



FEDERAL AIDS POLICY PARTNERSHIP
AIDS BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COALITION

September X, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Final FY 2019 Funding Requests for Domestic HIV and Related Programs

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

The undersigned X organizations of the AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition (ABAC), a work group of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP), thank you for maintaining funding for most domestic HIV/AIDS and related programs in the proposed FY 2019 House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) appropriations bills. Federal investment in these programs has had a remarkable return on investment and a positive impact on the public health, including preventing additional HIV, hepatitis C, and other infections related to the opioid epidemic impacting communities nationwide. As you finalize funding for the FY19 LHHS appropriations bill, **we urge you to maintain the bipartisan commitment to domestic HIV/AIDS programs, and continue to invest in high-impact prevention, treatment, and research programs which have led to decreases in new HIV infections and more people living with HIV linked to and retained in care.**

Specifically, we thank both the House and Senate for maintaining funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Program, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention, the HHS Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund (SMAIF), SAMHSA's Minority AIDS Initiative programs, and for increasing funding for medical research at the National Institutes of Health. **We urge you to adopt at least these funding levels in the final FY19 LHHS appropriations bill.** At the same time, we are disappointed that the House bill would eliminate

Title X Family Planning and the **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program**, and included language that would limit certain types of harm reduction services. Additionally, both the House and Senate bills would increase the **abstinence-only-until-marriage “sexual risk avoidance” competitive grant program**, which should be eliminated.

Below are ABAC’s specific recommendations that we urge you to include in the final FY 2019 LHHS spending bill. Additionally, our coalition’s funding request for each program is listed in the chart available here: <https://adobe.ly/2wu18Ct>.

New CDC Infectious Diseases Initiatives

While significant funding increases for each of the individual Divisions of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention are greatly needed, we are pleased that both the House and Senate have proposed new initiatives to address infectious diseases. The House proposes \$20 million for an “Infectious Disease Elimination Initiative”, similar to what was proposed in the President’s FY 2019 Budget, while the Senate proposes \$5 million for a new initiative targeting infectious diseases associated with the opioid epidemic. **We thank the House and Senate for offering these two proposals, and urge an appropriation of at least \$20 million, as proposed by the House. For whatever program Congress decides to create, we believe the funding should be allowed to address HIV, STDs, and hepatitis, along with the infectious disease consequences associated with the opioid epidemic.**

Due to the nation’s opioid crisis and increase in injection drug use, we are witnessing an increase in infectious diseases. HIV diagnoses among people who inject drugs have increased 33 percent in the Midwest between 2014 and 2016. New hepatitis C infections increased by 350 percent between 2010 and 2016, mainly due to injection drug use. Syphilis is at record levels, and an increasing proportion of syphilis transmission among heterosexuals is occurring among people who use drugs, including people who inject drugs (PWID). Additional funding is badly needed at the CDC in order to expand infectious disease prevention, education, and surveillance activities in areas impacted by the opioid epidemic.

We also encourage you to fully fund the **Eliminating Opioid Related Infectious Diseases Act of 2018 in FY19** at \$40 million, as it is clear from Congressional action that this program is a priority. The House passed the bill (H.R. 5353) in June, while the Senate version is included as part of the Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018 (S. 2680), which is awaiting final floor action. The bill is on track to authorize additional funding at the CDC to combat infectious diseases commonly associated with injection drug use in areas most impacted by the opioid crisis through increased prevention, testing, and linkage to care efforts. Since these services are urgently needed, and since Congress has clearly expressed its intent to create the program, we urge you to move forward without delay and appropriate the \$40 million in FY19.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP)

The **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP)** funds the implementation and evaluation of interventions that provide young people with access to evidence-informed or evidence-based, age-appropriate, and medically-accurate information to prevent unintended pregnancy, HIV, and other STDs. New HIV and STD infections disproportionately impact young people, and programs supported by TPPP are essential to help reverse this trend. **We urge Congress to reject the House’s proposed elimination of TPPP, and at minimum, support the Senate passed recommendation to maintain FY 2018 funding levels at \$101 million and \$6.8 million in evaluation transfer authority.**

Title X Family Planning

Title X Family Planning currently provides over 4 million low-income men, women, and young people with high quality family planning services, including HIV testing and prevention services, STD screening and treatment, and other basic health care. Title X is the nation's only dedicated source of federal family planning funding, and is a key tool in our fight to end the HIV epidemic and prevent and treat new STDs infections, which are at an all-time high in the United States. **We strongly urge Congress to reject the House's proposed elimination of Title X, and support at least the Senate passed recommendation that maintains FY 2018 funding levels at \$286.5 million.**

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage "Sexual Risk Avoidance" Competitive Grant Program

Both the House and Senate have proposed to increase funding for **abstinence-only-until-marriage "sexual risk avoidance"** competitive grant program by as much as 40%. The Senate passed bill includes an increase of \$10 million, while the House has proposed an increase of \$5 million. Young people deserve non-stigmatizing sex education that includes information on HIV and STD prevention including, but beyond abstinence. More than \$2 billion in federal funds has been wasted on these programs that are not only ineffective at their sole goal of young people delaying sex until marriage, but are also shaming and harmful to young people. **We urge Congress to eliminate funding for the "sexual risk avoidance" abstinence-only-until-marriage competitive grant program for a savings of \$35 million in the Senate bill and \$30 million in the House bill.**

Harm Reduction Funding Rider

As the opioid epidemic continues to ravage communities across the United States, local jurisdictions are developing programs that address the unique needs of their citizens through evidence-based strategies that reduce overdoses and prevent the spread of infectious disease. The House bill includes language barring federal funding for safer consumption sites (SCS), referred to in the bill as "supervised drug consumption facilities". Local jurisdictions are currently evaluating the benefits of these programs using local funding. By including this rider, jurisdictions would be limited in their ability to provide clinical services to injection drug users and explore innovative and effective harm reduction options. It could also impact federal funding for syringe service programs if safer consumption site services are being conducted in a syringe service program. **We urge you to reject the House language barring federal funding for safer consumption sites in the final bill so that local communities are not restricted in their ability to use the best tools for their locality to combat the opioid epidemic.**

NIH HIV/AIDS Research Funding

Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, the National Institutes of Health has been a leader in advancing medical research to treat and prevent HIV/AIDS. While we applaud your Committee's continued increases to NIH funding, **HIV/AIDS research funding at the NIH** has not increased since 2015. In fact, adjusting for inflation, the real purchasing power of HIV/AIDS research dollars at the NIH has been steadily declining since 2003. **We urge you to support increased funding directed to HIV/AIDS research conducted at the NIH.** Additionally, while we support overall funding increases for the NIH, we believe that the overall allocation for the Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies bill be concurrently increased so that funding for other important programs contained in the bill are not forced to be cut or level funded to accommodate NIH increases.

Again, thank you for your bipartisan support for important domestic HIV/AIDS and related programs. Should you have any questions, please contact the ABAC co-chairs Carl Schmid at

CSchmid@theaidsinstitute.org, Emily McCloskey at emccloskey@nastad.org, or Carl Baloney, Jr. at CBaloney@aidsunited.org.

Sincerely,

ADAP Advocacy Association (OH)
ADAP Education Initiative (OH)
Affirmations Lesbian Gay Community Center (MI)
African American Office of Gay Concerns (NJ)
AIDS Action Baltimore (MD)
AIDS Alabama (AL)
AIDS Alabama South (AL)
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families (DC)
AIDS Care (PA)
AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (NY)
AIDS Foundation of Chicago (IL)
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago (IL)
AIDS Legal Referral Panel (CA)
AIDS Project New Haven (CT)
AIDS Project of the East Bay (CA)
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (WI)
AIDS Resource Council, Inc. (GA)
AIDS Services Foundation Orange County (CA)
AIDS United (DC)
AIDS/HIV Services Group (ASG) (VA)
AL GAMEA (MI)
Alliance for Positive Health (NY)
American Academy of HIV Medicine (DC)
American Liver Foundation (NY)
American Psychological Association (DC)
American Run to End AIDS (AREA) (NY)
American Sexual Health Association (NC)
Amida Care (NY)
API Wellness (CA)
APICHA Community Health Center (NY)
APLA Health (CA)
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (DC)
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (OH)
AVAC (NY)
Baltimore Student Harm Reduction Coalition (MD)
Bill's Kitchen, Inc. (PR)
BOOM! HEALTH (NY)
Borinquen Medical Centers (FL)
Bronx Lebanon Family Practice (NY)
Buddies for NJ, Inc. (NJ)
CAEAR Coalition (DC)
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center (NY)
CANN - Community Access National Network (DC)
Canticle Ministries, Inc. (IL)
Cascade AIDS Project (OR)
Center for Black Equity (DC)
Center on Halsted (IL)
Chicago Recovery Alliance (IL)
CHOW Project (HI)
Cicatelli Associates Inc. (NY)
Clare Housing (MN)
Community AIDS Network, Inc. (FL)
Community AIDS Resource and Education Services (CARES) (MI)
Community Education Group (DC)
Community Health of South Florida (FL)
Community Research Initiative of New England, Inc. (MA)
Community Servings (MA)
cTp Community Health Inc (MO)
Dab the AIDS Bear Project (FL)
Dab the AIDS Bear Project (FL)
DC Fights Back (DC)
Delaware HIV Consortium (DE)
Digestive Disease National Coalition (DC)
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (DC)
End AIDS Now (NY)
Equality California (CA)
Equality Federation (OR)
Equitas Health (OH)
Georgia AIDS Coalition (GA)
Georgia Equality (GA)
Georgia Rural Urban Summit (GA)
Gregory House Programs (HI)
Harlem United (NY)
Harm Reduction Coalition (NY)
HealthHIV (DC)
Heartland Cares (KY)
Hep Free Hawaii (HI)
Hepatitis C Allies of Philadelphia (PA)
Heritage Health and Housing (NY)
Hispanic Health Network (NY)
HIV AIDS Alliance of Michigan (HAAM) (MI)
HIV Dental Alliance (GA)
HIV Medicine Association (VA)
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance (IL)
HIVRN Associates
Hope and Health Center of Central Florida, Inc. (FL)
Hope House of St. Croix Valley (MN)
HopeSprings (MD)
House of Blahnik, Inc. (PA)
Housing Works (NY)
Howard Brown Health (IL)
HRA Wellness Center of New Britain (CT)
Human Rights Campaign (DC)

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation (NJ)
 International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (DC)
 Iris House (NY)
 Joseph H. Neal Wellness Center (SC)
 Latino Commission on AIDS (NY)
 Latino Commission on AIDS (NY)
 Life We Live Youth Advocates Of Colors (TN)
 LifeLinc of Maryland (MD)
 Lifelong AIDS Alliance (WA)
 LLHC (Louisiana Latino Health Coalition for HIV/AIDS Awareness) (LA)
 Los Angeles LGBT Center (CA)
 Loving Arms For Families, Inc. (CA)
 Mayfaire (FL)
 Mendocino County AIDS/Viral Hepatitis Network (CA)
 Mercy Health McClees Clinic (MI)
 Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance (MANNA) (PA)
 Metropolitan Community Churches (FL)
 Metropolitan Latino AIDS Coalition (MLAC) (DC)
 Michigan Coalition for HIV Health and Safety (MI)
 Minnesota AIDS Project (MN)
 Miracle of Love, Inc. (FL)
 Moveable Feast (MD)
 Multicultural AIDS Coalition (MA)
 NASTAD (DC)
 National AIDS Housing Coalition (DC)
 National Alliance of HIV Education and Workforce Development (NAHEWD) (DC)
 National Association of County and City Health Officials (DC)
 National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition (NBGMAC) (DC)
 National Black Justice Coalition (DC)
 National Coalition for LGBT Health (DC)
 National Coalition of STD Directors
 National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (DC)
 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund (DC)
 National Latino AIDS Action Network (NLAAN) (NY)
 National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (CO)
 NMAC (DC)
 North Carolina AIDS Action Network (NC)
 North Central Health District - Hope Center (GA)
 North Central Texas HIV Planning Council (TX)
 Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative (IL)
 Pierce County AIDS Foundation (WA)
 Positive Impact Health Centers (GA)
 Positive Women's Network - USA (CA)
 Positively U, Inc. (FL)
 POZ Military Veterans USA International (GA)
 Presbyterian AIDS Network (DC)
 Prevention On The Move/ Steward Marchman Act Behavioral Healthcare (FL)
 Project Inform (CA)
 PWN-USA-Ohio (OH)
 Rainbow Health Initiative (MN)
 Rocky Mountain CARES (CO)
 Rural AIDS Action Network (MN)
 Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition (DC)
 Saint Louis Effort for AIDS (MO)
 San Francisco AIDS Foundation (CA)
 Seattle TGA HIV Planning Council (WA)
 Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS) (DC)
 Shanti (CA)
 Shelter Resources - Bele Reve (LA)
 Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation (CA)
 SisterLove, Inc. (GA)
 Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (NC)
 Southwest Louisiana AIDS Council (LA)
 START at Westminster (DC)
 Tennessee Association Of People With AIDS (TN)
 Test Positive Aware Network (IL)
 The AIDS Health Education Foundation, Inc. (FL)
 The AIDS Institute (DC & FL)
 The Center for Black Equality - Baltimore (MD)
 The Global Justice Institute (NY)
 The HIV/AIDS Prevention and Planning Group of St. Lucie County (FL)
 The Promises Project (AL)
 The Women's Collective (DC)
 Thrive Alabama (AL)
 Ti-chee Native Health Service Agency (WA)
 TOUCH-Together Our Unity Can Heal, Inc. (NY)
 TransSOCIAL, Inc. (FL)
 Treatment Action Group (TAG) (NY)
 Trillium Health (NY)
 True Colors Fund (DC)
 University of Minnesota Youth and AIDS Project (MN)
 Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS) (DC)
 VillageCare (NY)
 Volunteers of America Greater Baton Rouge (LA)
 Washington Heights CORNER Project (NY)
 Williams & Associates, Inc. (MO)
 Women at Work International
 Women With a Vision, Inc. (LA)