

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

On behalf of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP) and the 155 undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our strong support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of HIV Prevention (DHP) and urge you to reject any proposals that reduce or eliminate funding for this critical public health program.

Recent reports indicate that the Trump administration is considering major cuts to domestic HIV prevention funding, including the potential elimination of DHP—an action that would severely undermine the nation's efforts to reduce new HIV transmissions and contradict the goals set by the Trump Administration in 2019 to reduce new HIV transmissions by 90% by 2030. President Trump's Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative (EHE) has already resulted in success—there has been a 21% decrease in new HIV transmissions among EHE jurisdictions, which is much higher than non-EHE jurisdictions. These cuts would dismantle essential HIV prevention programs, reversing the progress that has been achieved and putting thousands of lives at risk.

State and local governments rely heavily on federal funding to implement HIV prevention and surveillance programs. Any reduction in HIV funding will have devastating consequences for their programs and the health of people in their states. HIV prevalence is notably higher in rural areas and southern states, reflecting the significant need to sustain access to prevention services. If funding is reduced, essential HIV prevention services—including cost-saving prevention services such as testing, education, contact tracing, and access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)—will be severely impacted, leading to HIV outbreaks (such as those we've seen in Scott County, IN, Penobscot County, ME, and West Virginia), increased HIV transmissions generally, and worse health outcomes for people with HIV.

Currently, 89% of DHP funding is distributed to state and local health departments and community-based organizations, equipping frontline prevention efforts. Cutting prevention funds would not only increase HIV transmissions but also place a greater financial burden on the health care system—both private and taxpayer-funded health systems. Between 2012 and 2022, an estimated 27,900 new HIV transmissions were prevented, saving over

\$15 billion in lifetime medical costs—clear evidence that continued investment in HIV prevention is both a public health and fiscal imperative.

Federal HIV funding also supports HIV surveillance programs, which are essential for tracking new cases, identifying outbreaks, and ensuring resources are well spent by directing funds to the communities and jurisdictions most impacted. This is especially critical in rural areas, where access to HIV prevention and care is often limited due to fewer health care providers and greater geographic barriers. Eliminating or reducing this funding would create significant gaps in prevention efforts, disrupt essential public health programs, and lead to more people contracting HIV instead of ending the HIV epidemic. No other federal agency has the infrastructure, expertise, or capacity to absorb DHP's functions, which include surveillance, testing, education, and direct support to state and local health departments. *Moreover, there is no other federal agency currently performing these services.*

In addition, CDC's National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) plays a vital role in addressing the interconnected challenges of infectious diseases across the United States. Cutting funding to any part of NCHHSTP would severely weaken the nation's ability to prevent and respond to these diseases. The opioid epidemic has already fueled increases in HIV, viral hepatitis, and STIs due to injection drug use, underscoring the urgent need for sustained federal investment in prevention. Weakening or eliminating HIV prevention programs in the face of these rising public health threats would be both short-sighted and dangerous.

We urge you to stand with us in protecting and strengthening federal HIV prevention funding to sustain the progress we have made in preventing new HIV transmissions and achieving the goal of ending the HIV epidemic. If you have any questions or would like to meet, please reach out to the FAPP co-chairs: John Meade (john@AVAC.org), Kathie Hiers (kathie@aidsalabama.org), or Mike Weir (mweir@NASTAD.org).

Organizational Sign-Ons

A Family Affair Living Our Best Life (AFA)
AcadianaCARES
Act Now: End AIDS (ANEA) Coalition
Action Wellness
Advocates for Youth
AIDS ACTION BALTIMORE
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth, & Families

AIDS Foundation Chicago
AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania
AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition
AIDS United
Aliveness Project
American Academy of HIV Medicine
Amida Care
Apex Community Care
APLA Health
Arkansas Black Gay Men's Forum
Arkansas RAPPS
AVAC
Big Cities Health Coalition
Black Girls Rock of MS, Inc.
Black Women's Learning Institute
Blue Mountain Heart to Heart
Boulder County AIDS Project
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center
Cares of Southwest Michigan
Caring Ambassadors Program
Caring Communities For AIDS, Inc.
Carolinas CARE Partnership
CARPBR
Cascade AIDS Project
Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus
Chicago House and Social Service Agency
Collaborative Research LLC
Colorado Health Network
Colorado Organizations and Individuals Responding to HIV/AIDS (CORA)
Community EsTr(EI/La)
Community Education Group
Community Resource Initiative
Council for Global Equality
Damien Center
Delaware HIV Consortium
EDGE New Jersey
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Equality California
Equitas Health
ETR
Fairgrove Primary Health

Family Centers Inc.
Fast-Track Cities Institute
Five Horizons Health Services
Food Is Medicine Coalition
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Frannie Peabody Center
Friends For Life dba Friends For All
Funders Concerned About AIDS
Georgia AIDS Coalition
Georgia Equality
H.O.P.E. Alliance / HIV Advocacy Network
Harm Reduction Action Center
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center
Health GAP
Health People, Inc.
Health Services Center, Inc.
HealthHIV
Hepatitis B Foundation
HIV Medicine Association
HIV Modernization Movement-Indiana
HIV/AIDS Alliance of Michigan
HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute
Housing Works, Inc.
Human Rights Campaign
Hyacinth Foundation
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care
JSI
Lansing Area AIDS Network
Latino Commission on AIDS
LivWell Community Health Services
Lowcountry AIDS Services dba Palmetto Community Care
Make 2Day Great L.L.C.
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Massachusetts Health Officers Association
Matthew 25 AIDS Services, Inc.
Mercy Housing & Shelter
Mid Fairfield AIDS Project, Inc.
Missouri HIV Justice Coalition
NARAN
Nashville CARES
NASTAD

National Alliance for HIV Education and Workforce Development
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Black Women's HIV/AIDS Network, Inc
National Coalition for LGBTQ Health
National Coalition of STD Directors
National HIV/AIDS Housing Coalition
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)
National Working Positive Coalition
NC Public Health Association
Nevada Association of Local Health Officials (NALHO)
New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO)
NMAC
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
Optimus Health Care Inc.
Partnership To End AIDS Status Inc. (PEAS Inc)
Peek Potential
Peer Connect
PoderUnides, Inc.
Positive Iowans Taking Charge
Positive People Network, Inc.
Positive Women's Network-USA
PrEP4All
Presbyterian HIV Network, PHEWA PC USA
Prevention Access Campaign
Promotores De Esperanza
PSPS Puerto Rico
PWN GHA
PWN-NYC, LAISP Church
Quest Center for Integrative Health
RAIN Oklahoma
Red Ribbon Consultants, LLC
Ribbon-A Center of Excellence
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
SAGE
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Sero Project
Silver State Equality
Southern AIDS Coalition
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation
Southwest Georgia Housing Opportunities
Spectrum Healthcare

Stop Our Stigma Foundation Inc
Sugar Honey Iced Tea
Sunburst Projects
Tennessee Public Health Association
The 6:52 Project Foundation, Inc.
The AIDS Institute
The Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation
The Center for HIV Law and Policy
The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation
The Empowerment Program, Inc.
The Hepatitis C Mentor & Support Group, Inc.
The New York State Association of County Health Officials, Inc.
The Project of the Quad Cities
The Ruth M Rothstein CORE Center
The Well Project
Townspeople
Treatment Action Group (TAG)
Treatment Education Network
Trinity Health McClees clinic
Unity Arc Advocacy Group
Valley AIDS Council
Vivent Health
Wake Upp -Warriors Achieving Knowledge Education Understanding Pathways Purpose
Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
Wellness Services, Inc
Wisconsin Public Health Association