



Feb. 16, 2023

The Honorable Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Re: FY24 budget request for a national PrEP program at CDC

Dear Mr. President,

As you work to draft your Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget Request, we respectfully urge you to include a request for \$200M in discretionary funding for a National PrEP Program at CDC. Discretionary funding would provide program flexibility that would help to increase access to PrEP for uninsured and underinsured individuals. The funding should be included in the request for the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative in CDC's Division of HIV Prevention (DHP). Additionally, we urge you to include in your request suggested report language that would help to ensure integration and implementation of a PrEP program that is national in scope, as is permitted under CDC's current authorization.

Expanding Equitable PrEP Access Will be Needed to End the HIV Epidemic

The federal Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative calls for 50% of the approximately 1.2 million people who could benefit from PrEP in this country to have access to that intervention by 2030. Currently, only 25% of individuals with an indication for PrEP are actually utilizing it, with alarming and growing disparities based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, and geography. Despite making up 42% of new HIV diagnoses in 2020, Black individuals accounted for only 14% of PrEP users in 2021. Similarly, Hispanic/Latinx individuals accounted for 27% of new HIV diagnoses in 2020, yet made up only 17% of PrEP users in 2021.¹ The disparity in PrEP access will lead to further HIV disparities in the years to come.

A National PrEP Program Is Needed to Dramatically Reduce the Costs Associated with New HIV Infections

The fragmented system of PrEP access, which requires uninsured consumers to navigate multiple programs with differing eligibility and application rules, is a significant barrier to widespread PrEP access and uptake in the U.S. This fragmented approach prevents the nation from realizing the full benefit of PrEP, including the potential to avert thousands of new infections each year as well as the lifetime costs associated with those infections. A recent policy proposal published in the Journal of Law Medicine and Ethics estimated that every 1,000 monthly prescriptions would cost the program \$80,000.² **6,000 monthly prescriptions would cost less than \$500,000, the lifetime value of just 1 prevented HIV infection.**

Failure to increase access to PrEP harms people in communities that are disproportionately impacted by HIV and who face a range of barriers to HIV prevention services. A strong national PrEP program would help to improve health and reduce costs by increasing ready access to affordable PrEP medication and

¹ Source: AIDSvu.org

² Killelea A. Financing and Delivering Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to End the HIV Epidemic. 2022.

required medical services, such as lab tests, through an expanded provider network and centralized federal coverage of low-cost medications and labs.

Moreover, a provider network that is able to reach the LGBTQ community, Black women, and others at increased risk for HIV also would help to create a more nimble public health workforce that could facilitate access to a range of critical interventions. This will help drive demand for PrEP, and ensure that these groups know the benefit of this important HIV prevention tool. Building and maintaining such infrastructure would lead to compounding benefits for vulnerable communities by creating and maintaining an expansive network of trusted community access points to rapidly deploy testing, treatment, and prevention for any current or future infectious disease, such as mpox.

We urge the administration to call upon Congress to fund and provide report language for a National PrEP Program that would cover current gaps in services and reach all people who are at risk for HIV. A National PrEP Program would help to end the domestic HIV epidemic by reducing thousands of new infections per year, improving health outcomes, and reducing health care costs. Thank you so much for your time, consideration, and leadership on this critical issue impacting families and communities nationwide.

Sincerely,

Acadiana CARES (LA)
Act Now End AIDS Coalition
ADAP Educational Initiative (OH)
Advocacy House Services, Inc. (NC)
Advocates for Youth (DC)
AIDS Action Baltimore (MD)
AIDS Alabama (AL)
AIDS Alabama South (AL)
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families (DC)
AIDS Foundation Chicago (IL)
AIDS United (DC)
Aliveness Project (MN)
American Academy of HIV Medicine (DC)
American Psychological Association (DC)
American Sexual Health Association (NC)
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research (NY)
APLA Health (CA)
Appalachian Learning Initiative Inc. (WV)
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (OH)
Atlanta Black Women Leaders on PrEP (GA)
AVAC (NY)
Black Public Health Academy (GA)
Black Women's Learning Institute (NY)
CAEAR Coalition (DC)

Callen-Lorde Community Health Center (NY)
CALOR (IL)
CARES of Southwest Michigan (MI)
Cascade AIDS Project (OR)
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers (FL)
Center for HIV Law & Policy (NY)
Chicago House and Social Service Agency (IL)
Chicago Women's AIDS Project (IL)
Colorado Organizations and Individuals Responding to HIV/AIDS(CORA) (CO)
Community Access National Network (LA)
Community Education Group (CEG) (WV)
Community Liver Alliance (PA)
DECISIVE MINDS (LA)
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (DC)
Elton John AIDS Foundation (NY)
Equality California (CA)
Equity & Impact Solutions (CA)
Fast-Track Cities Institute (DC)
Fatty Liver Foundation (ID)
Fenway Health (MA)
Five Horizons Health Services (AL)
Food for Thought (CA)
Georgia AIDS Coalition (GA)
Georgia Equality (GA)
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality (DC)
Global Justice Institute (NY)
Golden Rainbows of Illinois South (IL)
Health GAP (NY)
HealthHIV (DC)
Healthy Teen Network (MD)
Hennepin County, Minnesota (MN)
HEP (WA)
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute (DC)
HIV AIDS Alliance of Michigan (MI)
HIV Dental Alliance (GA)
HIV Medicine Association (VA)
Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, Inc. (FL)
Hope House of St. Croix Valley (MN)
Howard Brown Health (IL)
Housing Works (NY)
Human Rights Campaign (DC)
Hyacinth Foundation (NJ)

iHealth (NY)
Illinois Public Health Association (IL)
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda (DC)
Indiana Recovery Alliance (IN)
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (DC)
JSI (MA)
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York (NY)
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. (NY)
Lansing Area AIDS Network (MI)
Latino Commission on AIDS (NY)
Latinos Salud (FL)
Medical Students for Choice (PA)
Multicultural AIDS Coalition (MA)
My Brother's Keeper, Inc. (MS)
NASTAD (DC)
National Alliance for HIV Education and Workforce Development (DC)
National Association of County and City Health Officials (DC)
National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition (DC)
National Coalition for LGBTQ Health (DC)
National Coalition of STD Directors (DC)
National Working Positive Coalition (NY)
NC AIDS Action Network (NC)
NMAC (DC)
PCAF (formerly Pierce County AIDS Foundation) (WA)
Positive Women's Network-USA (CA)
PrEP4All (NY)
Prism Health North Texas (TX)
Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (IL)
R2H Action [Right to Health] (MA)
Rainbow Café (IL)
Reproductive Health Access Project (NY)
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition (DC)
San Francisco AIDS Foundation (CA)
San Francisco Community Health Center (CA)
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change (DC)
Silver State Equality (NV)
SisterLove, Inc. (GA)
Southern AIDS Coalition (AL)
Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS (AZ)
Southwest Recovery Alliance (AZ)
Strategies for High Impact (S4HI)
The AIDS Institute (DC, FL)

The Aliveness Project, Inc. (MN)
The Matrix Consulting, LLC (VA)
The Reunion Project (IL)
The Well Project (NY)
Thomas Judd Care Center at Munson Medical Center (MI)
Thrive Alabama (AL)
THRIVE SS Inc (GA)
Treatment Action Group (NY)
U=U plus (DC)
UCSF (CA)
UNIFIED- HIV Health and Beyond (MI)
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity (DC)
Vivent Health (CO, MO, TX, WI)
Wellness AIDS Services, Inc. (MI)
Whitman-Walker Institute (DC)
Woodhull Freedom Foundation (DC)