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ANNUAL REPORT



AIDS
FUNDING
COLLABORATIVE

OUR MISSION

*The AIDS Funding Collaborative (AFC)
strengthens the community's response to
HIV/AIDS as a public/private partnership
providing coordination, leadership, and
funding in Greater Cleveland.*

INTRODUCTION

2009 was a difficult year for residents of our community and for the agencies providing critical health and human services. While the AFC's external activities—increasingly systems-focused grantmaking, a capacity building partnership with Business Volunteers Unlimited, innovative community training and convening—have been significant, our internal strategic assessment and planning work over the last year has been equally intensive. We believe our focused organizational analysis has laid the groundwork for our continued impact in strengthening the community's response to HIV/AIDS in the year and years ahead.

THE AIDS FUNDING COLLABORATIVE

Since its inception, the AIDS Funding Collaborative (AFC) has leveraged and invested more than \$7.3 million to support HIV/AIDS-related services, activities, and prevention efforts in the Greater Cleveland region.

The AFC was established as a public/private partnership in 1994 in response to a recommendation by the Citizens' Committee on HIV/AIDS to develop a "method of allocating and distributing community-based funding from local government, health departments, and the private sector." The AFC enables local funders, both public and private, to respond collectively to HIV/AIDS by increasing coordination of funding efforts and identifying gaps. Unique among HIV/AIDS funding streams in our region, the AFC's flexible nature allows us to direct resources to respond to emerging needs. Additionally, the AFC plays a leadership role in convening the community around HIV/AIDS, contributing to community planning efforts and leading large-scale community initiatives.

CORE VALUES:

In carrying out its purposes, the AFC is guided by the following core values:

- The public/private partnership model focused on HIV/AIDS remains relevant and essential to improving the health of the community.
- The funding partnership model, where resources are pooled for collaborative grantmaking, is the core strength upon which the AFC is built.
- The AFC is committed to being flexible and adaptable. The structure and functions of the AFC evolve to address strategically the HIV/AIDS needs of the community.
- The AFC approaches its work proactively and strategically as needs change and successful outcomes are reached in the community for HIV/AIDS.

STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS 2009-2012:

AFC is committed to the following equally weighted strategic areas of focus:

- **Integration**
Statement of Intent: The AFC supports the integration of HIV testing, prevention, and care services and the linkage of HIV/AIDS with related issues and associated systems within the community.
- **Community Impact**
Statement of Intent: The AFC strives to bring about positive change in the community's response to HIV/AIDS.
- **Advocacy**
Statement of Intent: The AFC will use its resources and position to help shape and inform systems and policies related to HIV/AIDS.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION STRATEGIES

The AFC aims to fill funding gaps, address unmet and emerging funding needs, and remain flexible and responsive to the community in its grantmaking. Our strategies for grantmaking and resource allocation include: (1) availability of up to \$25,000 annually for **discretionary grants**, not to exceed \$5,000 each, for short-term or one-time HIV/AIDS-related needs in the community that are not supported by other community HIV funds; (2) **targeted grantmaking**, which enables the AFC to respond in a timely manner to emerging needs by inviting agencies to submit a proposal to address specific populations or areas of unmet need as they are identified by the AFC or other community organizations; (3) **strategic community responsive grantmaking on an annual cycle**, awarded to applicants responding to requests for proposals issued by the AFC and focused on targeted priority areas; and (4) **AFC-led initiatives, such as training, research, evaluation, and convening** focused on identified needs. The unifying theme is that these approaches are aimed at building community capacity and adding value to the community's collective effort to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic by filling gaps that other, more targeted funding streams in the community cannot.

2009 HIGHLIGHTS:

Engaging in Organizational Assessment and Formative Work

In 2009, prompted in part by the effect of the economic crisis on funding and by a commitment to regularly assess community needs and priorities, the AFC undertook a strategic assessment process regarding the future focus, direction, and relevance of the AFC in light of the chronic nature of HIV/AIDS for many people, the national discussion of health care reform, and the many issues that overlap with HIV/AIDS. From this process emerged an affirmation of the AFC's core values and identification of strategic commitments to guide the AFC's work for the next three years (See sidebar). In December 2009, the AFC invited community agencies and partners to participate in round table discussions about the ways in which agencies' work intersects with these areas of focus and potential challenges and opportunities. The full report of the AFC's 2009-2012 Strategic Commitments is available at www.AIDSFundingCollaborative.org.

Additionally, the AFC engaged in important formative work that is now driving public policy and advocacy activities—establishing an active public policy and advocacy committee, approving six core issues on which to focus our advocacy work, identifying activities in which to engage and implementing those, and holding a public policy and advocacy training for AFC members. The AFC's six core public policy and advocacy issues are comprehensive sexuality education, expanded access to HIV testing, expansion of Medicaid coverage to those with an HIV diagnosis, development of a national policy for HIV/AIDS, support for HIV/AIDS-related research, and HIV testing in prisons.



2009 HIGHLIGHTS: *(continued)*

Building Community Capacity

In 2009, the AFC partnered with Business Volunteers Unlimited (BVU) to address the organizational capacity needs of agencies in Cuyahoga County that provide HIV/AIDS programming and services. Seven agencies took advantage of the opportunity for BVU to conduct an individualized needs assessment, which identified organizational priorities related to governance, Board and management development, utilization of volunteers, and other organizational capacity needs. With funding from the AFC, these agencies are now addressing these identified priorities through BVU services.

Consistent with the AFC's commitment to community-level impact, four of eleven responsive grants awarded in the 2009-2010 responsive grant cycle were for systems change work. Three supported the integration of routine HIV testing into large clinical and public health systems—MetroHealth's inpatient services and community health centers, University Hospitals' Emergency Department, and Cuyahoga County Board of Health's clinics. Additionally, a grant to Cleveland Department of Public Health is facilitating better integration of HIV/AIDS housing services into the County's larger housing system by transitioning the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) data system to the same system used by the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services.

Convening the Community for Dialogue and Action

In February, the AFC organized its second annual community briefing at which individuals who had attended a national HIV/AIDS conference during the past year shared with the community the highlights of what they had learned. Attendees heard reports from the annual conferences of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association and from trainings for behavioral interventions including SISTA, Focus on Youth, and Street Smart. All of the speakers had received a discretionary grant from the AFC that enabled them to go to the conference, and this community briefing ensured that our investment benefited the broader community.

On December 3, 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of HIV/AIDS Policy hosted a Town Hall meeting in Cleveland to solicit recommendations for the development of the National AIDS Strategy. The AFC played an instrumental role in both planning this Town Hall meeting, including a live webcast, and providing grant funding to support costs. More than 150 people from urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout Ohio, with an additional 50 viewers of the webcast, gathered for what was a deeply moving and thought-provoking evening. Approximately 70 individuals, nearly half of whom



The webcast of the Town Hall meeting can be viewed at www.ustream.tv/recorded/2703542.

were people living with HIV / AIDS, provided testimony. Among the dozens of topics discussed were the need for government support of syringe exchange programs and comprehensive sexuality education, the challenges of accessing care because of the scarcity of providers in less populated parts of the state and lack of transportation, the volume and redundancy of paperwork required to apply for grants from different departments within the federal government, and the way in which stigma contributes to new HIV infections and affects the health and quality of lives of those living with HIV / AIDS and their loved ones. The written report summarizing the key themes and testimony is available at www.AIDSFundingCollaobrative.org.



At Community Solutions’ Human Services Institute, the AFC presented “Let’s Talk About Sex: The Role of Faith-Based Organizations in Sexuality Education and HIV Prevention,” a session that provided local models for engaging faith communities. Panelists presented local survey data about the relationship between congregational involvement and sexual activity for teenagers and on the attitudes of clergy toward sexuality education and shared insights about building productive partnerships. One attendee commented, “This session needs to continue yearly until everyone hears it.”

SUMMARY

Grants	
Discretionary	\$18,647
Responsive	\$346,892
Targeted	\$46,713
TOTAL 2009 GRANTS*	\$412,252

TOTALS	
Total 2009 Grants*	\$412,252
Total 2009 Awards	\$1,750
AFC-Led Initiatives*	\$78,719
Community Events and Convenings	\$1,763
TOTAL PROGRAM RESOURCES COMMITTED IN 2009	\$494,484

*Committed funds may not be paid out in full in 2009

2009 AFC GRANTS AND INITIATIVES

Agency	Program	Category	Amount Awarded
Grants			
Antioch Development Corporation	World AIDS Day Event	Discretionary	\$4,025
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care	Member's Attendance at ANAC's Annual Conference	Discretionary	\$1,813
Cleveland International Film Festival	Screening of <i>Thing With No Name & Tiny Tears</i> , including FilmForum	Discretionary	\$4,250
Funders Concerned About AIDS	Membership	Discretionary	\$500
MetroHealth Foundation	AIDS Quilt Workshop and World AIDS Day Event	Discretionary	\$5,000
Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center	Attendance at National Council of La Raza Conference	Discretionary	\$2,135
Ohio AIDS Coalition	Workshop: Sex, HIV and the Law	Discretionary	\$924
American Indian Education Center	Native American HIV / AIDS Prevention Program	Responsive	\$5,000
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care	HIV / AIDS Needs Assessment for Nurses Serving Cuyahoga County	Responsive	\$8,650
Care Alliance	HIV / AIDS Peer Outreach Program	Responsive	\$30,070
Cleveland Department of Public Health	HIV / AIDS Housing Information Integration Project	Responsive	\$25,000
Cuyahoga County Board of Health	Initiation of HIV Testing	Responsive	\$33,772
Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland	HIV Prevention, Outreach and Testing	Responsive	\$30,000
MetroHealth Foundation	Integrating HIV Testing into Routine Health Care	Responsive	\$59,325
NorthEast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.	Youth/ Adolescent Awareness Program	Responsive	\$49,825
Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio	Triple T (Teens Talking to Teens)	Responsive	\$45,000
Recovery Resources	Comprehensive Risk-Reduction Counseling Services (CRCS)	Responsive	\$30,000
University Hospitals of Cleveland	Routinizing HIV Testing in an Emergency Department Setting	Responsive	\$30,250
AIDS Funding Collaborative	Support of National AIDS Strategy Town Hall Meeting	Targeted	\$2,643
AIDS Walk of Greater Cleveland	19th Annual Dr. John T. Carey Memorial AIDS Walk	Targeted	\$10,000
Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland	Syringe Exchange Program	Targeted	\$34,070
Cleveland Foodbank	Frances Mills Recognition Award	Award	\$250
Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland	Margie Wheeler Recognition Award	Award	\$250
Lucas Donovan	2009 Steven J. Schochet Annual Volunteerism Award	Award	\$500
Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center	Joe Santiago Recognition Award	Award	\$250
Recovery Resources	Beth Darmstadter Recognition Award	Award	\$250
St. Paul's Community Outreach	Charlotte Noble Recognition Award	Award	\$250
AFC-Led Initiatives			
Business Volunteers Unlimited	Organizational Capacity Building Partnership	AFC-led initiative	\$3,500
St. Paul's Community Outreach	BVU Partnership Implementation	AFC-led initiative	\$910
Philliber Research Associates	CMSD K-12 Responsible Sexual Behavior 2009-2010 Evaluation	AFC-led initiative	\$71,473
Direct costs	CMSD K-12 Responsible Sexual Behavior 2009-2010 Evaluation	AFC-led initiative	\$2,836

AFC Advisory Committee Members, 2009

LaTida Smith, AFC Chair

Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland

David Merriman, AFC Vice Chair

City of Cleveland

Bob Bucklew

*AIDS Clinical Trials Unit/Center for AIDS Research
Clinical Core at Case Western Reserve University*

Natalie Celeste-Heffernan

The George Gund Foundation

Shelly Galvin

Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation

Valeria A. Harper

*Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health
Services Board Cuyahoga of County*

Cecelia Huffman-White

Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners

William R. Joseph

United Way of Greater Cleveland

Vincent R. Kaval

United Way of Greater Cleveland

Marc C. Krantz

Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation

Reverend Tracey Lind

The George Gund Foundation

Gordon D. Martin

The Cleveland Foundation

Janet McGrath, Ph.D.

Community-at-Large Member

Frances Mills, OCPsII*

*Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board
of Cuyahoga County*

Reverend Charlotte S. Noble*

*Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board
of Cuyahoga County*

Jill Paulsen

The Cleveland Foundation

Sabrina Roberts

Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners

Margo Roth

Community-at-Large Member

Councilman Joe Santiago*

City of Cleveland

Steve Schreiber

Community-at-Large Member

**Margaret Wheeler,* Membership &
Nominating Committee Chair**

Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland

Barbara Baker

*The Center for Community Solutions
(Non-Voting Member)*

**Resigned during or at the end of 2009*

AFC Funding Partners (as of December 31, 2009)

Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County

The City of Cleveland

The Cleveland Foundation

Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners

The George Gund Foundation

Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation

Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland

United Way of Greater Cleveland

AFC Staff

Laureen Tews Harbert, MPH, Director

Melissa Federman, MPH, Program Coordinator (part-time)



AIDS Funding Collaborative

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www.AIDSFundingCollaborative.org

The AFC is located within The Center for Community Solutions, which provides fiscal and administrative oversight. The AFC's finances are included in the audited financials of The Center for Community Solutions. Contact the AFC with any questions.