

October 1, 2003

The Honorable Richard M. Daley
Office of the Mayor
121 N. LaSalle, Room 507
Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Increase HIV Prevention Funding

Dear Mayor Daley:

We the undersigned organizations, write to urge you to provide for a \$1 million increase in city funding for HIV prevention services in the 2004 budget.

As community-based organizations and health clinics, we witness daily the devastating impact of AIDS. Our clients, many who are living with and at risk for HIV, are some of Chicago's most vulnerable citizens, including the poor, the homeless and the disabled. Our shared mission, to improve the lives of our clients, cannot succeed without a renewed commitment from you.

Since 1997, city funds for HIV prevention have decreased 8% while the number of reported AIDS cases in the City has increased 32%. To date, over 20,000 persons in Chicago have been diagnosed with AIDS, and over 11,000 of them have died. There are now an estimated 22,000 Chicagoans living with HIV, many of whom do not know they are infected.

This epidemic has impacted all the diverse communities of Chicago. People of color account for approximately 69% of the City's total population, but they account for 81% of recently diagnosed adult AIDS cases and 77% of recently diagnosed HIV cases. African-Americans alone account for 65% of recently diagnosed adult AIDS cases and 61% of recently diagnosed adult HIV cases. And gay men continue to be hard hit; male-to-male sexual contact remains the number one mode of transmission.

The City must contribute additional financial resources to address this public health crisis, particularly now in difficult economic times. Economic downturns typically exacerbate public health concerns, particularly among those living on the edge of financial security. Without increased prevention services, more people at risk for HIV will become infected; many will get sick, and some will die. Research indicates that \$1 million spent on HIV prevention can save \$2.7 million in averted healthcare costs making this a wise investment in our City's economic future.

Mr. Mayor, the lives of men, women, and children in Chicago are at stake. Please act now to help save them by increasing city funding for HIV prevention by \$1 million.

Respectfully yours,

Access Community Health Network
AIDS Care
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
Alliance for Community Empowerment
American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois
Asian Health Coalition of Illinois
Asian Human Services
Association of Latin Men in Action
Better Existence with HIV
Bonaventure House
CALOR – a division of Anixter Center
Catholic Charities of Lake County
Center on Halsted/Horizons Community Services
Chicago Chapter, National Organization for Women
Chicago Health Outreach
Chicago House
Chicago Recovery Alliance
Chicago Women's AIDS Project
Children's Memorial Hospital
The Children's Place Association
Christian Community Health Center
Citizen Action/Illinois
Cook County Westside Health Center – CDC Initiative
Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, Department of Pediatrics,
 John H. Stroger Jr., Cook County
EASE – the Chicago Area HIV Caucus
Equality Illinois
Families' and Children's AIDS Network
Garfield Counseling Center
Greater Chicago Committee
Health & Disability Advocates
Hemophilia Foundation of Illinois
Howard Area Community Center
Howard Brown Health Center
Human Rights Campaign - Illinois Steering Committee
Interfaith House
Lakeview Action Coalition
Lambda Legal
Lawndale Christian Health Center
Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing
Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center
Midwest Hispanic Health Coalition
NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt
National Association on HIV Over Fifty
National Center on Poverty Law
New Phoenix Assistance Center

The Night Ministry
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative
Pilsen-Little Village Community Mental Health Center*
Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area
Project VIDA
Rainbow/PUSH Coalition
Research and Education Foundation of the Michael Reese Medical Staff
ROCK AIDS Campaign*
A Safe Haven
South Shore Hospital
South Side Help Center
Southside Health Association
Southwest Youth Collaborative
TASC, Inc.
Test Positive Aware Network
University of Chicago
Vida/SIDA
Vital Bridges NFP, Inc.
Westside Association for Community Action*

cc: City Council
William Abolt
Dr. John Wilhelm
Christopher Brown
Sheila O' Grady
John Doerrer
Greg Harris

* Signatory added after letter was delivered.