



FEDERAL AIDS POLICY PARTNERSHIP

AIDS BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COALITION

October 30, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Final FY 2018 Funding Request for Domestic HIV and Related Programs

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey,

The undersigned 231 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 2018 House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bills.

The federal government's support for lifesaving care, treatment, prevention, research and housing programs is critical in our nation's fight against the HIV epidemic. While we have made great progress, there remain 1.2 million individuals living with HIV, 38,000 new infections each year, and countless others at risk of acquiring HIV. If we continue to support important federal programs, we will reduce future infections and move closer to an HIV-free generation.

We are pleased that both the House and Senate bills maintain funding for the Ryan White Program, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention, and substantially increased funding for medical research at the NIH. However, the House bill would eliminate the **HHS Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund (SMAIF)**, cut **SAMHSA's Minority AIDS Initiative programs**, and eliminate **Title X Family Planning** and the **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program**. The Senate bill would cut HUD's **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS** program by \$26 million. Additionally, both the House and Senate bills would increase the **abstinence-only-until-marriage** grant program, which we believe should be eliminated.

As Congress works to finalize the FY 2018 spending bills, we urge you to fully fund all of these important, life-saving HIV programs, restore cuts made in FY 2017 to the Ryan White Part C

program and CDC's STD Prevention program, and fund the NIH at the Senate proposed level of \$36.1 billion.

Additionally, in order to ensure domestic HIV programs have the proper resources, **we urge Congress to lift the caps on non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding that were imposed by the Budget Control Act.** As has been done in the past, Congress must pass a budget deal that remediates sequestration, raises the caps on discretionary spending, and maintains parity between the caps on defense and non-defense discretionary spending. Raising the spending caps now will provide needed resources for HIV/AIDS care, treatment, prevention, and research programs, along with other critical NDD programs, and will help our nation care for individuals living with HIV, prevent additional HIV infections, and more quickly achieve an HIV-free generation.

Programs Subject to Proposed Cuts in FY 2018

Below are details on the domestic HIV/AIDS programs that face cuts or elimination in the House and Senate appropriations bills. For details on current and historical funding levels for all domestic HIV/AIDS programs, please refer to the *AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition FY18 Appropriations Chart* which is available [here](#).

The House has proposed the complete elimination of the **HHS Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund (SMAIF), which would be a cut of \$53.9 million.** Nearly 3 out of 4 new HIV infections are among racial and ethnic minorities. SMAIF seeks to reduce this disparity and focus resources to where they are needed most. Grants through SMAIF seek to increase options and choices that help meet the local needs of communities who are at higher risk of HIV. These programs design and test innovative, multi-agency programs that enhance efficacy and efficiency of our public health system to improve health outcomes in minority populations. In FY 2016, SMAIF projects were conducted by more than 200 health departments, community based organizations and community health centers across the country. Recent projects include using surveillance data to connect minority groups to HIV treatment in Louisiana, expanding HIV and hepatitis C testing through the Indian Health Service, the deployment of tele-medicine services to reach rural communities, and coordinating with the CDC and HRSA to integrate HIV prevention and treatment services into primary care in order to increase health outcomes of minority communities at high risk of HIV and reduce health costs to the system. The elimination of these funds would severely impede the response in tackling the epidemic for those who bear the highest burden. **We urge Congress to reject the House proposal to eliminate SMAIF funding, and support at least the Senate recommendation, which maintains FY 2017 funding levels.**

SAMHSA's Minority AIDS Initiative has been proposed to be cut by \$17.4 million by the House. This program enhances and expands effective, culturally-competent HIV/AIDS-related behavioral services in minority communities. These funds are not duplicative of other federal programs and target specific populations and provide prevention, treatment, and recovery support services, along with HIV testing for people at risk of mental illness. If these proposals are enacted, \$5 million from the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) and \$12.4 million from the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) would be cut (a reduction of 35 percent). MAI funding through CMHS and CSAP supports 162 grants in 28 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These grants fund projects with community based organizations, and college and university health centers to prevent and reduce the onset of substance abuse and the transmission of HIV for at-risk young people. Other funded projects increase outreach to racial/ethnic minority men ages 13-24 to connect them with HIV-related supportive services such as HIV medical care, housing, and employment services. A cut to these programs would dramatically reduce the number of grants, reduce HIV and viral hepatitis testing, and fewer people with substance abuse and mental health disorders would be linked to HIV care. **We urge Congress to reject**

the \$17.4 million cut to SAMHSA’s Minority AIDS Initiative proposed by the House, and at least fund the program at the Senate’s recommendation, which maintains FY 2017 funding levels.

The Senate has proposed a \$26 million cut to the **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)** program. Research has shown that housing is the greatest unmet service need for people living with HIV. The HOPWA program annually serves about 60,000 households, including 12,000 children. If the cut was enacted, about 4,000 households would lose their housing, thereby destabilizing the health of people living with HIV/AIDS. When people are without housing while simultaneously trying to manage HIV/AIDS, they are more likely to be or become ill and able to transmit the virus to others. **We urge Congress to reject the \$26 million cut to HOPWA proposed by the Senate, and at least fund the program at the House’s recommendation of \$375 million.**

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP) provides capacity building, implementation, and evaluation of programs that provide young people access to evidence informed, age-appropriate, and medically-accurate information to prevent unintended pregnancy, HIV, and other STDs. The House bill completely eliminate TPPP. In its first five-year award cycle, TPPP served more than half a million young people; trained more than 7,000 professionals; and partnered with over 3,000 community-based organizations. The 84-funded entities in 33 states, DC, and the Marshall Islands currently serve nearly 300,000 young people each year through evidence-based and evidence-informed innovative strategies to support adolescent health. **We urge Congress to reject the House’s proposed elimination of TPPP, and at minimum, support the Senate recommendation maintaining FY 2017 funding levels at \$101 million and \$6.8 million in evaluation transfer authority.**

Title X Family Planning was also eliminated in the House bill. Title X is the nation’s only dedicated source of federal family planning funding, and as part of its services offers HIV prevention education and testing, and screening and treatment for other STDs. By cutting this program, nearly 4 million poor and low-income women, men, and young people across the country will be denied access to these important services. **We strongly urge Congress to reject the House’s proposed elimination of Title X, and support at least the Senate recommendation that maintains FY 2017 funding levels.**

At the same time detrimental cuts are proposed to essential prevention programs, both the House and Senate propose to increase funding for the competitive **abstinence-only-until-marriage (AOUM)** grant program, currently called “sexual risk avoidance.” The Senate has proposed to increase funding by \$10 million, while the House has proposed a \$5 million increase. These programs are often harmful to young people and decades of research show no evidence of effectiveness at the primary goal of young people abstaining from sexual activity before marriage. More than \$2 billion since the first AOUM federal program and an 80 percent increase since FY 2010 alone for AOUM programs is far too much wasted in failed and stigmatizing programs. **We urge Congress to eliminate funding for the “sexual risk avoidance” abstinence-only-until-marriage grant program.**

Programs that Experienced Funding Cuts in FY 2017

The FY 2017 Omnibus Appropriations Bill enacted a \$5 million cut to **CDC’s STD Prevention** program, and a \$4 million cut to **Part C of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program.**

Domestic STD rates are currently at their highest rates ever. The CDC recently reported that between 2015 and 2016, cases of chlamydia increased by 4.7 percent, cases of gonorrhea increased by 18.5 percent, and cases of syphilis increased by 17.6 percent. In order to ensure the CDC has the proper resources to combat these rising rates, **we urge Congress to restore the \$5 million cut to CDC’s STD Prevention program.**

We also urge **Congress to restore the \$4 million cut to Part C of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program**. The Part C program provides some level of HIV medical care and treatment to over 300,000 individuals annually at 346 health centers and clinics nationwide. Providing appropriate and timely HIV medical care improves individual health and public health. Part C clinics, along with the entire Ryan White Program, help individuals achieve viral suppression, which allows them to live healthier lives and reduces the risk of transmitting the virus to almost zero. The \$4 million cut to Part C is expected to reduce staff, especially nursing and social work staff, who are critical to the effective team approach that Ryan White Program employs. Reducing staff makes it harder for clinics to manage their large and increasing volume of patients, address their patients' complex medical needs, re-engage individuals who have been lost from HIV care, and link newly diagnosed patients to HIV care and treatment. **We urge Congress to restore Part C to \$205.1 million in FY 2018.**

People living with and at risk of HIV/AIDS, STDs and hepatitis rely on a wide array of federal programs. Whether it is testing, education programs, school health programs, basic medical research, or direct care services to HIV positive people, all these programs complement each other in order to form a comprehensive response to the epidemic. Continued federal investments have helped us reduce the number of new infections and increase the overall health and life expectancy of people living with HIV. In order to continue our overall progress and reduce health disparities among minority and low-income communities, we strongly urge Congress to fully fund these 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.

Thank you very much,

ACRIA (NY)	AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (WI)
ActionAIDS (PA)	AIDS Resource Council, Inc. (GA)
ADAP Advocacy Association (OH)	AIDS Services Foundation Orange County (CA)
ADAP Educational Initiative (OH)	AIDS United (DC)
Advocates for Youth (DC)	AIDS/HIV Services Group (ASG) (VA)
Affirmations Lesbian Gay Community Center (MI)	AL GAMEA (MI)
African American Health Alliance (MD)	Alliance for Positive Health (NY)
African American Office of Gay Concerns (NJ)	American Academy of HIV Medicine (DC)
AIDS Action Baltimore (MD)	American Liver Foundation (NY)
AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts (MA)	American Psychological Association (DC)
AIDS Alabama (AL)	American Run to End AIDS (AREA) (NY)
AIDS Alabama South (AL)	American Sexual Health Association (NC)
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families (DC)	amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research (NY)
AIDS Care (PA)	Amida Care (NY)
AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (NY)	API Wellness (CA)
AIDS Foundation of Chicago (IL)	APICHA Community Health Center (NY)
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago (IL)	APLA Health (CA)
AIDS Legal Referral Panel (CA)	Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (DC)
AIDS Project New Haven (CT)	Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (OH)
AIDS Project of the East Bay (CA)	AVAC (NY)
AIDS Project Rhode Island (RI)	Avita Pharmacy (LA)
AIDS Resource Alliance, Inc. (PA)	Baltimore Student Harm Reduction Coalition (MD)

Belle Reve New Orleans (LA)
 Bill's Kitchen, Inc. (PR)
 BOOM! HEALTH (NY)
 Borinquen Medical Centers (FL)
 Bronx Lebanon Family Practice (NY)
 Buddies for NJ, Inc. (NJ)
 Burnham Woods Champa & Associates (FL)
 CAEAR Coalition (DC)
 California LGBT Arts Alliance (CA)
 Callen-Lorde Community Health Center (NY)
 CANN - Community Access National Network (DC)
 Canticle Ministries, Inc. (IL)
 CARES (MI)
 Careteam Plus, Inc. (SC)
 Cascade AIDS Project (OR)
 Center for Black Equity (DC)
 Center on Halsted (IL)
 CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers (FL)
 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)
 DC Fights Back (DC)
 Delaware HIV Consortium (DE)
 Digestive Disease National Coalition (DC)
 Ebony House, Inc. (AZ)
 Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (DC)
 End AIDS Now (NY)
 Equality California (CA)
 Equality Federation (OR)
 Equitas Health (OH)
 Erise Williams & Associates, Inc. (MO)
 Food & Friends (DC)
 Georgia AIDS Coalition (GA)
 Georgia Equality (GA)
 Georgia Rural Urban Summit (GA)
 GMHC (NY)
 God's Love We Deliver (NY)
 Grady Health System - Infectious Disease Program (GA)
 Gregory House Programs (HI)
 Harlem United (NY)
 Harm Reduction Coalition (NY)
 Health Emergency Lifeline Programs (MI)
 HealthHIV (DC)
 Healthy Teen Network (MD)
 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 (MI)
 HIV Dental Alliance (GA)
 HIV Medicine Association (VA)
 HIV Prevention Justice Alliance (IL)
 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)
 In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda (DC)
 International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (DC)
 Iris House (NY)
 JASMYN (FL)
 Joseph H. Neal Wellness Center (SC)
 Latino Commission on AIDS (NY)
 Legal Action Center (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)
 Lowcountry AIDS Services CAB (SC)
 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)
 Miami Beach Community Health Center (FL)
 Michigan Coalition for HIV Health and Safety (MI)
 Minnesota AIDS Project (MN)
 Miracle of Love, Inc. (FL)
 Moveable Feast (MD)
 Multicultural AIDS Coalition (MA)
 Nashville CARES (TN)
 NASTAD (DC)
 National AIDS Housing Coalition (DC)
 National Alliance of HIV Education and Workforce Development (NAHEWD) (DC)
 National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (IL)
 National Association of County and City Health Officials (DC)
 National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition (NBGMAC) (DC)
 National Black Justice Coalition (DC)
 National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network (TX)
 National Coalition for LGBT Health (DC)
 National Coalition of STD Directors (DC)
 National Council of Jewish Women (DC)
 National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (DC)
 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund (DC)
 National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NY)
 National Latino AIDS Action Network (NLAAN) (NY)
 National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (CO)
 National Partnership for Women & Families (DC)
 National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (DC)
 National Working Positive Coalition (NY)
 NMAC (DC)
 NOBCO (DC)
 North Carolina AIDS Action Network (NC)
 North Central Health District - Hope Center (GA)
 North Central Texas HIV Planning Council (TX)

North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJ)
 Northeast Florida AIDS Network (FL)
 Open Door Clinic of Greater Elgin (IL)
 Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative (IL)
 Pierce County AIDS Foundation (WA)
 Planned Parenthood Federation of America (NY)
 Positive Impact Health Centers (GA)
 Positive Women's Network - USA (CA)
 Positively U, Inc. (FL)
 Poverello Center Inc. (FL)
 POZ Military Veterans USA International (GA)
 Presbyterian AIDS Network (DC)
 Prevention On The Move/ Steward Marchman Act Behavioral Healthcare (FL)
 Pridelines (FL)
 Project Inform (CA)
 PWN-USA-Ohio (OH)
 Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition (MD)
 Rainbow Health Initiative (MN)
 Rocky Mountain CARES (CO)
 Rural AIDS Action Network (MN)
 Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition (VA)
 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)
 Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation (CA)
 SisterLove, Inc. (GA)
 Southern AIDS Coalition (AL)
 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 Alliance for Positive Change (NY)
 The Cave Institute (MD)
 The Center for Black Equality - Baltimore (MD)
 The Counter Narrative Project (GA)
 The Global Justice Institute (NY)
 The HIV/AIDS Prevention and Planning Group of St. Lucie County (FL)

The McGregor Clinic (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)
Unconditional Love, Inc. (FL)
University of Minnesota Youth and AIDS
Project (MN)

Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS Prevention
Services (UCHAPS) (DC)
Urban Family Ministries (TN)
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender
Equity (DC)
VillageCare (NY)
Volunteers of America Greater Baton Rouge
(LA)
Washington Heights CORNER Project (NY)
Women at Work International
Women With a Vision, Inc. (LA)
Woodhull Freedom Foundation (DC)