

June 23, 2010

The Honorable Pat Quinn
Governor
State of Illinois
100 W. Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

RE: HIV/AIDS COMMUNITY FY 11 BUDGET REQUEST

Dear Governor Quinn:

Thank you for championing safety-net services for vulnerable Illinoisans with HIV/AIDS. Your tireless effort to maintain the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) this year is but one example of the important leadership this Administration has exercised in the state's fight against the epidemic.

This is unquestionably a challenging budget year, and you will have to make difficult decisions about funding allocations. **We, representing 66 organizations throughout Illinois, urge you to appropriate the highest FY11 funding possible for HIV-related healthcare, prevention, and housing services.** The continuing AIDS emergency requires sustained funding to maintain vital services for people with HIV/AIDS and those at high risk of HIV infection. We outline below the critical funding areas and requested funding amounts.

Illinois Department of Public Health Programs

The legislature allocated \$97.4 million to the Illinois Department of Public Health, which is two-thirds of the Department's current budget. **We urge you to supplement that funding, as you did in FY 10, with \$70.76 million from the Governor's Human Services discretionary fund for total IDPH state funding of \$168.17 million.** This would be an increase of total IDPH funding by \$37.59 million to restore funding cuts proposed in your introduced FY 11 budget and meet the increased need for early intervention services in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program.

"AIDS Education, Drugs" budget line (total requested amount: \$39.01 million): Please allocate to this line \$39.01 million in total FY 11 spending, an increase of \$17.08 million over your FY 11 introduced budget. We specifically recommend that funding from this budget line be allocated to the following priorities:

- **AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) (total requested amount: \$24.51 million, an increase of \$9.68 million):** The Illinois AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is an essential safety-net for HIV-positive people who have no other means to afford their lifesaving HIV therapies. A total appropriation of \$24.51 million should be allocated to this program, an increase of \$9.68 million over your introduced FY 11 budget. This includes \$4 million that should be added to the FY 11 base to reflect supplemental funding received after the

budget was introduced and \$5.68 million to meet projected increase in need. This funding level would avert a devastating waiting list for HIV medications.

- **HIV prevention, care and housing grants (total requested amount: \$14.5 million, an increase of \$7.4 million):** In FY 10, IDPH was forced to divert funding from critical HIV services to ADAP. Total spending should be \$14.5 million, which would restore \$7.4 million in funding cuts from HIV prevention and care grants and services in FY 10. Programs funded by this grant line are a critical element of the state's integrated, safety net program for people with and at risk for HIV.

IDPH programs and budget lines other than "AIDS Education, Drugs":

Minority HIV/AIDS prevention (total requested amount: \$3.15 million): People of color are most impacted by HIV and AIDS, and make up two out of three people newly diagnosed with HIV in Illinois. This funding is dedicated to HIV prevention activities targeting African Americans, Latinos, Asians and other people of color. This request would level fund minority HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

HIV and corrections (total requested amount: \$1.94 million): National estimates indicate that one in seven people with HIV cycle in and out of correctional facilities each year. IDPH funding supports statewide service networks to quickly stabilize recently released inmates with HIV into community-based medical and support services to improve their health and reduce the chances of HIV transmission to others. Funding is also used for HIV prevention activities in prisons and jails. This request would sustain the program at the FY 10 funding level.

Local health protection grants (total requested amount: \$17.098 million): This funding supports core public health activities in local health departments throughout Illinois. In turn, it establishes the infrastructure that local programs use to operate effective HIV and STD prevention and treatment, reproductive health, disease prevention, health promotion, immunization, and other programs. This request represents level funding.

Please also continue the \$355,000 grant for the HIV/AIDS hotline.

Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Do not cut Illinois Cares Rx funding: We strongly urge you NOT to cut the benefits provided to seniors and individuals with disabilities through the Illinois Cares Rx program. We encourage you to implement efficiencies as recommended by the Make Medicare Work Coalition.

However, if reductions are necessary, please exempt the HIV Benefit from changes. The HIV benefit allows people with HIV to obtain medications through Medicare Part D; otherwise, they

would rely on ADAP at a cost that is more than 63% higher for the state. Any reductions to the HIV benefit will have a catastrophic impact on ADAP and would likely bankrupt the program.

Department of Human Services

Supportive Housing (total requested amount: \$23,947 million): Supportive housing lowers costs for the state by giving people with HIV, chronic diseases, and mental disorders the ability access services that will stabilize their lives and avoid utilizing more costly, intensive public programs. Supportive housing funds also help the state meet legal and moral housing obligations and are a step towards rebalancing state care in favor of less-expensive, less-restrictive community-based care. We strongly urge that you spend all allocated funding and not create reserves in this funding stream.

Department of Rehabilitative Services: Please maintain level funding for home and community-based care services provided through the AIDS waiver. These critical supports allow seriously ill and disabled people with HIV to live successfully in the community. Without these services, people with HIV would be forced into nursing homes at a daily cost that many times greater than the cost of home services.

Substance Abuse: Please do not cut non-Medicaid substance abuse treatment and prevention services, as proposed in your FY 11 introduced budget. Addiction is a disease affecting everyone in the state, either directly or indirectly. People with HIV are disproportionately impacted. 19% of people with HIV have substance abuse disorders compared to 9.5% of the general population (Whetten, 2005). Substance abuse is highly correlated with behaviors that are likely to transmit HIV. Reducing the availability of substance abuse treatment will worsen the lives and health of people with HIV and lead to higher transmission rates.

Mental Health: We also ask that you not reduce community based mental health services by \$90.07 million (26%), as proposed in your FY 11 budget. Rates of mental illness among people with HIV (47%) are more than double the percentage among the general population (22%) (Whetten, 2005). Mental health services help people with HIV maintain their physical and mental condition by taking HIV and other medications as prescribed, lowering the cost of more serious interventions and helping them be more productive members of society.

Thank you for your past support of HIV/AIDS and programs that play a critical role in supporting people with HIV/AIDS. Now more than ever, people with and at-risk for HIV look to you—as a longtime ally and state leader—to safeguard vital health and human services for our state's most vulnerable residents.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact John Peller, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, at 312-334-0921 or jpeller@aidshicago.org.

Sincerely,

1. Access Community Health Network, Chicago
2. aChurch4Me? Metropolitan Community Church, Chicago
3. ACLU of Illinois, Chicago
4. AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Chicago
5. AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, Chicago
6. AIDS Project Quad Cities, Moline
7. Alexian Brothers Bonaventure House, Chicago
8. Asian Human Services, Chicago
9. Association of Latino Men for Action (ALMA), Chicago
10. Bethany Place, Belleville
11. Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV), Chicago
12. Brothers Health Collective, Chicago
13. Canticle Ministries, Wheaton
14. CAVDA-Citizens AIDS Project, Mount Prospect
15. Center on Halsted, Chicago
16. Central Illinois FRIENDS of PWA, Inc., Peoria
17. Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, Chicago
18. Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, Chicago
19. Chicago Child Care Society, Chicago
20. Chicago House and Social Service Agency, Chicago
21. Chicago Nurses in AIDS Care, Chicago
22. Chicago Recovery Alliance, Chicago
23. Chicago Women's AIDS Project, Chicago
24. Christian Community Health Center, Chicago
25. Community Outreach Intervention Project, SPH, UIC, Chicago
26. Community Supportive Living Services, Chicago
27. DeLaCerde House, Inc., Rock Island
28. Erie Family Health Center, Chicago
29. FCAN (the Families' and Children's AIDS Network), Chicago
30. Garfield Counseling Center, Inc., Chicago
31. Greater Community AIDS Project, Champaign
32. Greater Westside Development Corporation, Chicago
33. Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, Chicago
34. Hektoen HIV Program at Provident Hospital, Chicago
35. Howard Brown Health Center, Chicago
36. Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, Chicago
37. Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy, Chicago
38. Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition, Chicago
39. Illinois Voices, Belleville
40. Institute for Metropolitan Affairs at Roosevelt University, Chicago

41. Jo-Ray House Inc, Chicago
42. Kenwood United Church of Christ Congregation, Chicago
43. Lawndale Christian Health Center, Chicago
44. LGBT Change, Chicago
45. Links-North Shore Youth Health Service, Northfield
46. Men & Women In Prison Ministries, Chicago
47. Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation, Chicago
48. Mount Sinai Hospital, Chicago
49. New Age Services, Chicago
50. Open Door Clinic, Elgin
51. Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative, Chicago
52. Perinatal Rapid HIV Testing Implementation Initiative in Illinois, Chicago
53. Phoenix Center, Springfield
54. Planned Parenthood of Illinois, Chicago
55. Proactive Community Services, Olympia Fields
56. Regional CARE Association, Joliet
57. Renz Prevention Center, Elgin
58. Sisters and Brothers Helping Each Other, Kankakee
59. South Side Help Center, Chicago
60. SSHARC - South Suburban Clinics of Cook County, Ford Heights
61. Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN), Chicago
62. The Children's Place Association, Chicago
63. Trinity United Church HIV AIDS Support Ministry
64. Total Health Awareness Team, Rockford
65. Vida/SIDA, Chicago
66. Vital Bridges NFP, Inc., Chicago

cc: Jerry Stermer, Chief of Staff
Mike Gelder, Office of the Governor
Dr. Damon Arnold, IDPH
Mike McRaith, DOI
Tere Garate, IDPH
Mildred Williamson, IDPH