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FLORIDA HIV/AIDS ADVOCACY NETWORK AWARDED ADAP GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR
"CAMPAIGN BENEFITS FLORIDA RESIDENTS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS"

Tampa, FL - The AIDS Institute is proud to acknowledge the tremendous work of the Florida HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network (FHAAN). This dedicated group of volunteers has been awarded the AIDS Advocacy Association's (aaa+) ADAP Leadership Award for Grassroots Campaign of the Year.

This year's award will be presented at the 2nd Annual ADAP Leadership Awards Dinner on Monday, August 20th in Washington, DC. The dinner will be held in conjunction with the 5th annual aaa+ conference. "The awards will recognize individual, community, government and corporate leaders who are working to improve access to care and treatment under the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs", stated Brandon Macsata, CEO of aaa+.

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Michael Ruppal, Executive Director of The AIDS Institute, noted, "Since one of FHAAN's roles is to prepare for future needs in the HIV/AIDS community, we foresaw significant changes in the future of healthcare and the health systems in Florida. Many of these changes directly impacted the HIV community and FHAAN wanted to ensure that the grassroots along with top line advocates where ready to tackle the changes."

FHAAN, administered by The AIDS Institute, invested heavily in staff time and unfunded resources to build FHAAN into what it is today with over 2,000 volunteer members and followers representing every region of the state of Florida. The network is made up of an active general body with task specific committees and
highly experienced leadership that makes up a convening group that ensures that consumer/client leadership is in place throughout the network. To date, FHAAN is still the only statewide HIV/AIDS advocacy network in Florida with the capacity and reach into every county.

The winning grassroots campaign was *Florida HIV/AIDS - Take Action* which resulted in over 1,000 communications to Florida’s legislators in support of increased state funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). The campaign used an online action center system, social media, emails, and press releases for this action. The campaign also resulted in hundreds of new FHAAN members and followers. Florida had seen ADAP waiting lists climb to over 4,000 people. The conclusion of the campaign resulted in an increase of $2.5 million in recurring general revenue funding for the Florida ADAP program and a reduction to the ADAP wait list to only 45 individuals as of today.

Ted Howard, Communications Coordinator for The AIDS Institute and the FHAAN Administrator, states "Our thanks to our leadership, each of our members and industry partners for their outstanding work these past three years building a strong and effective statewide network. Thanks to you, we are well prepared for continued progress and success in the years to come."

For more information about FHAAN, please visit us at [www.FHAAN.org](http://www.FHAAN.org), or email us at [FHAAN@theaidsinstitute.org](mailto:FHAAN@theaidsinstitute.org), or call us at 813.258.5929 ext 3.

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For more information and to become involved, please contact The AIDS Institute at: (202) 835-8373, or by email at: [Info@theaidsinstitute.org](mailto:Info@theaidsinstitute.org) or [www.TheAIDSInstitute.org](http://www.TheAIDSInstitute.org)

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