

2022

# Annual Report





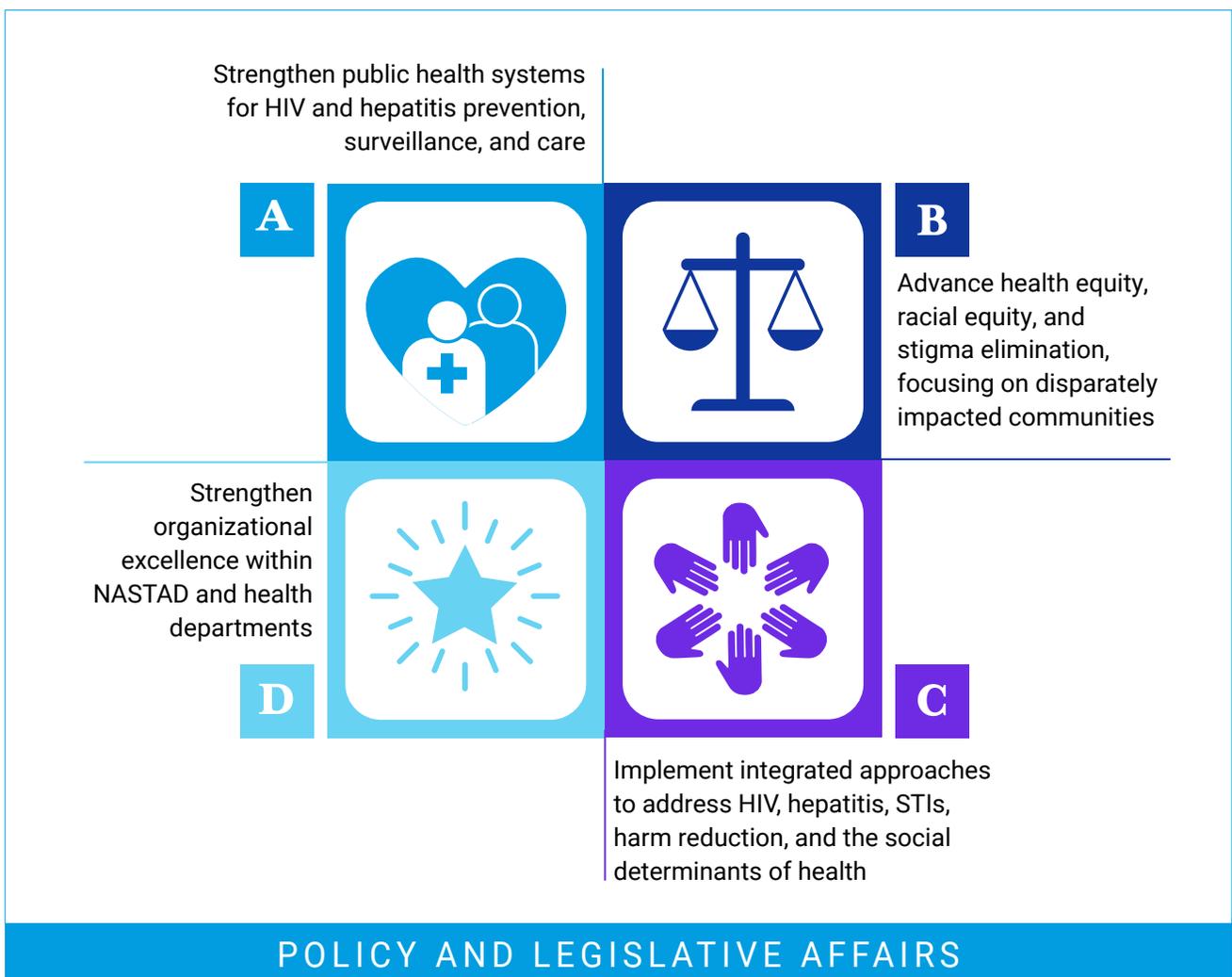
# Annual Report

## 2022

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Priority A: Strengthen public health systems for HIV and hepatitis prevention, surveillance, and care	4
Priority B: Advance health equity, racial equity, and stigma elimination, focusing on disparately impacted communities	6
Priority C: Implement integrated approaches to address HIV, hepatitis, STIs, harm reduction, and the social determinants of health	8
Priority D: Strengthen organizational excellence within NASTAD and health departments	11
Policy and Legislative Affairs	14

We would like to start this report by acknowledging and thanking NASTAD’s staff, members, federal partners, industry partners, and supporters for everything they did in 2022 to help us move closer to our vision of a world committed to ending HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and intersecting epidemics. This was year two of our strategic plan, and we made great progress across our strategic priorities:



We hosted trainings, developed resources, and provided technical assistance that advanced our mission and vision under each of these priorities. NASTAD produced a variety of fact sheets, toolkits, video series, and reports in 2022 that covered a broad range of topics, including emergency preparedness, harm reduction, community engagement, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs), and much more.

2022 was also the first year that we started hosting in-person trainings and events since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff hosted the Annual Meeting and the National HIV & Hepatitis Technical Assistance Meeting as hybrid events, and we held trainings covering topics such as advancing the health of southern gay and bisexual men, developing leaders of color, harm reduction, and addressing the viral hepatitis epidemic.

We also challenged our membership to help us advance NASTAD’s strategic priorities within their health departments – and they delivered. A survey conducted with members in December 2022 found that they embraced this challenge, with accomplishments that include:

- Jurisdictions expanded eligibility for Ryan White Part B services;
- Conducted department-wide trainings on diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- Several health departments developed Hepatitis C Virus elimination plans; and more that you will read about later in this report.

We are proud of the work that NASTAD staff and members accomplished in 2022 under some truly difficult circumstances. While the COVID-19 pandemic was (and is) still with us, health departments and NASTAD staff also responded to the mpox epidemic. Despite the challenges, NASTAD’s staff, members, funders, and partners remained committed to our mission of ending the HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and intersecting epidemics. Thank you for being a part of this incredible organization and we look forward to continuing our successes in 2023 and beyond.

Sincerely,



**Dr. Stephen Lee**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Elizabeth Crutsinger-Perry**  
BOARD CHAIR



## PRIORITY A:

---

# Strengthen public health systems for HIV and hepatitis prevention, surveillance, and care

## **ADAP Emergency and Service Disruption Preparedness Resource Guide**

The **ADAP Emergency and Service Disruption Preparedness Resource Guide** was released in April 2022 to assist state and territorial RWHAP ADAPs with preparing emergency plans for major events, including natural and man-made disasters and other hazards, that may cause disruption in client medication access. The guide's provisions are intended to ensure continued access to HIV and other medications for individuals served by ADAPs.

## **Hepatitis Network for Education and Testing**

In 2022, NASTAD launched the **Hepatitis Network for Education and Testing (HepNET)**, a network of public health partners, community-based organizations, tribal health organizations, people with lived experience, and healthcare providers focused on identifying and addressing the unmet needs of people who inject drugs (PWID) to improve their access to viral hepatitis education, prevention, testing, linkage to care, and treatment.



In May, NASTAD and our partners National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) hosted the **HepNET Town Hall** to inform audiences about the structure of HepNET and how they can become involved as a network member, followed by a July webinar spotlighting organizations that provide technical assistance (TA) related to offering and integrating hepatitis services for people who use drugs.

# Ending the HIV Epidemic

## Ending the HIV Epidemic Spotlight Video Series

NASTAD created a **series of 10 videos** to advance Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) goals and support the 57 EHE jurisdictions in their efforts to diagnose, treat, prevent, and respond to the HIV epidemic. Each video offers real stories of action, lessons learned in the field, and tips for replication. The video series was developed with funding from the CDC through the national EHE initiative.

The video series highlights strategies and activities, including recommendations for implementing harm reduction services, policy considerations for implementing TelePrEP, a deep dive into the utility of HIV cluster visualization, and more.



## Conversations from the CommuniTEA: Fostering Health Department Engagement to End the HIV Epidemics

***Conversations from the CommuniTEA: Fostering Health Department Engagement to End the HIV Epidemics*** is a video series that consists of local influencers within the LGBTQIA+ community discussing what community engagement looks like for their communities and how to strengthen partnership opportunities within EHE. These

videos are a tool to promote EHE and inspire collaboration throughout the planning and implementation processes. The series can be viewed on **YouTube**, and on the **social media accounts** of our widely followed partners.



## PRIORITY B:

---

Advance health equity, racial equity, and stigma elimination, focusing on disparately impacted communities

### 2022 Minority Leadership Program

NASTAD continued its successful Minority Leadership Program (MLP) with a cohort of 12 persons of color from health departments and NASTAD staff. MLP is a leadership development and investment program for persons of color working at various levels in state- or CDC-funded health department positions in HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, or drug user health programs. Over the course of 10 months, the MLP participants honed and developed hard and soft skills to assist them as they navigate a career in public health.



## 2022 Southern Coalition for Advancing Gay Men Summit

NASTAD hosted the Southern Coalition for Advancing Gay Men Summit in June 2022 to help a community of providers in the south work together to identify and meaningfully address the needs and challenges of southern gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBM). The theme of the summit was, "Social Determinants of Health: Addressing Housing and Transportation." The summit brought together 35 health department and community-based organization (CBO) staff to discuss the impact on access to HIV services of the housing crisis and transportation challenges in the southern United States and to strategize with peers and subject matter experts on how to adequately address housing and transportation to improve the health outcomes of GBM living in the south.

## Re-envisioning Community Engagement: A Practical Toolkit to Empower HIV Prevention Efforts with Marginalized Communities

In July 2022, NASTAD released the **Re-envisioning Community Engagement: A Practical Toolkit to Empower HIV Prevention Efforts with Marginalized Communities** to walk through the foundational concepts and principles that shape community engagement within HIV prevention and care. It is crucial for EHE jurisdictions, health departments, and community organizations to effectively engage communities within the EHE process. When executed with authenticity and humility, community engagement is an effective empowerment tool.





## PRIORITY C:

---

Implement integrated approaches to address HIV, hepatitis, STIs, harm reduction, and the social determinants of health

### **2022 Southern Syringe Services Programs and Drug User Health Institute**

The **2022 Southern Syringe Services Program (SSP) Institute** was held in February 2022 and brought together health department staff, community-based groups, content experts, national stakeholders, and state and local service providers who work on issues related to the drug use/overdose crisis and reducing associated harms in their respective jurisdictions and communities. Attendees discussed challenges, successes, and priorities for creating and sustaining effective programs for, and creating relationships with, people who use drugs through innovative partnerships and collaborations.

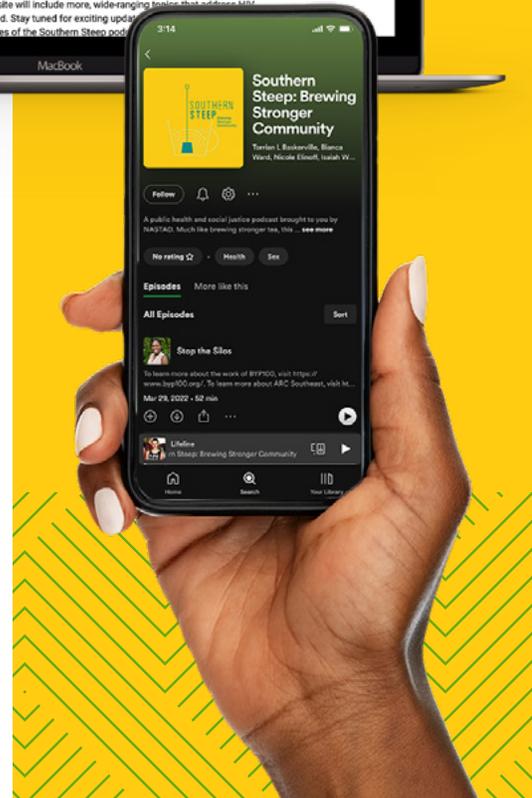
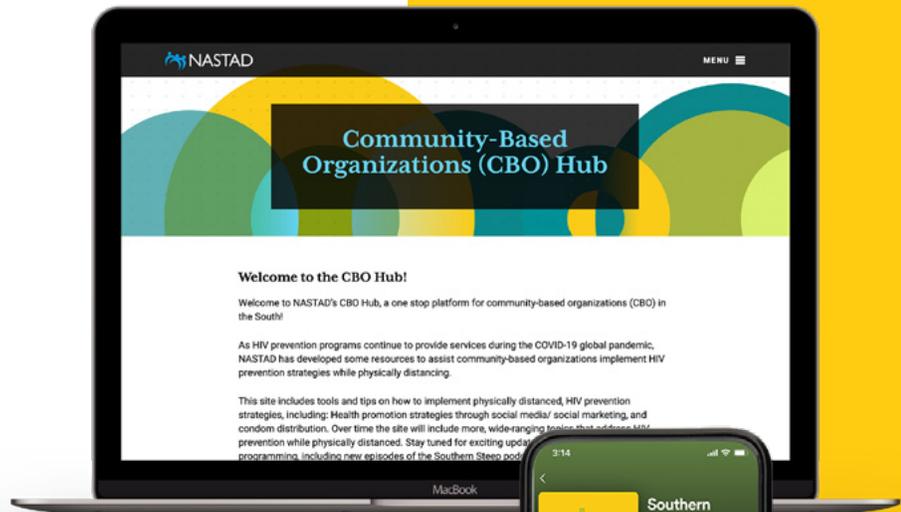
Session topics included **Equity in Treatment Access: Ensuring PWUD Receive the Care They Deserve**; **Navigating the Harm Reduction Landscape: Funding Diversity and Sustainability for SSPs**; **Advancing Racial Equity and Justice: Considerations for Harm Reduction Programs**; and **more**.

### **Community-Based Organizations Hub**

As a capacity building assistance (CBA) provider funded by the CDC, NASTAD provides tailored technical assistance to CDC-funded CBOs in the southern United States. For the purposes of this award the south is defined as the following jurisdictions: Alabama, Arkansas, Baltimore, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Houston, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The **CBO Hub** is a one-stop platform for CBOs in the south. It houses resources that provide CBOs with strategies to implement physically distanced HIV prevention programs. The hub consists of:

- [Tips on how to leverage social media and marketing during times of physical distancing](#)
- [Strategies on how to implement condom distribution programs](#)
- [Tools on how to improve transportation access for HIV prevention in the south](#)
- [Information about CBO Information visits](#)



## Southern Steep: Brewing Stronger Community Podcast

The CBO Hub also houses the podcast ***Southern Steep: Brewing Stronger Community***. Southern Steep is a public health and social justice podcast that centers the voices of community leaders in the southern United States. Conversations highlight innovative approaches to unapologetic leadership, meaningful partnerships, and thriving communities. In 2022, the podcast launched its second season, which contained 12 episodes.

## Harm Reduction Hacks

**Harm Reduction Hacks** is a comprehensive microsite and resource to guide organizations developing new and/or with existing syringe services programs (SSPs) in program design, implementation, and organizational sustainability. This resource was developed through the CDC-funded **National Harm Reduction Technical Assistance Center**.

**Harm Reduction Hacks** was created by **Balanced Imperfection** in partnership with NASTAD and is the product of a series of 38 qualitative conversations that took place in the fall of 2020 and the spring of 2021 with harm reduction leaders representing a wide variety of organizational types and structures that provide harm reduction services in the US, including stand-alone non-profits, fiscally sponsored projects, horizontal collectives, and programs embedded in both county health departments and larger CBOs. The data were analyzed for themes, practical tips, and other information. The analysis, and the wisdom of people who have between them nearly 500 years of lived experience, are woven throughout the information, tips, and insights in the fourteen **Harm Reduction Hacks**.



# HepTAC | VLC

## HepTAC Virtual Learning Collaborative

NASTAD's HepTAC Virtual Learning Collaborative (VLC) entered year two in September 2022. The VLC is a virtual learning community and training series designed to support health department staff build core competencies in viral hepatitis prevention and surveillance and to exchange best practices. It is open to all state, territorial, and local health departments. The list of topics covered in the series was informed by activities set forth in CDC's PS21-2103: *Integrated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Prevention Funding for Health Departments*. The format for year two of the VLC consists of two monthly sessions; the first is a presentation and the second is discussion-based with breakout sessions to allow for participants to directly engage with presenters. Recordings and presentations are archived on the [NASTAD website](#).

## Bevel Up Site and Safer Use Education Resource Collection

In November 2022, the NASTAD Drug User Health Team released the [Bevel Up website](#) and [Safer Use Education Resource Collection](#). [Bevel Up](#) is a comprehensive safer use website for exploring and sharing recommendations on vein care, safer injection, alternative routes of administration, and naloxone and overdose prevention. This resource was developed through the CDC-funded [National Harm Reduction Technical Assistance Center](#).

Bevel Up was created for community-based organizations, grassroots programs, health departments, and other groups running or supporting syringe services programs and other harm reduction service providers. Messages and recommendations come from current and former users with experience navigating the unregulated drug supply, health providers, and program staff who serve people who use drugs. In addition to [ready-to-use cards](#), posters, comprehensive topic-specific guides, and social media posts, there are templates and instructions for customizing materials with program information and creating new versions.





## **PRIORITY D:**

---

# Strengthen organizational excellence within NASTAD and health departments

## **New Bylaws and Expanded Membership**

In May 2022, NASTAD members voted in favor of proposed amendments to NASTAD's bylaws that: 1) allow NASTAD jurisdictions the opportunity to include an additional voting member (expanding membership to two members per jurisdiction); and 2) implement six year term limits for Board members.

The purpose of the updated bylaws is to ensure the membership and Board consist of diversity in programmatic expertise, race and ethnicity, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, and lived experiences. Additionally, it is imperative that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) leadership is represented in the Board and membership.

Since the implementation of the updated bylaws, NASTAD has welcomed 10 new members, the vast majority of whom are BIPOC. With the addition of a second NASTAD member in each jurisdiction, the Board has also deepened its programmatic expertise among Board members with several recently elected members with direct oversight of their health departments viral hepatitis programming. NASTAD initiated demographics surveys for all Board members and the broader NASTAD membership to better ascertain diversity and support accountability towards increased diversity.

## Implementing Strategic Visions to End the Epidemics

NASTAD's Board Chair, Elizabeth Crutsinger-Perry, issued her Chair's Challenge, *Implementing Strategic Visions to End the Epidemics*, in May 2022. She called on NASTAD members to advance the strategic priorities that were identified in NASTAD's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

In December 2022, NASTAD surveyed its membership to get a sense of what progress they had made, and what technical assistance NASTAD could provide. Sixty-seven members responded to the survey and reported exciting progress across all of NASTAD's strategic priorities.



### Implementing Strategic Visions to End the Epidemics

2022-2023 Chair's Challenge

PRIORITY	HD ACTIVITIES
<p><b>PRIORITY A:</b>  <b>Strengthen public health systems for HIV and hepatitis prevention, surveillance, and care</b></p>	<p>Enhanced partnerships with non-traditional partners, establishing new outreach initiatives post-covid, expanding HIV testing efforts to include self- tests</p> <p>Expanded eligibility for RW Part B services, including ADAP, from 400% FPL to 500% FPL</p> <p>Restructured division to better align expertise and meet community needs, built closer relationships across the agency with other divisions</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY B:</b>  <b>Advance health equity, racial equity, and stigma elimination, focusing on disparately impacted communities</b></p>	<p>Implemented Health Disparities Reduction Project BIPOC Staff providing services to Black &amp; Latinx communities - RW Part B is a majority BIPOC team with LBGTQ, &amp; PLWH significantly represented</p> <p>Newly released HCV Elimination Plan puts emphasis on equity, stigma elimination, and populations that are disparately impacted</p> <p>Focused on internal DEI activities--improving engagement and retention and recruitment of diverse staff</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY C:</b>  <b>Implement integrated approaches to address HIV, hepatitis, STIs, harm reduction, and the social determinants of health</b></p>	<p>Established and implemented a statewide plan to end HIV and viral hepatitis</p> <p>Integrated HIV, hepatitis, and surveillance into one section with HIV/STI prevention and care</p> <p>Worked with a land bank, HUD, and other partners to develop a housing unit for Black trans and MSM youth with integrated medical care and safe spaces</p>
<p><b>PRIORITY D:</b>  <b>Strengthen organizational excellence within NASTAD and health departments</b></p>	<p>Conducted outreach to Pacific Island jurisdictions and Puerto Rico to develop island jurisdiction workgroup</p> <p>Updated our vision, mission, and values through a health equity and racial justice framework</p> <p>Using implementation science and process mapping to improve implementation and delivery of services</p>

Members also provided several suggestions for technical assistance NASTAD could provide, including:

- Advocating for CDC to assist with cross-jurisdiction data sharing agreements and modernizing eHARS to avoid duplication and errors across reporting systems;
- Providing support to program staff on community engagement and awareness and continued education for the communities and non-health care workers;
- Training on how to implement SSPs with no direct funding;
- Continuing training on white supremacy culture in the workplace.

### NASTAD's Response to Mpox

Mpox put additional strain on public health infrastructure that was already overwhelmed with the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and continued efforts to end the HIV and hepatitis epidemics. NASTAD focused on helping its members navigate the various resources available to them by **collecting information on a microsite**. NASTAD fielded multiple requests for information and assistance and hosted several webinars for health department staff to exchange information and strategies to respond to the mpox outbreak.





## Policy and Legislative Affairs

---

### **In-person and Virtual Hill Visits**

2022 was the first year since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that NASTAD began conducting in-person Congressional Hill visits to educate and advocate for policies and funding to support jurisdictional health departments in their efforts to end the HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and intersecting epidemics. NASTAD staff conducted over 70 hill visits, in person and virtually.

### **Advocating for a National PrEP Program**

NASTAD's Policy & Legislative Affairs (PLA) team continued their efforts to build support for a National PrEP Program in 2022. As a member of the Partnership to End HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis, NASTAD promoted a sign-on letter at the 2022 U.S. Conference on HIV/AIDS that received more than 6,200 individual and 300 organizational signatures.

### **Hepatitis C Elimination Funding**

NASTAD believes that controlling and eventually eliminating HCV in the U.S. is possible and that eliminating HCV should be a top public health priority. In 2022, our Policy & Legislative Affairs team and Hepatitis teams worked closely with the White House to advocate for hepatitis C (HCV) elimination efforts. This resulted in President Biden being the first US President to call for the elimination of hepatitis C.



## HIV Data Protection Landscape for EHE Jurisdictions Map

Throughout 2022, NASTAD continued to make updates to its interactive map, **HIV Data Protection Landscape for EHE Jurisdictions**. The map summarizes state-level legal authorities and protections related to health department HIV data release in response to requests from courts, prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies. The tool helps health department HIV program staff and legal counsel assess data privacy laws in their state and supports health departments in responding appropriately to requests for HIV data in connection with criminal investigations or prosecutions.

## 9th Annual GW-NASTAD HIV Summit

In December 2022, NASTAD co-hosted the 9th annual HIV Summit with George Washington University (GW). The summit was held on GW's campus on December 14 – 16 and focused on the pillars of the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative and the updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy. During the summit, 180 first-year medical students worked with health department directors and staff in developing an innovative proposal for an "action plan" to help end the HIV epidemic in a specific state or city. NASTAD members from Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Mississippi, and Tennessee worked with the students and helped them prepare their jurisdiction-specific proposals. Additionally, the summit included sessions that were led by notable health department staff, NASTAD staff, Federal and Congressional leadership, and Dr. Anthony Fauci, who presented the HIV Summit keynote address.

## Financial Information

FY 2021-2022

REVENUE	
	AUDIT FINAL
Grants and Contributions	16,625,472
Membership Dues	1,242,646
Registration Fees	131,935
Other	718
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>18,000,771</b>

EXPENSES	
Program Services	15,169,303
General and Admin	1,749,673
Fundraising	92,969
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>17,011,945</b>



