



SBPAN Mobilizes the South

The nonprofit has “worked diligently to train and mobilize a new generation of public health leaders.”

February 14, 2022 By [Trent Straube](#)

As CEO of the Southern Black Policy and Advocacy Network (SBPAN), Venton Jones says that since its founding in 2018, the nonprofit has “worked diligently to train and mobilize a new generation of public health leaders.” SBPAN programs and accomplishments include:

- LEVEL UP, an initiative that helps executive directors, development staff, grant writers, managers and people living with HIV enhance their leadership skills;
- “Organizing to End Black HIV NOW,” a digital media campaign that educates, organizes and mobilizes Black HIV groups, leaders and advocates on the front lines;
- HIV Policy and Advocacy Needs Assessment, a 2020 report that pointed out gaps in HIV work among Black communities in the South;
- Southern Black HIV/AIDS Network and Southern Black HIV/AIDS Advisory Council, two initiatives that unite leaders so they can leverage their skills and also avoid duplicating work.

The [March 2022 issue of POZ](#) includes an interview with Venton Jones, who is also running for state representative in Dallas. For more, see “[Putting HIV on the Ballot.](#)”

An image from The "End Black HIV NOW" campaign YouTube/Southern Black Policy and Advocacy Network

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