



**A Healthy Future for Women and Girls Globally:
Fourth Annual Action Summit on
Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**

**May 6-8, 2012
Washington, D.C.**

Deadline to apply: Sunday, April 1, 2012

Open to applicants from the following states:

Alaska
Illinois
Maine
Massachusetts
Minnesota
Nevada

Background

Comprehensive sexual and reproductive health programs and services based on human rights are needed more than ever. Globally, women continue to face high rates of preventable illness and death stemming from HIV and AIDS, unintended pregnancy, and maternal health complications, including unsafe abortion. Yet adequate U.S. funding for life-saving reproductive health services is in jeopardy. Leaders of the Republican majority in the Congress have prioritized rolling back women's reproductive health and rights at home and abroad through severe budget cuts and harmful, ideologically-driven policies.

These attacks on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights lie in contrast to the Obama administration's vision for global health. In 2009, the administration launched the U.S. Global Health Initiative (GHI)—a women- and girl-centered, country-led, and integrated approach that offers important opportunities to advance sexual and reproductive health. However, Congressional support and funding for this approach remain in doubt given the current political and economic context.

Informed and engaged advocates will make all the difference in urging U.S. policymakers to stand firm in supporting adequate funding and evidence-based policy for global HIV and AIDS, family planning, and maternal and child health programs and services.

About the Action Summit

This summit will bring 20 highly motivated advocates from target states in the U.S. to Washington, D.C. for an in-depth, three-day training on comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights, advocacy, and U.S. foreign policy. With colleagues from around the U.S., participants will discuss the elements and advantages of a comprehensive approach to sexual and reproductive health care while building their understanding of key global issues and strengthening their advocacy knowledge and skills. Participants will also have the opportunity to network with women's health and rights organizations and leaders in Washington and will meet with key U.S. Senate and House of Representatives' offices to advocate for adequate funding and evidence-based policies when it comes to international sexual and reproductive health and rights.

CHANGE will cover travel, food, and lodging expenses for this training. In exchange, participants are asked to remain engaged in CHANGE's advocacy initiatives after the Action Summit by continuing to contact policy makers and organizing local activities such as trainings, speaking tours, or meetings with district offices.

About the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)

The Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) is a Washington, D.C.-based non-governmental organization that promotes sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and human rights in global health policies and programs. We accomplish our mission by monitoring, analyzing, and advocating for international policies and funding that promote comprehensive SRH services, including in HIV/AIDS interventions. CHANGE believes that every individual has the right to basic information, technologies, and services needed to enjoy a healthy and safe sexual and reproductive life free from coercion and preventable illness.

Summit Agenda (a detailed agenda will be sent to accepted participants)

Sunday, May 6: Issue Training

- The case for comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- U.S. international SRHR funding and policies

Monday, May 7: Advocacy Training

- Defining the advocacy process
- Trainings on messaging and meeting with legislators

Tuesday, May 8: Capitol Hill Visits

- Meet with Senate and House offices to advocate for U.S. foreign assistance funding and foreign policies that support SRHR

Important Details

1. We are seeking applications from highly motivated people who live in the following states: Alaska, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Nevada. Individuals who apply must be registered to vote in any of the above states. Accepted applicants must also commit to full participation in the workshop for all three days.

Priority consideration will be given to individuals who:

- Represent an organization (e.g. non-profit organizations, networks, houses of worship, etc.) with constituencies in these states, or
- Have at least 1-2 years of advocacy experience (e.g. professional or volunteer experience, campus organizing, etc.).

People living with HIV are strongly encouraged to apply.

2. Action Summit expenses for each participant will be covered in full by CHANGE (e.g. travel, accommodations, dining). Participants will stay for three nights in a hotel, and workshop sessions will take place at the hotel or meeting space nearby. CHANGE staff will work closely with all selected applicants on arranging and coordinating their travel and accommodations.
3. After the Action Summit, we strongly encourage active use of your knowledge and skills on behalf of women and girls globally. CHANGE will facilitate ongoing advocacy opportunities, but we also hope that participants will initiate and develop their own advocacy projects in collaboration with other participants or community organizations. We will talk more about the range of opportunities at the Summit.

Application Deadline and How to Submit

Completed applications should be emailed to Erika Vijn, Program Assistant, at evijn@genderhealth.org by 11:59pm Eastern on Sunday, April 1, 2012.

If you prefer to submit a hard copy of your application, please mail it to the following address:

Attn: Erika Vijn
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
1317 F Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20004

Applicants will be notified about acceptance during the week of April 2.

In order to ensure a diverse group of participants and to adapt the training to participant needs, we would like to know about your advocacy experience and familiarity with certain initiatives or policies. Please note that your answers will not be the basis of whether you are selected—we are looking for a range of knowledge and skill levels. Thank you for your honesty!

Please rate your advocacy experience in terms of the following skills:

1 = No experience; 2 = Very little experience; 3 = Some experience; 4 = Good experience; 5 = Expert

Advocacy

- _____ Contacting a legislator or decision maker about an issue you care about
- _____ Meeting with a legislator or decision maker about an issue you care about
- _____ Organizing an event in your community or on your campus
- _____ Building a network or coalition
- _____ Communicating with the press
- _____ Budget analysis
- _____ Policy analysis

Issues/Initiatives

Please rate your knowledge of the following issues:

1 = Never heard of it; 2 = Little knowledge; 3 = Somewhat knowledgeable; 4 = Good command of the issue; 5 = Could facilitate a session at the Action Summit on this issue!

- _____ “Global Gag Rule” or Mexico City Policy
- _____ President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
- _____ Global Health Initiative (GHI)
- _____ The U.S. Congressional budget and appropriations process
- _____ Helms Amendment

List any relevant work or volunteer experience. If you prefer to submit a resume or CV, please attach it with your completed application and skip this section.

