Atlanta GA 30303
Phone: (404) 526-1145
Fax: (404) 526-1146
www.EmpowerYoungWomen.org



Empowerment Resource Center Staff

Agency Overview

HIV/AIDS Empowerment Resource Center for Young Women, Incorporated, doing business as Empowerment Resource Center (ERC), was founded in 2003 as a volunteer service organization, with a priority focus on women. Since its inception, ERC has provided HIV prevention and care services to over 2,800 individuals. ERC is a non-profit organization, with 501(C)(3) status. We are located in the heart of high morbidity areas which often contain individuals who are newly infected, vulnerable, underserved, hard to reach, and/or disproportionately impacted communities of color. ERC was incorporated in 2006.



Our Volunteers Fuel Our Passion

Mission Statement

To directly deliver programs and services and generate solutions to societal and community issues that impact the transmission of HIV and other STDs.

Vision Statement

To increase knowledge about HIV/AIDS and other STDs, empower healthy-choice decision-making, establish routine HIV testing, use resources to link those who are HIV positive to care, and help to reduce the stigma associated with HIV.

Existing Programs & Services

Empowerment Resource Center provides programs and services in three program component areas in the Atlanta metro area: 1) Health-related prevention education; 2) Counseling, testing & referral services; and 3) Support services.



Health-Related Prevention Education

Group-Level Workshops

Empowerment Resource Center uses evidence-based behavioral intervention during its workshops in four public health districts in Georgia—Cobb-Douglas (3-1), Fulton (3-2), Clayton (3-3), and DeKalb (3-5).

- VOICES—a single-session, video-based HIV/STD prevention workshop designed to encourage condom use and improve condom negotiation skills in high-risk heterosexual populations.
- SIHLE—Sisters Informing, Healing, Living, and Empowering—a peer-led, social-skills training intervention aimed at building high self-esteem, increase gender pride, and reducing HIV sexual risk behavior in teenage girls.
- Be Proud! Be Responsible— a peer-led, social skills development program which focuses on teen pregnancy prevention, self esteem building, delaying sexual activity, partner negotiation skill, interactive correct condom usage demonstrations, and HIV & STD awareness and risk reduction in teenage boys.



SIHLE Workshop in DeKalb County



Workshop Targeting Young Men

Social Marketing & Targeted Outreach

Take Charge. Get Tested.™ Event. In observance of National HIV Testing Day (June 27th), ERC hosts its annual Take Charge. Get Tested.™ Event, a day-long campaign which offers free HIV counseling, testing, and prevention-related services targeted to hard-to-reach, high risk individuals at high risk of HIV infection. Traditionally, this event is an outside health fair on Auburn Avenue, between Bell Street and Piedmont Road, from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.



2010 Take Charge. Get Tested. Event (June 25th)

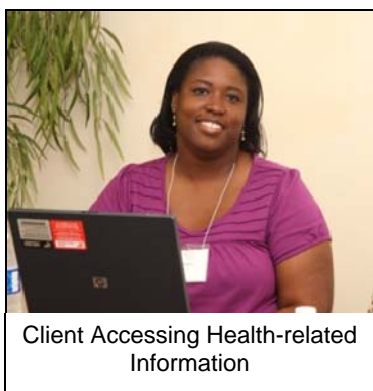


Hope Clinic Booth

Cycle of Silence™ Conference. In alternating years, ERC hosts its Cycle of Silence™ conference in observance of National Women & Girls HIV Awareness Day (May 10th). The conference focuses on HIV prevention, transmission modes, and barriers to HIV prevention in efforts to dispel misconceptions and increase the likelihood of reducing at-risk behaviors. This session is designed to heighten the awareness of HIV and fully educate individuals on the impact of the disease on females.



Health Education Resource System



Client Accessing Health-related Information

While waiting for test results, clients can capitalize on downtime and access health-related resources through the Health Education Resource System. This web-based project improves client access to and promotes electronic health information offered through web-based tools, such as MedlinePlus, WebMD, DIRLINE, and AIDSinfo. Clients gain additional learning and health awareness opportunities through the benefit of this dedicated e-learning system.

Counseling, Testing & Referral (CTR) Services

Comprehensive Intervention Clinic. Empowerment Resource Center offers counseling, testing, and referral services through its Comprehensive Intervention Clinic (CIC). CTR services are provided for individuals, ages 14 and older, and at-high risk of HIV infection. Services are offered both on-site at ERC office and at 10 mobile sites through collaborative agreements. Services include:

- Sexual Transmitted Disease (STD) Counseling
- Gonorrhea & Chlamydia Testing
- HIV Testing
- Pregnancy Testing
- Harm Reduction Tools and Materials
- Corporate Wellness Screening Services



CIC Targeted Outreach

Support Services

Agape Services: ERC provides psychosocial support and client navigation and tracking services for HIV-positive women, ages 19 and older to ensure that they are enrolled in care and remain in care. This program includes support groups, group-level intervention, and social network development.

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Client Referral Services



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Atlanta GA 30303

Phone: 404-526-1145
Fax: 404-526-1146
E-mail: info@EmpowerYoungWomen.org

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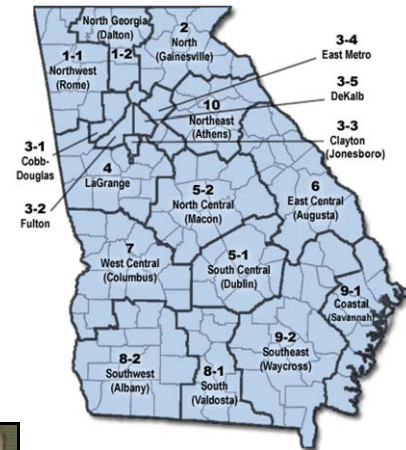
- Monthly support group meetings.
- Client tracking services assist clients in navigating through the maze of resources to access primary care and treatment.
- WILLOW Workshops—a group-level behavioral intervention designed to develop skills to identify and maintain supportive social networks and develop coping and life prolonging skills in HIV-infected women.

Future Programs & Services

Service Area Expansion. ERC will expand its CTR services to include East Central Public Health District 6 (Augusta) in November 2010. This will bring the total counties served by ERC to six—Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, Douglas, Clayton, and Richmond.

Comprehensive Care. In early 2011, ERC will expand its repertoire of programs by adding the following services to encourage care regimen and compliance.

- STD Treatment
- Medical Transportation
- Advocacy Campaigns



Access to Care in Community Settings

Sustainability

ERC will continue to seek funding through grant writing, solicitation from corporate sponsors, and volunteer staff. ERC has forged alliances and agreements with collaborators and community partners to supplement program and service offerings. We currently have the support of several companies and key Georgia legislators. ERC has a strong, fiscally responsible Board of Directors that provides financial support on an as needed basis. Furthermore, ERC has 60 active volunteers. Finally, We are frugal with our financial resources, as 95% of furniture and equipment purchases are made at a fraction of the cost through the Georgia DOAS Surplus Property division.



ERC Receives 2009 Wachovia Foundation Grant



ERC Attends Gala with GA State Sen. Nan Orrock



ERC Receives 2010 Fitzgerald Foundation Grant