

Application Deadline 12 October 2021

Table of Contents

1. What is the Advocacy Fellows Program?	2
2. What is the goal of the Advocacy Fellows Program?	2
3. What is biomedical HIV prevention research and implementation?	2
4. What does advocacy for HIV prevention look like?	3
5. How long is the 2022 Advocacy Fellows Program?	3
6. What do Fellows do during the Fellowship Year?	3
7. What support does the Fellows Program provide?	3
8. Who can apply to be an Advocacy Fellow?	5
9. Who is NOT eligible to be an Advocacy Fellow?	5
10. What project can an Advocacy Fellow propose?	5
11. What projects are NOT eligible?	8
12. Does an applicant have to know exactly what their project will be before applying?	8
13. Who reviews the applications?	9
14. What is the role of the Host Organization?	9
15. What types of groups can be Host Organizations?	10
16. What is the role of the Host Organization Supervisor?	10
17. How are Advocacy Fellows and Host Organizations paid?	10
18. Can a Fellow work in their current job while a Fellow?	11
19. How is the Advocacy Fellow's Financial Compensation calculated?	11
20. What if an applicant has not found a Host Organization when they apply?	11
21. Can Organizations apply to host an Advocacy Fellow?	12
22. Timeline: Application Process	12
23. How to submit an application	14
24. HIV Prevention interventions and more	14
25. About AVAC	14
26. Who to contact with more questions	15

ABOUT THE ADVOCACY FELLOWS PROGRAM

1. What is the Advocacy Fellows Program?

AVAC's Advocacy Fellows Program launched in 2009. It is designed to support emerging and mid-career advocates to design and implement advocacy projects focused on HIV prevention in their countries and communities. In addition to this focus on HIV, Fellows' project goals may also incorporate a focus on broader health equity, structural issues and/or TB or COVID-19 prevention. Advocacy Fellows carry out their projects while based at Host Organizations that serve as active partners in the Fellows Program process. AVAC provides technical and financial support to Fellows—both salary and project budget—for the duration of the Fellow period (April 2022 – September 2023).

The AVAC Advocacy Fellows Program fosters a network of deeply informed, skilled and confident advocates to strengthen and expand advocacy for HIV prevention locally, regionally and globally. Their voices accelerate ethical research and equitable access to interventions, and their oversight demands accountability so that interventions that work reach those who need them most.

This round of applications will recruit the 11th cadre of Advocacy Fellows. Seventy-seven fellowships were awarded between 2010 and 2020. The 2020 Fellows are currently implementing their advocacy projects. (The Fellows Program did not recruit in 2021.) To learn more about alumni and current Fellows and their projects, please visit www.avac.org/fellows.

2. What is the goal of the Advocacy Fellows Program?

The program's primary goal is to expand and strengthen the capacity of civil society advocates and organizations to monitor and help shape the global response to HIV- prevention research and the rapid rollout of new and effective interventions in low- and middle-income countries with high HIV burdens. Advancing this goal requires a focus on biomedical, structural, social and behavioral considerations as well as linked epidemics such as TB and COVID-19.

The program is guided by the belief that effective, sustainable advocacy grows from the interests and priorities of individuals and country level organizations. In addition, successful advocacy, in our experience, is led by passionate advocates who are motivated to bring change. The Fellows program is implemented through a close collaboration among the Advocacy Fellow, the Host Organization and AVAC.

3. What is biomedical HIV prevention research and implementation?

Biomedical HIV prevention refers to the use of an existing or potential biomedical product or intervention, such as PrEP (injectable, oral, vaginal ring, etc.), voluntary medical male circumcision or vaccines, among others, to protect against HIV. In the past two decades, a number of new biomedical options have been investigated— all are currently at various stages of development and implementation. None of these biomedical interventions can work in a vacuum.

AVAC believes that biomedical HIV prevention needs to be part of a comprehensive approach that embraces behavioral and structural solutions. Biomedical interventions are only effective when delivered by quality programs; supported by providers, peers, communities; and used correctly and consistently by people who need and want them. Successful programs delivering treatment and prevention options must therefore be people-centered and offer comprehensive, integrated, biomedical, behavioral, and structural support.

For details on the interventions and other issues AVAC engages with, [please see below #24](#) or visit www.avac.org/our-focus.

4. What does advocacy for HIV prevention look like?

Advocacy refers to a process that seeks to create change: to transform values, attitudes, funding, policies, processes and/or behaviors at a community, national or global level. Advocacy Fellows are expected to develop projects that identify a change that is needed, and lay out a set of activities that aim to affect that change.

Specifically, AVAC advocates for achieving a world without AIDS, delivering a successful and effective HIV response. Fostering an environment for robust global health advocacy depends on integrating strategies that incorporate biomedical, structural, and social and behavioral considerations.

For examples of Advocacy Fellows' projects, visit www.avac.org/fellows.

5. How long is the 2022 Advocacy Fellows Program?

The Advocacy Fellows Program will run for 18 months, from April 2022 through September 2023.

6. What do Fellows do during the Fellowship Year?

Once Fellows are selected and have accepted the award, each Fellow, the Host Supervisor and the AVAC team engage in an intensive process to develop a one-year work plan and budget that the Fellow leads, manages and implements. This work plan is based on the idea proposed in the application process.

7. What support does the Fellows Program provide?

- **Knowledge building, technical support, mentorship and advocacy development** to implement projects that advance HIV prevention, and may also address COVID-19 prevention and the structural factors that drive epidemics and pandemics. Both Advocacy Fellows and their Host Organizations gain these benefits.
- **Connection to a global network** of advocates, including current and alumni AVAC Fellows, researchers, implementers, government representatives, civil society leaders and other individuals and organizations in the field of health and rights.
- **Financial support** for project implementation over 12 months. Through a grant to the Host organization, the Fellow will receive full-time salary support, a budget for project execution and access to a discretionary fund for specific travel, infrastructure needs, and information technology (IT) needs.
- **Overhead administration** funding to the Host Organization to cover costs associated with hosting a Fellow will be included in the grant. Overhead costs incurred by the organization to administer the grant refer to expenses that are not directly attributed to the activity of the Fellows' project. Examples include: a portion of rent, phone, and some personnel costs of the Host Organization such as the Host Supervisor's time, accounting and administrative staff time. Overhead costs are calculated at 15 percent of the total grant for indirect costs and an additional 10 percent specifically allocated for supervision and mentorship support.
- **Increased skillset**, including communications, project management, research literacy, advocacy and convening. See *Skillset Development* box below.

Skillset Development for Advocacy Fellows

Communications

- Conflict management/resolution
- Document development, writing and editing; e.g., policy briefs, fact sheets, reports, media articles such as editorial/op-ed, press releases, etc.
- Interpersonal including interviewing
- Media relations/engagement; e.g., interviews, trainings, media relationship building, etc.
- Meeting facilitation
- Public speaking; e.g., at conferences, press conferences, amongst peers, etc.
- Social media

Project management

- Financial record keeping
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Reporting
- Time management
- Work plan, budget development and management

Research literacy

- Abstract writing
- Qualitative and quantitative data analysis
- Reading, reviewing and interpretation of scientific publications/information
- Research translation and presentation
- Scientific conference navigation

Effective advocacy

- Community engagement
- Development of advocacy action plans
- Evidence-based debating and negotiation
- Lobbying government bodies/elected officials
- Movement building/coalition creation
- Partner/ally recruitment and networking
- Problem solving /adaptability and strategic thinking

Planning/Convening

- Agenda development
- Campaigns, task forces
- Media workshops
- Meetings/trainings/workshops/events

8. Who can apply to be an Advocacy Fellow?

- Emerging or mid-career community leaders and advocates interested in strengthening advocacy skills and advocating for HIV prevention. While the primary focus is on HIV biomedical prevention interventions, applicants can also incorporate advocacy that includes COVID-19 prevention. Read more about AVAC's focus at www.avac.org/our-focus
- Individuals with experience or education in HIV and/or COVID-19 or other areas of public health, or in advocacy for key populations, such as sex workers, LGBTQ individuals and drug users, among others, or in advocacy for social and economic justice.
- Individuals based in low- and middle-income countries with high HIV burdens and where HIV prevention research is ongoing or where new interventions are being introduced. To see where HIV research and rollout is being conducted, visit the [Prevention & Research database](#) and the [Trial Map](#). Please note that for 2022 fellowships, the priority focus is on eastern and southern Africa.
- Those proficient in the English language.
- Those able to demonstrate awareness of ongoing HIV or COVID-19 prevention in respective countries and a willingness to learn more, although extensive knowledge is not required. They must also provide a strategic analysis of how to influence local landscapes.

9. Who is NOT eligible to be an Advocacy Fellow?

- Applicants who are senior researchers, senior staff members (e.g., leaders of AIDS service or community organizations), funders or government employees etc. Such applicants will only be considered under special circumstances, and any applicants who fall under this category should contact the AVAC team at Fellows@avac.org BEFORE applying.
- Students who intend to use the Fellows Program to support work toward a thesis, dissertation or academic degree.
- Seasoned HIV advocates who have been leading campaigns or related projects for five years or more. (We'd like to work with you but the Fellows Program is not the vehicle for this.)
- Individuals who cannot take a one-year leave from their job or from ongoing consultancies.
- Applicants residing outside of eastern and southern Africa.

10. What projects can an Advocacy Fellow propose?

Advocacy Fellows design and execute activities to affect specific changes along the continuum of HIV prevention research to rollout in their chosen contexts at the community, national or regional level. Visit www.avac.org/fellows to learn more about current and alumni Fellows' projects.

What is AVAC looking for in a project proposal? A successful project proposal identifies a gap or need that can be filled by civil society engagement, maps the steps and activities to fill that gap, defines targets and desired outcomes, identifies allies and provides ways to measure progress and evaluate whether the change has occurred.

The Fellows program is not intended for developing or conducting a research project nor is it to build research capacity. The ultimate objective is to enhance advocacy skills to pave the way for ethical development of and global access to effective HIV and COVID-19 prevention options, as part of a comprehensive and integrated pathway to global health equity.

Priority will be given to projects in eastern and southern Africa where biomedical HIV prevention research

is planned or ongoing (for new PrEP formulations and compounds, multi-purpose prevention technologies, antibodies, vaccines, and cure research) and/or where there is a need for the delivery or scale-up of proven biomedical interventions.

Applicants interested in influencing the HIV prevention research process are encouraged to consider proposals that address trial design, results dissemination, community engagement, and planning for access to eventual products.

Research Advocacy: Below are examples of objectives. Other innovative ideas are encouraged.

EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH ADVOCACY

- Building civil society capacity to engage and influence research – building coalitions, knowledge, skills and relevant relationships; holding government accountable to relevant commitments (such as the 2008 Bamako Agreement, which asks each country to commit 2 percent of the national health budget to health research and development).
- Mapping and monitoring in-country approval of clinical trials by both regulatory bodies and ethics bodies; advocating for speedy trial approval; advocating for better engagement with regulatory authorities.
- [Good Participatory Practice](#) (GPP): advocacy for deeper community engagement (e.g. Consider how research teams in your country share information and elicit input when designing studies). What activities would help civil society understand better and engage more in research?
- Advocating for sustained financial support for ongoing research (e.g. What can advocates in your country do to support research globally and domestically?)
- Managing expectations about current and future efficacy trials: there are a number of efficacy trials currently underway or planned – what role can advocates play in preparation/anticipation of results and ensure appropriate messaging?
- Providing feedback to inform new research trial designs and translating difficult research protocols to community.

NOT APPROPRIATE AS RESEARCH ADVOCACY GOALS

- Trial recruitment, retention, community engagement related to a specific trial.
- GPP implementation for a specific research site or for an ongoing or planned study.
- Initiating research of any kind, such as medical, social or behavioral.

Applicants interested in projects to accelerate the introduction of new interventions after they have shown to be effective from a research study. Applicants can consider the process for product introduction and civil society's role in that process. [Click here for information on the product introduction process](#). They can consider policies that need to be developed and/or adapted to support rollout, the information needed by stakeholders, and how eventual users perceive this new option. Examples of biomedical interventions currently in this phase, poised for introduction include the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring and long-acting injectable PrEP.

Demonstration Advocacy: Below are examples of advocacy objectives for newly developed products. Other innovative ideas are encouraged.

EXAMPLES OF PRODUCT INTRODUCTION ADVOCACY

- Raising awareness among ministry of health leaders about the importance new intervention. Influencing their leadership in championing rapid introduction.
- Influencing the development policies to support the promotion and distribution of new interventions in alignment with sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
- Increasing budget allocations by the government and development partners to support promotion and distribution of the ring.
- Ensuring community and end-users have influential involvement in the development of the national ring introduction plan, including demonstration studies, demand creation strategies, and training materials.

NOT APPROPRIATE AS PRODUCT INTRODUCTION ADVOCACY

- Awareness-raising about a new product such as PrEP or the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring, without a larger purpose or advocacy goal.
- Participating in the delivery of services, such as self-testing or PrEP.

Applicants interested in advocating for more effective implementation of existing, proven biomedical interventions (such as VMMC, daily oral PrEP and treatment on demand) can consider the uneven levels of access to available options (especially to key populations), limited data availability, limited civil society capacity to engage with scale-up, shrinking funding and lack of urgency among competing priorities.

Delivery Advocacy: Below are examples of advocacy objectives for existing products. Other innovative ideas are encouraged.

EXAMPLES OF DELIVERY ADVOCACY

- Advocacy for policy or guidelines that affect access to existing products. Are there specific guidelines for differentiated service delivery or self-testing in your country? Are the targets ambitious enough?
- Translation of policy into programs and access for key populations.
- Advocacy for domestic and global financing of prevention products, programs and infrastructure (e.g. influencing national strategic plans and budgets, influencing the Global Fund and PEPFAR country operating plans).

NOT APPROPRIATE AS DELIVERY ADVOCACY

- Awareness-raising about existing interventions (e.g. viral load testing) without a broader purpose and advocacy goal.
- Delivering prevention services.

Projects integrating structural change are encouraged, provided the project includes a clear linkage to the broader HIV prevention landscape. Examples may include but are not limited to advocacy for universal healthcare, decriminalization of key populations, gender-based violence mitigation, human rights, and other social and economic justice campaigns. Structural objectives are a priority in the newly released [UNAIDS targets](#) aiming for less than 10 percent of countries with punitive laws and policies; and less than 10 percent of populations experience gender inequality and violence.

Projects integrating COVID-19 prevention advocacy are encouraged. Thus far, eight COVID-19 vaccines have been approved and manufactured but the percentage of people fully vaccinated in Africa remains in the low single digits, where the manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines has for the most part been absent. Furthermore, HIV status is a risk factor for worse COVID-19 outcomes and the new pandemic has interrupted HIV services across the globe, challenging viral suppression targets. Just as HIV science has informed COVID-19 vaccine development, HIV advocacy paves the way for action against COVID-19. Fellows can select to integrate COVID-19 advocacy into their HIV projects.

11. What projects are NOT eligible?

- Academic projects such as thesis research, formal research protocols or other research that requires regulatory approval.
- Activities undertaken by a research site in support of a specific trial or trial-related goal.
- Projects submitted by employees of trial sites that aim to implement specific aspects of a clinical trial or site-specific activity such as community advisory board development, formative research or implementation of site-initiated community engagement/Good Participatory Practices.
- Projects around trial results dissemination only.
- Projects focusing only on research literacy.
- Projects focusing only on awareness raising.
- Projects targeting only the media.
- Projects that aim to do research itself.
- Provision of service delivery of prevention services.

12. Does an applicant have to know exactly what their project will be before applying?

The application components are designed to help AVAC to learn more about applicants' strategic thinking and familiarity with broad areas of biomedical prevention research and implementation. While a detailed proposal is not expected, enough information must be provided on goals, proposed outcomes and strategies.

Successful applicants will take the time to consult www.avac.org, trial websites, and media resources such as searchable databases of national and local newspapers to learn more about what is happening in their respective contexts.

Selected Fellows will work closely with AVAC team to shape the project during an intensive planning phase to help each successful applicant to develop their proposal into a detailed work plan.

Fellows' participation in this planning process is mandatory, requiring at least three days during February or March 2022, before the start of the fellowship year. A stipend will be offered to the Fellow for this proposal development process.

13. Who reviews the applications?

The AVAC Fellows' team reviews all applications and interviews short-listed applicants. An independent external review committee made up of advocates, researchers, past Fellows and Host Supervisors then reviews applications of short-listed candidates and recommends finalists for AVAC's consideration.

14. What is the role of the Host Organization?

The Host Organization provides a physical space for the Advocacy Fellow to work from, the financial infrastructure for administering the Advocacy Fellow's grant, and most critically, support for the Fellow's activities. The Host Organization is an integral partner in each Fellow's project. Please see [Frequently Asked Questions for Hosts](#) Organizations for detailed information about the Host's role.

A proposed Host Organization may be the current organization where the applicant already works or volunteers or a new organization well-suited to the proposed project. It is critical that the Host organization and Fellow are well-matched and aligned in their goals. It is expected that applicants and potential Host Organizations have detailed discussions prior to the application process.

If an applicant proposes their current organization as their Host, there should be clarity in the planning phase about how they would transition their activities if selected as a Fellow - so that Fellows program activities are the primary focus of full-time work. The Host Organization's executive director or leader, the prospective supervisor and the relevant finance or grants administration staff should all review the document, [Frequently Asked Questions for Hosts](#) Organizations. Please see [Tips for Approaching a Host Organization](#).

As part of the application process, the primary Host Organization will be expected to submit information and background documents as listed below. ([Please see Timeline below.](#))

With initial application:

1. Host Organization information form
2. Letter of Support from Host Organization

If the applicant is shortlisted, then they will have to provide the Host Organization's:

1. Proof of organizational registration
2. Mission statement or charter
3. [Host Commitment Form](#)

If the applicant is accepted into the Fellows Program, the Host Organization MUST submit the following information:

1. Two most recent audited financial statements
2. Annual budget
3. Organisational or staffing chart
4. Organisational human resources manual/policies
5. Organisational finance policies
6. List of organisational benefits package; e.g., annual bonus, rent, transportation, insurance, retirement. Include and identify all statutory benefits; e.g., employment tax, social security, etc.
7. The Fellow must also submit two reference letters (not affiliated with the Host Org)

15. What types of groups are Host Organizations?

- Established non-governmental, civil society, faith-based or community-based organizations or research/academic institutions with documented experience in HIV and/or COVID-19 advocacy. Exceptions can be made for others.
- Open to working in HIV prevention and/or COVID-19 advocacy and to considering ways to integrate this into their current work portfolio, if not already doing so.
- Open to working with key populations such as sex workers, LGBTQ and drug users.
- Meet all financial eligibility criteria. Host Organizations are required to submit relevant documentation including proof of organization's legal designation, a copy of the most recent audited financial statements, annual budget, an organizational chart, a copy of the organization's human resources' policies and procedures, and any other relevant information on finance and accounting systems.
- Committed to working with Advocacy Fellows to develop and share joint goals, roles and responsibilities.
- Assign a supervisor (see below) to the Advocacy Fellow and clearly define expectations of the Fellow in the work plan.

** Please note: Only under specific circumstances will we consider current AVAC grantees as Host to a 2022 Advocacy Fellow, this includes current Host Organizations. Please contact AVAC first (fellows@avac.org) before proposing a Host Organization that is currently an AVAC grantee.*

Please see the [list](#) for current and previous Host Organizations.

16. What is the role of the Host Organization Supervisor?

- The Host Supervisor is expected to give a percentage of their time to overseeing and advising the Advocacy Fellow on program activities and management, ensuring that the project is integrated into current organizational activities, that the Fellow is on track both programmatically and financially, and where applicable, working with the Fellow to identify ways to sustain and build on activities after the Fellowship year is completed.
- The Host Supervisor is the primary supervisor for the Fellow. As well as reviewing reports, advising on strategy and overseeing implementation, they are also expected to link the Fellow/project to other relevant organizational partners and ensure that proposed plans are appropriate to the context and protocol of the community/country. The supervisor will also structure ways to ensure that others in the Host Organization are kept abreast of the Fellowship project progress.
- The Host Supervisor will also be requested to join the Fellows' Orientation Workshop and quarterly teleconferences with the AVAC team. They may also be invited to meetings and trainings organized by AVAC.

17. How are Advocacy Fellows and Host Organizations paid?

The Fellows Program grant includes 18 months of salary for the Advocacy Fellow, an activity budget for the Advocacy Fellow's project and overhead costs for the Host Organization. All funding for the Advocacy Fellows Program goes through the Host Organization as a grant. In turn, the Host Organization is responsible for administering the Advocacy Fellow's payroll, paying vendors, advancing cash and other financial matters.

Each Fellows Program grant includes an allocation for overhead costs. Overhead costs are calculated as 15 percent of the total grant. These are costs incurred by the organization to support all activities that are not directly spent on the Fellows Program activity — for example, rent, phone, some personnel costs, accounting and administrative staff time. Another 10 percent is intended to support supervision efforts.

The Host Organization, with assistance from the Advocacy Fellow, is expected to submit mid-year and final programmatic and financial reports.

18. Can a Fellow work in their current job while a Fellow?

No. The Advocacy Fellow cannot have two jobs. The fellowship is meant to be the primary focus of the Fellow's 18 months. Most Fellows devote 100 percent of their time to the fellowship. Of course, they will participate in organizational meetings and support larger work as applicable.

However, if the Fellow is a current employee of the organization and there is mutual agreement between the Host Organization and Fellow that they should retain some specific and limited responsibilities towards ongoing work, AVAC will consider a work plan that includes this. In this situation, the Fellow can devote up to a maximum of 25 percent of their time to other organizational responsibilities. The Host Organization is responsible for the proportion of the salary and benefit for any non-fellowship work responsibilities. These arrangements must be discussed with the AVAC Fellows team prior to signing of the grant agreement, and are considered on a case-by-case basis.

19. How is the Advocacy Fellow's Financial Compensation calculated?

Salary for the Fellow is based on comparable full-time salaries at the Host Organization and in related NGOs in the Fellow's country. As noted above, in most cases, a Fellow will commit 100 percent of their time to the Fellows Program.

In cases where up to 25 percent of Fellow time is retained for ongoing work at the Host Organization, that portion of their compensation will be paid by the Host Organization. This must be mutually agreed upon by AVAC, the Advocacy Fellow and the Host Organization.

To determine the Advocacy Fellows' compensation, the Host Organizations and Fellows must provide information that confirms the candidate's salary history and comparable staff salaries within the Host Organization. Such information may include pay stubs/slips, Host Organization salary structure, and a copy of the host Organization's human resources manual with details on employee benefits.

It is important to emphasize the Fellow's compensation will only be set after they have accepted the Fellows Program award. Every effort will be made to ensure that Fellows receive adequate and fair remuneration at equitable levels across the cadre of Fellows.

20. What if an applicant has not found a Host Organization when they apply?

Applicants who have tried but have not identified a potential Host Organization are welcome to apply. However, priority will be given to applicants who have secured support from a proposed Host Organization. Strong candidates who do not have a Host Organization will be considered on a case-by-case basis. When applying, the applicant should describe efforts to secure a Host Organization and list the organizations approached.

Please see the [list](#) for current and previous Host Organizations and if you have not already, [Tips for Approaching a Host Organization](#).

21. Can Organizations apply to host an Advocacy Fellow?

At this time, we are accepting applications only from individuals. If your organization is interested in hosting an Advocacy Fellow, please contact us at fellows@avac.org to explore this possibility as we may be looking to pair strong applicants with Host Organizations.

Note: Applications from existing AVAC grantees (currently hosting a Fellow or receiving other grants) will only be considered in specific circumstances. Applicants must first discuss this with AVAC before submitting a proposal to Host a Fellow for 2022.

22. Timeline: Application Process

DATE	ACTIVITY
31 August 2021	■ Open call for 2022 Fellows applications
10 & 15 September 2021	■ Informational teleconference for potential applicants
12 October 2021	■ Deadline – applications due
October 2021	■ Shortlisted applicants notified regarding advancement to next stage ■ Additional financial information from the Host Organization is due 2 weeks after notification
November 2021	■ Interviews with short-listed candidates and Host Organization
October – December 2021	■ Final financial information from the Host Organization is due ■ External independent review process ■ Reference checks and final decision-making
January 2022	■ Selected Advocacy Fellows notified
January – March 2022	■ Preparation and signing of grant agreement ■ Work plan and budget development ■ A total of three days over two months is required for the process
1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023	■ Advocacy Fellows Program (full-time)
April 2022	■ Fellows Orientation Workshop: Introduces new Advocacy Fellows and Host Organization Supervisors to the program

Detailed application steps:

i. Application: Applicants must submit the application, along with their CV/résumé by 12 October 2021.

Application items include:

- 1.** *Applicant information form*
- 2.** *Host Organization information form*
- 3.** *Essay questions*
- 4.** *Letter of support from Host Organization*
- 5.** *Applicant CV/ résumé*

ii. AVAC staff review all materials listed above and select applicants to advance to the short-list for consideration. Applications eliminated at this stage are generally those that do not meet basic criteria as listed in the application package and those whose ideas are not sufficiently developed to be considered for the program. Applicants are notified if they have advanced to next round. They have two weeks to submit the Host Organization's:

- 1.** *Proof of registration*
- 2.** *Mission statement or charter*

iii. If the applicant is accepted into the Fellows Program, the Host Organization MUST submit the following information:

- 1.** *Two most recent audited financial statements*
- 2.** *Annual budget*
- 3.** *Organisational or staffing chart*
- 4.** *Organisational human resources manual/policies*
- 5.** *Organisational finance policies*
- 6.** *List of organisational benefits package; e.g., annual bonus, rent, transportation, insurance, retirement. Include and identify all statutory benefits; e.g., employment tax, social security, etc.*
- 7.** *Host Commitment Form*
- 8.** *The Fellow must also submit two reference letters (not affiliated with the Host Org)*

iv. Short-listed candidates and proposed Host Organizations are contacted for interviews.

v. Short-listed candidates are reviewed by an independent committee who make recommendations to the AVAC team.

vi. Successful applicants and Host Organizations are notified and asked to confirm their acceptance.

vii. Work planning development activities begin in April 2022. New Advocacy Fellows work with their Host Organizations and AVAC to develop a detailed one-year work plan and grant agreement.

For more information, see the **2022 Advocacy Fellows application materials** at www.avac.org/fellows-application-materials.

23. How to submit an application

- Download and complete the [2022 Advocacy Fellows application form and accompanying materials](#).
- Submit to Fellows@avac.org by **12 October 2021**.

24. HIV Prevention interventions and more

Please refer to Our Focus section of AVAC's website (linked below) for detailed information on the HIV prevention field: proven interventions, research and advocacy strategies.

- [Antibody Related Research](#)
- [Combination Prevention](#)
- [Condoms](#)
- [COVID](#)
- [Cure](#)
- [HIV Vaccine](#)
- [Hormonal Contraceptives and HIV](#)
- [Microbicides](#)
- [Multipurpose Prevention Technologies](#)
- [PrEP](#)
- [Treatment](#)
- [Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision](#)
- [How Research Happens](#)

25. About AVAC

The Advocacy Fellows Program is administered by AVAC.

About AVAC: Founded in 1995, AVAC is a non-profit organization that works to accelerate the ethical development of and global access to effective HIV prevention options, as part of a comprehensive and integrated pathway to global health equity.

Achieving our vision of a world without HIV, delivering a successful and effective HIV response, and attaining a robust global health advocacy environment depends on integrating strategies and approaches that include biomedical, structural, and social and behavioral considerations. While biomedical options are a critical entry point towards reducing HIV incidence, they are insufficient without a fundamental recognition and commitment to building a comprehensive, integrated, and sustained response. This entails designing programs that meet people based on who they are and where they are, rather than based on serostatus.

As an organization, AVAC is committed to coming together to interrogate our own privilege and power and to ensure we do better as allies and partners. We are committed to listening, responding and learning. And we commit to redoubling our work of advocating for equity, diversity, and social and economic justice as we continue to seek solutions to HIV and other public health crises.

AVAC's ongoing policy, advocacy and outreach work are made possible through the dedicated labor of AVAC advocate partners, and support from amfAR, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNAIDS, the United States

Agency for International Development (USAID) and many generous individuals who have become AVAC members and contributors through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). AVAC does not accept funding from the pharmaceutical industry.

Read the [AVAC story](#) here.

26. Who to contact with more questions?

For more information about the Fellows Program, please visit the [AVAC website](#).

For questions about the application process, contact us at fellows@avac.org.

AVAC

New York, NY USA

+1 212.796.6423 (Phone)

+1 646.365.3452 (Fax)

To stay updated on the state of the HIV prevention field and on AVAC programs, [sign up for our e-mail newsletters](#).

About AVAC

AVAC is a global organization working to accelerate the ethical development of and global access to effective HIV prevention options, as part of a comprehensive and integrated pathway to global health equity. For more information, go to the [AVAC homepage \(www.avac.org\)](http://www.avac.org).