

Minority Community Health Coalition Demonstration Program, HIV/AIDS
Fiscal Year 2000

The Minority Community Health Coalition Demonstration Grant Program, HIV/AIDS is administered by the Office of Minority Health (OMH) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The OMH was created in December 1985 with a mission to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through policies and programs that will help to address the health disparities and gaps. Consistent with its mission, the OMH serves as the focal point within the Department for leadership, policy development and coordination, service demonstrations, information exchange, coalition and partnership building, and related efforts to address the health needs of racial and ethnic minorities.

The Minority Community Health Coalition Demonstration Program, HIV/AIDS was developed in 1999 as part of the HHS/Congressional Black Caucus Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in minority communities. The purpose of the grant program is to improve the health status, relative to HIV/AIDS, of targeted minority populations through health promotion and education activities. This program is intended to demonstrate the effectiveness of community-based coalitions involving non-traditional partners in: (1) developing an integrated community-based response to the HIV/AIDS crisis through community dialogue and interaction; (2) addressing sociocultural, linguistic and other barriers to HIV/AIDS treatment to increase the number of individuals seeking and accepting services; and (3) developing and conducting HIV/AIDS education and outreach efforts for hardly reached populations. The coalition approach is believed to be an effective strategy for health promotion and risk reduction among targeted minority populations, and is based on the premise that its use will result in interventions that are culturally sensitive, credible and more acceptable to the target population; that the project will address HIV/AIDS within the context of related socioeconomic issues; and that the effort will contribute to overall community empowerment by strengthening indigenous leadership and organizations.

The 11 projects described in this fact sheet are located in 6 of the top 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the U.S. most severely impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report (1996 and 1997). Projects are funded for the three-year project period 9/30/99 through 9/29/02. The grants are administered by minority community-based organizations that have established coalitions with at least two other organizations, one of which is an AIDS Service Organization and the other is an organization rooted in the community with limited experience conducting HIV/AIDS programs. More than 50 organizations are involved in these partnerships.

For additional information, please contact the Division of Program Operations, Office of Minority Health.

May 2000

**MINORITY COMMUNITY HEALTH COALITION DEMONSTRATION
PROGRAM, HIV/AIDS GRANTS**

CALIFORNIA: *Asian Youth Center*, San Gabriel, CA

ILLINOIS: *Chicago Women's AIDS Project*, Chicago, IL
Sinai Family Health Centers, Chicago, IL
Vision House, Inc., Chicago, IL

MARYLAND: *Congress Heights Training Center*, Owings Mills, MD

MASSACHUSETTS: *Centro Latino de Chelsea*, Chelsea, MA
Massachusetts Asian AIDS Prevention Project, Boston, MA

NEW YORK: *Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS*, New York, NY
Bronx AIDS Services, Inc., Bronx, NY
Latino Commission on AIDS, New York, NY

TEXAS: *Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services, Inc.*, Houston, TX

CALIFORNIA

Asian Youth Center

100 W. Clary Avenue
San Gabriel, CA 91776
Phone: (626) 309-0622
Fax: (626) 309-0717

Title: **Asian and Pacific Islander Consortium for HIV/AIDS Prevention (API CHAP)**

Grant #: D53MP99005

Project Director: Takaki Tominaga

Target Population: Asian and Pacific Islander

Age Group: Adolescents

The primary goals of the Asian and Pacific Islander Consortium for HIV/AIDS Prevention (API CHAP) are to improve the educational understanding of HIV/AIDS and to increase access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services through advocacy, coalition building, and culturally competent outreach and education activities targeting the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities of Los Angeles. The Asian Youth Center is collaborating with the Chinatown Service Center, Korean Youth and Community Center, South Asian Network, and the Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, in its efforts. The project works to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate HIV/AIDS services for the API communities, particularly API youth. The project also serves as a mobilizing force for a local council which represents API ethnic communities and community-based organizations that address HIV/AIDS issues and services in the API communities.

Project activities include recruiting new members and expanding the activities of the local community council through community mobilization; establishing mini-grants with community-based agencies, faith organizations, and smaller grassroots efforts to mobilize the community to increase HIV/AIDS awareness and community norm change; and engaging API adolescents in peer education and drama activities to adopt and maintain personalized HIV/AIDS prevention behaviors. In addition, the project conducts health education performances for API adolescents to increase HIV/AIDS awareness and target individuals of the underserved South Asian communities with HIV/AIDS outreach and education.

ILLINOIS

Chicago Women's AIDS Project

5249 North Kenmore

Chicago, IL 60640

Phone: (312) 271-2242

Fax: (312) 271-2618

Title: **Englewood Youth Care Coalition Project**

Grant #: D53MP99009

Project Director: Cynthia Tucker

Target Population: Black/African American

Age Group: Youths, ages 12 to 24

Englewood Youth Care Coalition (EYCC) produces peer-led HIV/STD multi-media theater performances with interactive panel discussions and conducts skills-building workshops for out-of-school youth. The Chicago Women's AIDS Project has established the EYCC in partnership with the West Englewood United Methodist Church, Youth Guidance, Chicago Health Risk Reduction Program for Youth, Englewood STD Clinic, Englewood Planned Parenthood, Grand Boulevard Maternal Child Health Center, and Chicago Communities in Schools. The project provides STD/HIV prevention education, supports early HIV identification, and links youth to health care. Services and activities are targeted in three communities on the South Side of Chicago: Englewood, West Englewood, and Grand Boulevard.

Project activities include providing interactive multimedia STD/HIV performances utilizing local peer leadership to residential programs, youth centers, treatment programs, alternative high schools, community church programs, and conducting post-performance question and answer panel discussion sessions. In addition, the project implements STD/HIV workshops serving African American youth; establishes post-performance STD/HIV groups at selected youth program sites; and produces a youth oriented, multi-media, community-wide STD/HIV performance rally and health fair reaching African American youth, family members, community leaders, church leaders and youth service providers on Chicago's South Side.

ILLINOIS

Sinai Family Health Centers

1501 South California Avenue

Chicago, IL 60608

Phone: (773) 257-5099

Fax: (773) 257-6403

Title: **Opening Access for Hardly Reached African Americans at Risk for HIV/AIDS**

Grant #: D53MP99001

Project Director: Steven Glass

Target Population: Black/African American

Age Group: Adults, ages 21 to 75

The Open Access Project's goal is to reduce the number of new HIV infections among at-risk men and women living in Chicago, using a community coalition approach which brings together partners with experience and strengths in serving hardly reached populations. The community coalition is comprised of Sinai Family Health Centers, Chicago Recovery Alliance, Genesis House, and Test Positive Aware Network, and serves five contiguous community areas on the West Side of Chicago: Austin, East Garfield Park, West Garfield Park, North Lawndale, and the Near West Side. The project intends to reach sex workers, people who share needles to inject drugs, and others with high risk behaviors in order to develop an integrated response to HIV/AIDS that addresses sociocultural and linguistic barriers and provides AIDS education and outreach.

The project is establishing an integrated system for management of the outreach, education, case management, counseling and testing, and linkage activities of the four organizations with systematic collaboration and referral patterns. Additional activities include conducting street and community outreach contacting high risk, hardly reached community members; conducting individual and group prevention education encounters; providing HIV counseling and testing for individuals reached at community sites; and providing HIV positive clients with case management services, linkages to primary health care, personal care management, and additional services such as substance abuse treatment.

ILLINOIS

Vision House, Inc.

514 East 50th Place

Chicago, IL 60615

Phone: (773) 624-9112

Fax: (773) 624-9144

Title: **Mid South HIV Prevention Coalition**

Grant #: D53MP99010

Project Director: Joyce Hogsette

Target Population: Black/African American

Age Group: Adults and Youths

The purpose of the Mid South HIV Prevention Coalition is to increase the awareness and understanding of HIV, compassion for those living with HIV, and HIV prevention/risk reduction activities among African Americans, specifically males and youth, residing on the South Side of Chicago. Outreach and education activities are complemented by efforts of faith-based organizations to address the issue of HIV in the African American community. The coalition consists of Vision House, Project Brotherhood and Woodlawn Health Center, Christ Way Baptist Church, Power Circle Congregation and Safer Foundation. The project serves the Chicago neighborhoods of Near South Side, Fuller Park, Grand Boulevard, Washington Park, Woodlawn, and Englewood.

Project activities include establishing an ecumenical council for the purposes of developing HIV ministries; organizing HIV prevention fairs in addition to AIDS Day activities; and developing a speaker's bureau of peer educators for youth and adults at neighborhood sites. In addition, the project utilizes innovative methods to target high risk male populations for HIV testing and education through street teams which visit barbershops, unemployment offices, basketball courts and street corners; improves early identification and coordination of health care and social services for patients testing positive for HIV; and disseminates HIV/AIDS information through presentations and publications.

MARYLAND

Congress Heights Training Center

10204 Jensen Lane

Owings Mills, MD 21117

Phone: (410) 998-9300

Fax: (410) 998-9636

Title: **Greater Baltimore Homeless AIDS Prevention Project**

Grant #: D53MP99008

Project Director: Ja'Meda Reaves

Target Population: Black/African American

Age Group: Adults (ages 18 to 45)

The Greater Baltimore Homeless AIDS Prevention Project is an HIV/AIDS outreach program that addresses issues of HIV/AIDS, STDs, and risk reduction with the goal of increasing awareness about AIDS, its transmission, and its prevention among homeless African American women in Baltimore County. The Congress Heights Training Center is partnering with the Zeta Omega Sigma Chapter of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and the Baltimore County Department of Health-Medical Social Work Department. The outreach program targets homeless African American women at the sites where they access services, such as emergency shelters, welfare offices, soup kitchens, hotels and clinics.

Project activities include recruiting and training peer educators to conduct outreach activities; conducting weekly outreach workshops at identified sites for homeless women; and referring targeted women to other available services such as HIV testing and counseling, and mental health, reproductive health and substance abuse services. The project also organizes health fairs and street corner outreach and conducts follow-up activities of workshop participants to gauge knowledge and behaviors.

MASSACHUSETTS

Centro Latino de Chelsea

267 Broadway

Chelsea, MA 01250

Phone: (617) 884-3238

Fax: (617) 884-4646

Title: **Proyecto Conexión (Project Connection)**

Grant #: D53MP99004

Project Director: Juan Vega

Target Population: Hispanic/Latino, Black/African American

Age Group: Adults, ages 18 to 55

Proyecto Conexión (Project Connection) is a coalition-led effort to reduce the impact of the HIV epidemic among Latino and other minority residents through nighttime outreach and related, supportive services to out-of-treatment drug users and female sex workers in Chelsea and East Boston communities. The project coalition is formed by the Centro Latino of Chelsea, Inc., the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, and the Bay Cove Human Services/Alcohol Substance Abuse Programs (ASAP).

Project activities include providing appropriate, targeted HIV/AIDS education and prevention supplies to high-risk individuals who are not currently being reached; and reducing risk to HIV/AIDS among persons who do not currently practice harm-reduction strategies through the provision of active referrals to housing, food, methadone, urgent care and other services. In addition, the project provides individuals with on-going case management services; links outreached individuals to detox and outpatient substance abuse programs; links female sex workers to women-specific services including shelters, women's substance abuse treatment groups, domestic violence services and parenting support programs; links persons to HIV counseling and testing; and refers identified HIV-positive individuals to primary care treatment.

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Asian AIDS Prevention Project

59 Temple Place, Suite 300

Boston, MA 02111

Phone: (617) 426-6755

Fax: (617) 426-6756

Title: **Women's Health Leadership Initiative**

Grant #: D53MP99007

Project Director: Lina Sheth

Target Population: Asian and Pacific Islander

Age Group: Adults, ages 18 to 35

The Women's Health Leadership Initiative is an HIV prevention and risk reduction intervention program which targets Vietnamese women, ages 18 to 35, living in Boston who are not reached by traditional HIV services. Members of the coalition are the Massachusetts Asian AIDS Prevention Project, the Vietnamese American Civic Association, and Action for Boston Community Development/Health Services. The program is led by a volunteer women's community organizing committee and involves training Asian and Pacific Islander (API) women as peer educators to conduct outreach education in their own ethnic communities.

The project conducts two types of health education and risk reduction interventions for the target audience. Group level interventions consist of a skills building "train the trainer" program and small group, peer-led community home parties to increase knowledge of HIV prevention and risk reduction behaviors. Street and community outreach interventions take place in community settings such as nail salons, English as a Second Language classes and other sites to promote awareness of HIV-related health services and to increase access to safer sex methods. Outreach materials are distributed with referrals to health services by an outreach worker.

NEW YORK

Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS

275 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1204

New York, NY 10001

Phone: (212) 620-7287

Fax: (212) 620-7323

Title: **The Breaking Silence Project: Raising AIDS Awareness and Increasing Health Access in Asian & Pacific Islander Communities**

Grant #: D53MP99011

Project Director: John Chin

Target Population: Asian and Pacific Islander

Age Group: Adolescents and Adults

The Breaking Silence Project aims to increase awareness about HIV among Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities in New York City, particularly among immigrant APIs who speak little or no English; increase access to information and services; and have some impact on social norms that prohibit discussion of HIV and HIV-related issues. The seven-member coalition consists of the Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS, the Chinese-American Planning Council, the Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, the Japanese AIDS Workshop Series, the Filipino American Human Services, Inc., the South Asian Lesbian and Gay Association, and the Family Health Project. The health education campaign focuses on two components: a multilingual media campaign alerting API communities about HIV/AIDS; and a multi-lingual information and referral telephone line where APIs can learn more about HIV risk reduction and be referred to testing and other HIV-related services.

Project activities include creating poster messages on HIV/AIDS and disseminating them in the New York City subway, through collaborating agencies' constituents, in the ethnic press, and on the Internet. The project also trains peer educators and volunteers to staff the information line, responds to queries from callers and makes referrals to appropriate services. A committee of coalition members to assist in the design of media messages and foster dialogue on HIV/AIDS in the API community.

NEW YORK

Bronx AIDS Services, Inc.

One Fordham Plaza, Suite 903

Bronx, New York 10458

Phone: (718) 295-5605

Fax: (718) 733-3429

Title: **The Adolescent Girls' Mentoring Coalition**

Grant #: D53MP99002

Project Director: Carol Tobkes

Target Population: Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino

Age Group: Adolescents, ages 12 to 15

The Adolescent Girls' Mentoring Coalition is designed to provide a continuum of prevention services to high risk adolescent girls in the Borough of the Bronx, New York, and to develop their resiliency skills to support healthy behaviors and HIV risk reduction. This continuum of services initiates with the identification of girls from the target population, and includes the provision of such prevention services as health education, resiliency-building, mentoring, medical and social services, and recreational activities. The six-member coalition consists of the Bronx AIDS Services, the Police Athletic League, the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of New York City, the MIC-Women's Health Services, the New York City Department of Probation, and the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice.

Project activities include conducting weekly educational groups for program participants, recruiting and training adult women mentors for adolescent program participants, and training adolescents and mentors in creative writing. Additionally, the program provides case management services for girls and their families and ensures appropriate social service referrals to a wide range of Bronx-based community service providers to those girls who request specific assistance.

NEW YORK

Latino Commission on AIDS

80 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1501

New York, NY 10011

Phone: (212) 675-3288

Fax: (212) 675-3466

Title: **Impacto Latino Coalition: Reaching Religious Social Networks**

Grant #: D53MP99003

Project Director: Guillermo Chacon

Target Population: Hispanic/Latino

Age Group: All

The Impacto Latino Coalition addresses the need for effective prevention programming to change community norms and to increase community support for behaviors known to reduce the risk of HIV infection and transmission among Latino New Yorkers. The Latino Commission on AIDS, VIP Community Services and four churches in the Spanish language dominant communities are joining together as a coalition of community organizations and religious institutions dedicated to addressing HIV/AIDS in the Latino community. As a community level intervention, the project seeks to change the attitudes of social networks involved with Latino religious institutions. As a group level intervention, the project supports and reinforces participants in changing unsafe sex and drug behaviors.

Project activities include developing comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and education programs in four churches; training church coordinators and ministers; developing closer working relationships and referral linkages between churches and community-based organizations (CBOs); and recruiting additional churches and CBOs into the coalition. In addition, the project reaches extended families with HIV/AIDS prevention materials and improves the participation of local organizations and agencies in the provision of AIDS education and prevention services to church communities.

TEXAS

Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services, Inc.

4126 Southwest Freeway, Suite 1717

Houston, TX 77027

Phone: (713) 626-2837

Fax: (713) 626-2848

Title: **Latino Cuida Tu Salud (Latino Take Care of Your Health)**

Grant #: D53MP99006

Project Director: Angela Mora

Target Population: Hispanic/Latino

Age Group: Children and Adolescents, ages 9-19

The purpose of the Latino Cuida Tu Salud Project is to establish an integrated community-based coalition involving non-traditional partners to conduct a capacity-building outreach prevention program. The project provides health promotion and HIV/STD educational activities for Latino children and adolescents, newly identified HIV-positive Latino patients, and Latino family practice physicians in high-risk communities of Harris County. Targeted children and adolescents are identified from among recent immigrants and first generation Mexican-Americans, who are at dual risk for HIV/STD infection and alcohol and drug abuse and lack the appropriate access to HIV/AIDS/STD information, testing, and related resources. The Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services, Inc., the Mexican Cultural Institute of Houston, Inc., and The Center for AIDS, are joining together to form this community-based coalition.

Project activities include implementing a comprehensive, bilingual, and culturally appropriate educational program focused on healthy sexuality and HIV/STD disease prevention for targeted children and adolescents; and providing newly identified and existing HIV/AIDS Latino clients access to information and educational resources to increase their understanding and knowledge of HIV/AIDS information, and treatment options and compliance issues. The project also provides family practice physicians with culturally specific HIV/STD information and resources to increase their knowledge of HIV/STD risk assessment, diagnosis, treatment protocols, and available services, as well as contribute to the HIV/AIDS/STD prevention capacity of participating coalition agencies.