



FLORIDA STATE SENATOR

# ALEXIS CALATAYUD

DISTRICT 38



## Bridging the Gap to Save Lives



## 12,000 HIV Positive Floridians Re-gain Access to Florida's AIDS Drug Assistance Program

After months of state-wide activism and many weeks of unceasing advocacy, I am proud to announce that the Legislature unanimously passed and Governor DeSantis has officially signed House Bill 697 into law providing \$30.9 million to ensure that thousands of low-income eligible Floridians living with HIV/AIDS can continue accessing the life-saving medications through [Florida's AIDS Drug Assistance Program \(ADAP\)](#).

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program, supported through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, historically serves more than 27,000 Floridians that earn up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026, a projected funding shortfall related to elapsed Affordable Care Act subsidies threatened to disrupt life-sustaining care for more than 12,000 HIV-positive Floridians.

# Understanding the Issue

## How did we get here?

Beginning March 1, 2026, the Florida DOH instituted programmatic changes to align with funding gaps that reduced the ADAP eligible populations from 400% of FPL to 130% of FPL; this change did terminate access of 12,000 HIV-positive individuals to their prior healthcare coverage and/or HIV drug payment assistance. The funding chasm created life-altering uncertainty and hardship for the Floridians who rely on the ADAP program for healthcare.

To learn more about how these changes impacted Floridians, read coverage from the:

- [IAPAC Article on Florida ADAP changes](#)
- [Miami Herald article on ADAP funding crisis](#)

## What happened during Florida's Legislative Session?

Through the first months of 2026, grassroots activists led by Michael Rajner, educated and advocated to help the Florida Legislature bridge the gap, between humane, medically essential healthcare access and an imminent public health crisis. We are deeply grateful to the advocates and community leaders who raised this issue early and ensured the Florida Senate understood the urgency and real-life impact of these changes.

Over the last four years, I have been one of the foremost advocates in the Florida Legislature for HIV prevention, medication support and essential services. Recently, through the bipartisan advocacy spearheaded by my team alongside Senator Guillermo Smith, Osgood, Brodeur, Garcia, and Rodriguez, the Florida Legislature passed unanimously emergency legislation (HB 697) allocating \$30.9 million to restore full access to HIV medications for all eligible individuals through the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). This legislation funds the state's ADAP program through June 30th.

You can read more about the legislative action here:

- [Senate Introduces Bridge Funding for AIDS Medication](#)
- [Senate moves to save AIDS drug assistance program from DeSantis administration cuts](#)
- [\\$31M infusion for AIDS drug program passes the Legislature](#)

## What happens next?

Looking forward, with the signing of this legislation, the leadership of Florida – the Republicans, Independent, and the Democrats, commit to restoring stability and certainty.

This \$30.9 million in funding restores the terminated eligibility for individuals earning up to 400% of the federal poverty level and ensures continued access to essential medications, including direct distribution and co-pay assistance for those who are self-insured.

Mid-May, I hosted a local listening session within my Senate District with ADAP clients, HIV/ AIDs advocates, community leaders and advocacy organizations, including Positive People Inc., to hear directly from Floridians who rely on ADAP services. We received firsthand testimony from affected constituents regarding the challenges they face.



Pictured left to right are Dan T. Wall, Director of the Office of Grants Coordination at Miami-Dade County; members of the Positive People Network of Miami; State Senator Alexis Calatayud; Mrs. Alecia Tramel-McIntyre, Founder and CEO of Positive People Network, Inc.; additional members of the Positive People Network of Miami; and leading advocate Mr. Michael Rajner. All individuals pictured consented to having their photograph taken and shared. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the community members who joined the discussion via teams, thank you for sharing your experiences, insight, and perspectives with us.

You can follow updates and program information here:

- [Florida Department of Health ADAP program page](#)

## Moving Forward Together



Pictured left to right are Mitch Rosenwald, Florida House of Representative; State Senator Ileana Garcia; State Senator Alexis Calatayud; leading advocate Mr. Michael Rajner; Congressman Jared Moskowitz; and State Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith.

Now, during the Florida Legislative Special Session on Budget, we continue to lean in and aggressively advocate on continued access to HIV medication for all ADAP clients. Together, we will ensure the restoration of full access to HIV medication from March 2026-June 2026 and a 100% commitment to secure, stable, consistent funding and access for all of the upcoming fiscal year of 2026-2027.

What we have achieved and what we will secure is and will continue to be the result of strong, bipartisan collaboration.

This is what government working looks like; identifying a problem, listening to those affected, and coming together across political party lines and across legislative chambers to deliver real solutions that make our constituent's lives better.

While this bridge funding provides immediate relief, we know the work is not over and even now continues. I remain deeply committed to finding a long-term, sustainable

solution to ensure that no vulnerable Floridian ever faces this kind of uncertainty again.

Thank you again to the advocates, healthcare providers, and community members who continued to show up, speak out, and partner with us throughout this process. Your voices were instrumental in helping us reach this outcome and protect the health and lives of thousands of Floridians.

Thank you for the tremendous honor and responsibility to represent you in the Florida Senate. I carry it with great respect and humility, the privilege of being your voice in Tallahassee.

At your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexis Calatayud". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

-Your State Senator Alexis Calatayud