



THE AIDS INSTITUTE

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WHITE HOUSE LAYS OUT UPDATED PLAN TO ADDRESS HIV IN THE UNITED STATES

Continued Leadership and Funding Needed to Ensure Success

Washington, DC – In reaction to the release of an [updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#) by President Obama today, The AIDS Institute praised the President and his Administration for their leadership and the ambitious goals outlined in the Strategy for addressing HIV in the United States over the next five years. “We thank the White House for its focus on HIV in the U.S., recognize the progress made over the past five years, and congratulate them on the improvements included in this update,” commented Michael Ruppal, Executive Director of The AIDS Institute. “We look forward to working with this and future Administrations, the Congress, state and local governments, and other partners to ensure the Strategy’s goals are met and we can have a society where new HIV infections are rare and people with HIV have access to quality care.”

The updated Strategy continues a focus on reducing new infections, increasing access to care and treatment, reducing health disparities, and improving federal coordination. It also sets new outcome measures and considers new policy developments including the Affordable Care Act and scientific advancements such as treatment as prevention and pre-exposure prophylactics (PrEP). There continues to be a focus on the populations most impacted, including gay men of all races and ethnicities, particularly gay black men; black women and men; Latinos and Latinas; and people who inject drugs. The update fittingly adds new emphasis on youth, particularly gay youth; people in the South; and transgender women.

Increased testing, high-impact prevention, linkage to care and adherence to treatment to achieve greater viral suppression, and increased research, education, and accountability are also highlighted. The strategy recognizes that implementing the Affordable Care Act, including its coverage of preventive services such as testing, and continuing the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program are critical to achieving the goals contained in the Strategy.

“The President has crafted an exceptional National Strategy to address HIV in the U.S.,” said Carl Schmid, Deputy Executive Director of The AIDS Institute. “Now we must turn to its implementation. Sustained leadership by the Administration along with continued federal resources will be necessary if we are to meet the Strategy’s goals. While Congress has proposed to maintain funding for most HIV programs, unfortunately, it has proposed to cut or eliminate several programs that are critical to addressing HIV in the U.S., including parts of the Minority AIDS Initiative, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, STD Prevention at the CDC, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, and Title X family planning. Implementation of the Affordable Care Act is also impeded. As Congress continues to consider its spending bills for this year and in the future, we hope it will work with the President to increase the budget caps so that the proposed cuts will not occur and to allow the Affordable Care Act to be implemented so the Strategy’s goals can be met.”

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The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit organization that promotes action for social change through public policy research, advocacy and education.

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