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**NASTAD Calls on the Administration and Congress to Provide
Emergency Funding for AIDS Drug Assistance Program**

Washington, DC – The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) calls on the Obama Administration and Congress to provide an additional \$126 million in FY2010 emergency funding to meet current AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) needs. NASTAD applauds the \$20 million increase for ADAPs included in President Obama’s recently released FY2011 proposed budget. However, ADAPs are struggling and unable to meet current demand for life saving therapies. Without additional funds, waiting lists for individuals to receive HIV medications will continue to grow and other program access restrictions will increase.

“We believe ADAPs are on the brink of the worst funding shortfall in many years,” stated Julie Scofield, NASTAD’s Executive Director. “Eleven ADAPs have closed their doors to new clients and two states have dropped their financial eligibility level to ensure they don’t run out of money to serve those currently on the program,” she added.

The current economic crisis has impacted ADAPs heavily. Individuals losing jobs and their insurance have created an increased demand for this critical program. During FY2009, ADAPs experienced an average monthly growth of 1,271 clients. This is an unprecedented increase of 80 percent from FY2008 when ADAPs experienced an average monthly growth of 706 clients.

ADAPs are the safety net under other public programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid. Almost seventy-five percent of ADAP clients earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level, which is \$22,000 for an individual.

ADAPs received an increase of \$20 million through the FY2010 Congressional appropriations process; however, this falls far short of what is necessary for ADAPs to clear current waiting lists and curtail implementation of additional cost-containment measures. ADAPs also received a \$20 million increase in FY2009. This translated into an average increase of \$358,000 for those states receiving increases in their ADAP awards.

NASTAD estimates that the additional \$126 million needed in FY2010 emergency federal funding will only allow states to continue their programs with the same composition, not expand their programs in any way. Emergency funding to curtail ADAP waiting lists has not been available since 2004 when President Bush provided additional funds to the program.

Thirteen states have instituted or anticipate instituting cost-containment measures such as reducing their eligibility level, cutting drugs from their formulary, instituting annual expenditure caps per client or capping enrollment. Additionally, there were 472 individuals on ADAP waiting lists in 11 states, as of February 5, 2010. States with waiting lists include: Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Wyoming. More and more states are reporting that they will be unable to serve new individuals seeking ADAP services throughout FY2010. A few states have been forced to drop existing clients from their rolls due to lack of available funding.

"It is critical that ADAPs receive emergency funding in order to continue to provide life-saving and life-sustaining medications," remarked Scofield. "Without these additional funds, eligible clients will fall through the cracks, resulting in poor health outcomes and additional health care costs. We call on the Administration, Congress, the states, and the pharmaceutical industry to work together to find a solution to this crisis," she concluded.

Founded in 1992, NASTAD is a nonprofit national association of state and territorial health department HIV/AIDS program directors who have programmatic responsibility for administering HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis health care, prevention, education, and supportive services programs funded by state and federal governments. For more information, visit www.NASTAD.org.

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