

## **Keep the Momentum of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy**

The National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) has become a catalyst for progressive change that has already begun to improve the United States' approach to ending our HIV epidemic. We strongly support NHAS goals to lower the rate of new HIV infections, improve access to care and care outcomes, and reduce health disparities in the epidemic. People across the country are responding to the Strategy's vision of a more effective, equitable and outcomes-oriented response to AIDS.

Achieving the NHAS goals will require that all of us take a fresh look at how resources are allocated and the kinds of services supported, and make difficult decisions about future efforts. It will take concerted action by federal, state, and local government, health care providers, community organizations, the private sector, and people living with and affected by HIV. We must develop a response to AIDS that does better at addressing the challenges where they are most acute, but that also improves outcomes for *every* group affected by the epidemic no matter where they reside.

We are at a pivotal moment in tackling the domestic epidemic. New research demonstrating the HIV prevention impact of AIDS treatment provides additional reasons to coordinate services and bring to scale our efforts, and emboldens our belief that we can achieve dramatic progress against the epidemic.

To take advantage of this opportunity, and to sustain the momentum in achieving NHAS goals, the following principles are essential:

- Increased resources are needed, and we also must do better to ensure that current resources are used for maximum impact.
- All those who need AIDS treatment must have access. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program must be fully funded.
- Federal agencies need to become more outcomes-oriented and reduce the burden on local and state agencies by streamlining reporting requirements and funding streams, and demonstrating true cross-agency collaboration.
- A new model of integrated service provision is critical to success, emphasizing the connections between testing, prevention, linkage to care and treatment, and seeking community-level results and measurable outcomes. This model must include addressing unmet needs for housing and substance abuse and mental health services.
- Tools for evidence-based decision making, such as economic modeling and creative use of surveillance data that maintains confidentiality can increase the impact of our efforts.
- The "12 Cities" initiative can improve outcomes in epicenters, be a driver of health services reform, and develop adaptable models to be used elsewhere, but

success requires ongoing funding, and increased coordination and accountability at the local, state and federal levels. Additional attention is also needed in areas outside of these 12 cities, including those experiencing alarming growth in HIV incidence.

- The NHAS is strengthened by authentic community engagement, and this engagement requires transparency about 12 Cities and other local and state strategies and plans.
- Recipients of federal funds must be held accountable for dedicating resources to geographic areas and communities according to their epidemic profile.
- Health departments, community organizations, and private providers need advanced levels of technical support to transition to integrated models of prevention and care service provision and community-level interventions.

We ask federal agencies to embrace and take action consistent with the principles above. We also know that the success of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy depends on all of us. Policy makers, people on the front lines, and everyone engaged, must work together, reassess how we can have the greatest impact, and rededicate ourselves to ending AIDS in America.

Sincerely,

ABC/African American Community Health Group of the Central Coast (Santa Cruz, CA)  
aChurch4Me? Metropolitan Community Church (Chicago, IL)  
Advocates for Youth  
African Services Committee (New York, NY)  
African Wellness Center, Inc. (Montgomery Village, MD)  
AIDS Action Baltimore  
AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts  
AIDS Alabama  
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth, & Families  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
The AIDS Institute  
AIDS Interfaith Network (Dallas, TX)  
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago  
AIDS Legal Referral Panel of the San Francisco Bay Area  
AIDS Project Los Angeles  
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin  
AIDS Service Center (Pasadena, CA)  
AIDS United  
AIDS Vaccine and Advocacy Coalition (AVAC)  
Alexian Brothers AIDS Ministry  
American Social Health Association  
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research  
Aniz, Inc. (Atlanta, GA)  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)

Asian Human Services (Chicago, IL)  
Aspirations (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC)  
Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition  
The Black AIDS Institute  
BIENESTAR  
Boulder County AIDS Project (Boulder, CO)  
Bronx AIDS Services  
Canticle Ministries (Wheaton, IL)  
Catawba Care (South Carolina)  
Center for Health Justice (Los Angeles, CA)  
Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention, Inc.  
Center for Research Strategies (Denver, Colorado)  
Center for Women Policy Studies  
Center on Halsted (Chicago, IL)  
Champions Orphans Care  
Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus  
Chicago House & Social Service Agency  
Chicago Recovery Alliance  
Claudia & Eddie's Place (Harvey, IL)  
Colorado AIDS Project (Denver, CO)  
Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition  
Community Access National Organization (CANN)  
Community Education Group (Washington, DC)  
Community Outreach Intervention Projects at the School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Concilio Latino de Salud, Inc.  
Chase Brexton Health Services (Baltimore, MD)  
Christiana Care Health Services HIV Program (Wilmington, DE)  
Cycle for Freedom  
Delaware HIV Consortium (Wilmington, DE)  
Denver HIV Resources Planning Council (Denver, CO)  
Desert AIDS Project (Palm Springs, CA)  
Exponents (New York, NY)  
Faith United Methodist Church (Dolton, IL)  
Family Centers, Inc., Stamford CARES Program (Stamford, CT)  
Friends for Life (Memphis, TN)  
Friends of AIDS Foundation  
Fundacion Latino Americana Contra el Sida, Inc. (FLAS)  
Gay Men's Health Crisis (New York, NY)  
Georgia AIDS Coalition  
Georgia Association for People with AIDS (GAPWA)  
Georgia Equality (Atlanta, GA)  
Haitian Centers Council, Inc.  
Harlem United  
Health Equity, Inc.

HealthHIV  
HIV ACCESS  
HIV/AIDS Peer Educators at the Univ. of Arkansas at Pine Bluff  
HIV Medicine Association  
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance  
Homes for Hope, Inc.  
The House of Peace, Inc. (Queens, NY)  
The House that Wisdom Built (Cleveland Heights, OH)  
Howard Brown Health Center (Chicago, IL)  
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation (New Brunswick, NJ)  
International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care (IAPAC)  
Kappa Youth Development, Inc.  
K.I. Services, Inc. (Alexandria, VA)  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center  
Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network (LAAN)  
Malama Pono Health Services (Lihue, HI)  
Massmer Associates, LLC  
Minnesota AIDS Project (Minneapolis, MN)  
Nashville CARES  
National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.  
National Alliance for HIV Education and Workforce Development  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)  
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)  
National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA)  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.  
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network  
National Center for Health Behavioral Change (NCHBC)  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National HIV Prevention Policy Formulation and Education Work Group  
(NHIVPPFEWC)  
National Latino AIDS Action Network (NLAAN)  
National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)  
New Jersey Association on Correction  
New Leaf Columbus  
New York Association on HIV Over 50  
North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition  
Northern Colorado AIDS Project (Fort Collins, CO)  
Open Door Clinic (Elgin & Aurora, IL)  
Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana  
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative  
Plymouth AIDS Support Services (Plymouth, MA)

Positive Impact Ministry of New Samaritan Baptist Church (Washington, DC)

*POZ*

Project Inform

Regional Addiction Prevention (RAP), Inc. (Washington, DC)

Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition

Safe Haven Outreach Ministries (Washington, DC)

Saint Louis Effort for AIDS

San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)

Sisters Together and Reaching, Inc. (STAR)

South Florida You Can (Miami, FL)

South Side Help Center (Chicago, IL)

Southern Colorado AIDS Project (Colorado Springs, CO)

Test Positive Aware Network

TNT Coalition, Inc. (Miami, FL)

Treatment Access Expansion Project (Jamaica Plain, MA)

Treatment Action Group (TAG)

Tribal Elder Productions (Chicago, IL)

Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS)

Unity Wellness Center (Auburn, AL)

VillageCare (New York, NY)

Warren-Vance Community Health Center (Henderson, NC)

Waterbury Hospital (Waterbury, CT)

WestCare Foundation

Western North Carolina AIDS Project

Wiley College