The AIDS Institute launched National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day (NHAAAD) on September 18, 2008. Each year our nation observes NHAAAD and promotes activities on or around September 18th. The campaign is further recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of HIV/AIDS Policy, and www.aids.gov.

National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness day highlights the complex issues related to HIV prevention, care and treatment for aging populations in the United States. The goal of the campaign is to emphasize the need for prevention, research, and data targeting the aging population, medical understanding of the aging process and its impact on HIV/AIDS.

For local information, please contact:
HIV/AIDS & Older Adults

In 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported persons aged 50 and older accounted for approximately:

- 17% of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses
- 36% of persons living with AIDS
- 24% of all AIDS diagnoses
- 45% of all deaths of persons with AIDS

It is necessary for specific programs to be developed and implemented for older adults who need to be informed about the transmission and prevention of HIV.

Target Audience

I. People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) who are aging with the disease or already over 50 at the time of their initial diagnosis

II. Increasing percentage of the population that needs to protect itself from HIV infection, including the growing baby boomer population

III. Increasing number of grandparents becoming the primary guardians for children who have lost their parent(s) to HIV/AIDS

Despite myths and stereotypes, many seniors are sexually active, and some are drug users; therefore, their behaviors can put them at risk for HIV infection.

Due to unique challenges and issues among the HIV and aging population, the campaign hopes to bring those issues to light and to work closely with other local, regional and national organizations.

How can you get involved?

The AIDS Institute believes that education is the key to curbing the spread of HIV for older adults and ensuring the best possible care and treatment for those already living with the virus.

We invite your organization and its community members to participate in awareness day related activities on or around September 18th. Examples of suggested activities include:

1) Provide HIV prevention and education messages to older adults
2) Encourage and promote HIV testing among older adults
3) Provide resources for linkage to treatment and care for HIV infected older adults
4) Organize health fairs that focus on HIV/AIDS and healthcare in older adults
5) Encourage older adults to practice safer methods to prevent HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's)
6) Conduct events at senior community centers or nursing home facilities
7) Talk to an older adult in your family about getting tested
8) Engage leaders in the faith based community to participate in local, regional, or national events on or around NHAAAD

For more information or additional planning ideas on NHAAAD, please visit www.NHAAAD.org.

HIV/AIDS data is referenced from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/hiv.