PRESIDENT’S BUDGET REQUESTS $716 MILLION FOR ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC INITIATIVE

The AIDS Institute Urges Congress to Continue Bipartisan Support for HIV and Viral Hepatitis Programs, Protect Safety Net Programs from Cuts

Washington, DC — This afternoon, the Trump Administration released its FY2021 Budget, which requests $761 million for the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative (EHE Initiative) - a $450 million increase over the amount funded in FY2020. The AIDS Institute and advocates have said that the EHE Initiative can only be successful if funding is significantly scaled up. We thank the administration for proposing this increase so the EHE Initiative can transition from the initial planning phase into implementation of community designed plans.

For year two of the EHE Initiative, the budget requests $371 million for the Centers for Disease Control, $137 million for HIV prevention services and PrEP for Community Health Centers, $165 million for EHE work within the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, $27 million for Indian Health Services, and $16 million for NIH’s Centers for AIDS Research.

The CDC’s opioid related infectious disease response program also received a proposed $48 million increase, which is desperately needed to halt new viral hepatitis and HIV cases that result from injection drug use. However, the budget keeps funding for most domestic HIV programs that provide core HIV prevention, treatment and research throughout the nation, as well as the CDC’s viral hepatitis programs, at the same levels as the FY2020 budget.

“Last year the HIV community fiercely advocated for more funding to end the HIV epidemic. We were ultimately successful, thanks to leadership in the community and
bipartisan support at all levels of the government,” said Nick Armstrong, The AIDS Institute’s Manager of Advocacy and Government Affairs and co-chair of the AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition. “While we see many policy issues within the President’s budget that we do not support, we hope that our bipartisan champions in Congress will support the proposed increases in the budget so that we can implement year two of the EHE Initiative and protect vital programs for which people living with and at risk of HIV rely."

Unfortunately, the President’s budget proposes to reduce the federal deficit in part by reducing spending for safety-net health programs by $770 billion over the next decade. The budget also significantly cuts the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program, and other public-health discretionary programs such like the NIH, non-HIV programs at the CDC, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration.

“Ending the HIV and hepatitis epidemics requires strong public health systems that tear down the structural barriers that prevent people from being tested, engaging in comprehensive care, and utilizing prevention tools like PrEP and hepatitis vaccines,” said Rachel Klein, Deputy Executive Director of The AIDS Institute. “The AIDS Institute will not only fight to ensure that these proposed funding increases are realized, but also fight against any policy proposal that would make these new investments less effective."

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

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