



USCM HIV/AIDS
PROGRAM

AIX

AIDS Information eXchange

March 2001

Profiles of 2000-2001 Grant Recipients

\$915,000 Made Available for HIV Prevention Services

The goal of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) HIV/AIDS Prevention Grants Program is to strengthen local capacity for HIV/AIDS prevention activities through the funding of projects involving community-based organizations, local health departments, and others. Since 1985 the USCM HIV/AIDS Program has, in cooperation with CDC, issued funding for the development of 225 locally-based HIV/AIDS prevention projects totaling over \$11.1 million. Each year USCM assesses its funding priorities in response to emerging areas of need. This issue of *AIDS Information Exchange* profiles the 2000-2001 recipients of USCM HIV/AIDS prevention grants under three tracks: Native Americans, Women at High Risk, and Gay/Bisexual Men of Color.

Funding Priority: HIV Prevention Programs for Native Americans

Several years ago USCM funded implementation of two HIV prevention projects targeting gay/bisexual/two-spirit Native American men. These projects raised awareness at USCM of the HIV prevention issues facing all Native Americans, a neglected population with unique needs that present special challenges to municipalities. HIV prevention programs targeting Natives must serve a highly mobile population moving back and forth between reservations and urban areas; at any given time, approximately 70 percent of Natives live in municipalities, mostly large and small cities, where they are often scattered among the general population, without stable and coherent communities to provide support and services. Natives on reservations, meanwhile, must often deal with poverty, limited services, and a wide range of social problems. In 1998, USCM instituted a track of HIV prevention grants specifically targeting Native Americans; three grants were awarded then, and three more were awarded in 1999. As in the preceding two rounds, grants in 2000 were available to both reservation and urban areas, recognizing that, for the population to be served, each of these settings must take account of the other.

2002 FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

In 2001 USCM will be providing \$420,000 for seven new HIV prevention grants, four to gay/bisexual men of color projects and three to Native American projects. Application deadline is *April 23, 2001*. For a copy of the Request for Proposals fax Lillie Brown at 202-887-0652 or e-mail her at lbrown@usmayors.org. The RFP can also be downloaded from the USCM website at www.usmayors.org.

Specific challenges related to conducting HIV prevention among Native Americans include: limited epidemiologic data on the extent of HIV/AIDS among Natives;

a paucity of research on the behavioral determinants of HIV risk in the Native population; inadequate knowledge about the most effective intervention strategies for conducting HIV risk reduction among Natives; the need to devise culturally sensitive approaches for members of a wide range of tribes; and limited funding for HIV prevention projects targeting Natives.

American Indian Health and Services

4141 State St., B-6,
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
(805)681-7356
Contact: Anna Hunnicutt
Project: **Dangerous Sex and Crazy Love**
Grant Award: \$63,916

Santa Barbara County is approximately 100 miles north of Los Angeles, which is an HIV/AIDS epicenter. The county includes rural areas and mid-sized cities and a significant Native American community. Although official figures of Native Americans with HIV are low, local providers' data show the numbers of Natives living with HIV/AIDS to be substantially higher than those reported by the local health department. A needs assessment conducted by American Indian Health & Services (AIH&S) found that many Natives reported beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors that put them at risk for HIV infection, and a conservative estimate is that 50-100 AIH&S clients are HIV-infected.

AIH&S, begun in 1994, is a comprehensive health facility that strives to be the primary provider of culturally appropriate, accessible and socially responsive health in the county, while promoting and preserving American Indian culture and identity. It is the only agency in the county to target Native Americans for HIV prevention

and treatment services. This project will represent the agency's most ambitious effort to focus its HIV prevention services on the highest-risk members of the Native community, specifically men who have sex with men, individuals who have multiple partners, and those with substance abuse problems.

The primary intervention will be several series of "rap sessions"/workshops held over three-month periods at local coffee houses and other appropriate venues. Guest facilitators will lead discussions of such topics as HIV transmission and types of risky behavior, especially "dangerous sex and crazy love" and the substance abuse that fosters this behavior. Participants will be encouraged to get tested and to sign agreements to engage only in safer sex. The program will be supported by an outreach worker who will recruit participants for the sessions, pass out condoms, and make referrals to appropriate services such as the local needle exchange program.

Ke Ola Mamo

1139 North Nimitz H'way, Ste. A-221
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808)533-0035
Contact Person: Carol Odo
Project: **Lei Anuenue: A Counseling and Testing Project for Transgenders**
Grant Award: \$65,000

Hawaii has the 15th highest percentage of AIDS cases per capita in the nation. Native Hawaiians are especially at risk, falling below most measures of social, economic, and physical well-being. Department of Health statistics indicate that Native Hawaiians account for 12 percent of reported AIDS cases and 9 percent of HIV cases, ranking second among all ethnic groups in Hawaii. A majority of

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Ke Ola Mamo staff and clients.

Hawaii's AIDS cases occur in men who have sex with men (MSM). The majority of transgender (TG) Hawaiian men—who are categorized as MSM in the state health department AIDS surveillance reports—are Native Hawaiian. A pilot survey conducted by Ke Ola Mamo indicated that Native TG men are at risk for HIV due to the following factors: multiple sex partners, anal sex, non-use of condoms, and harassment and discrimination.

Ke Ola Mamo (KOM) is part of a group of Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, a network of agencies comprised of a planning and research umbrella unit and five sister health care systems on the various islands, whose mission is to remove barriers to healthcare for Native Hawaiians. KOM is the Native Hawaiian Health Care System for the island of Oahu. KOM's HIV prevention program has been in existence since 1996.

The Transgender Project hopes to increase HIV awareness among Native TGs and encourage a "critical mass" of the TG community to receive HIV prevention counseling and testing services and follow-up health care, if needed. The project will operate out of an outreach site located in the island's "red light" district. Clients

will be contacted and recruited for additional services by peer educators who belong to the target population. They will be offered on-site HIV counseling and Orasure testing or escort and transportation to a clinic setting. Clients requiring more intensive services will receive prevention case management, including a risk assessment, a general health assessment, a risk-reduction plan, and referral to health and social services. All clients will receive post-test counseling and emotional support and clients who test positive will be referred to local AIDS service organizations for case management or will be provided those services by KOM staff if they prefer. In addition, staff will distribute condoms and bi-monthly project newsletters.

Montrose Counseling Center, Inc.

701 Richmond Avenue

Houston, TX 77006

(713) 529-0037

Contact Person: Ann J. Robinson

Project: **NI KAN, HIV Prevention Intervention in the Houston Native American Community**

Grant Award: \$55,000

According to current census data, approximately 10,000 Native Americans live in the Houston area. Houston has the fourth largest number of reported AIDS cases in the country. The extent of the epidemic among Native Americans is unknown because, to date, the Texas Department of Health has not collected HIV surveillance data specific to Native Americans. Montrose hopes to fill existing gaps in HIV prevention services to Native Americans in Houston.

The Montrose Counseling Center (MCC) is a non-profit community-based HIV and substance abuse service provider that was founded in 1978 as a safe place for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people seeking mental health services that affirmed their sexual identity. MCC has provided HIV services to the community since 1982. HIV prevention education services are offered not only at the center itself, but also through 50 residential substance abuse treatment centers, eight criminal justice facilities, and several mental health facilities. Two direct service staff members are part Native American.

The NI KAN (“friends”) project employs a gay-identified, Native American prevention case manager. The case manager’s responsibility is to identify at least 150 Native American gay/bisexual/two-spirit men, needle users and partners of needle users, sex workers and persons who trade sex for drugs, and other Native Americans who are at special risk for HIV through outreach to local substance abuse centers, jails, and homeless shelters. The case manager will provide prevention education services to these groups and prevention case management services to a smaller group of individuals who are most at-risk. NI KAN has also designed a talking circle focused on Native American cultural experiences.

Funding Priority: HIV Prevention Programs for Women at High Risk

In 1995, USCM funded implementation of three women’s HIV prevention projects as follow-ups to previously funded HIV prevention needs assessments. These projects, targeting female sex workers and incarcerated women, confirmed the great interest in and need for such programs in many communities around the country. In 1997, USCM therefore initiated a grants program targeting women at high risk of HIV infection, and awarded six grants to five CBOs and a local health department. After a very strong response to the first RFP, USCM in 1998 awarded a second round of women’s grants, again to five CBOs and a local health department. In 1999, four more grants were awarded, all to CBOs, and in 2000 another six grants to CBOs are being awarded. According to CDC reports, the proportion of women among AIDS cases in adults and adolescents has increased steadily since 1985, and in recent years it has been reported that, while new AIDS cases among men have declined substantially, new AIDS cases among women have declined only slightly. Among minority women, the figures are even more alarming. Although a large percentage of HIV-infected women acquired the virus through their own injection drug use, heterosexual contact with an HIV-infected man (often an injection drug user) is the most rapidly increasing transmission category among women. Women who are injection drug users, sex partners of injection drug users or bisexual men, sex workers, or who trade sex for drugs, are among

the women at high risk for HIV infection targeted by this funding priority. Incarcerated women, among whom are found many of the above groups, are also at high risk. The multiple needs of many women at high risk for HIV infection, often women of color and/or women who are disadvantaged in a number of ways and who may not realize they are at risk, make the design and implementation of effective programs for them a major challenge for the future of HIV prevention. The HIV Prevention Community Planning process has enabled some communities to identify and fill gaps in HIV prevention services for women, but much remains to be done.

AIDS Services Center, Inc.

P.O. Box 1392

Anniston, AL 36202

(256)832-0100

Contact: Julie Hope

Project: **HIV Education and Risk Reduction with High-Risk Adult and Adolescent Females in Residential Facilities**

Grant Award: \$75,000

AIDS Services Center (ASC) is located in a rural area of northeast Alabama whose population is largely poor, under-educated (less than 69 percent have a high school diploma), and has limited access to services. Conservative local attitudes about AIDS as a “gay disease” are reflected in incidents such as the burning of the ASC clinic in 1995. Recent state health department statistics indicate a 233 percent increase in new HIV/AIDS cases for the 14-county area that ASC serves. African Americans, who comprise less than 17 percent of the population in that area, make up almost 50 percent of ASC clinic clients. The HIV epidemic is growing at such an alarming rate in Alabama that in 1999 the governor declared HIV infection among African Americans a state public health emergency.

ASC, which was founded in 1987 by an HIV positive gay man, is the only organization in a 14-county area in northeast Alabama that provides comprehensive early intervention and HIV prevention services to people with HIV infection or at risk for HIV infection. The USCM-funded program will target high risk women and adolescent females through collaborations with a number

of community facilities that serve vulnerable women and girls including residential shelters for physically/sexually abused children and adolescents, a residential drug intervention program for adolescents, and two domestic violence/homeless shelters that serve adult females and their children. ASC will strengthen the capacity of these agencies by working closely with them to assess their clients' needs, design appropriate HIV education modules for each agency, train staff in conducting HIV prevention counseling, and develop a tailored risk reduction component that can be incorporated into existing case management and other supportive services at each agency.

Austin Outreach & Community Service Center

8101 Cameron Rd., Ste. 104

Austin, TX 78754

(512)833-0444

Contact: Dorothy Jenkins

Project: **Family-Oriented HIV/AIDS Prevention for Women at High Risk**

Grant Award: \$75,000

Although Austin is a generally prosperous city, certain predominantly African American areas have a high incidence of poverty and associated social problems. The specific areas targeted by this project have among the state's highest rates of youth STDs and the highest rates of births to girls under 18. (Texas has among the highest rates of teen births in the nation.) These statistics suggest that the zip codes targeted are in fact close to the top of the nation's list of neighborhoods with the highest need for HIV prevention initiatives.

Austin Outreach and Community Service Center (AOCSC) is a minority community-based organization specializing in the provision of culturally relevant outreach services in high-risk, low-income minority neighborhoods in Austin. All of AOCSC's direct services are provided in partnership with providers of other services to women and families (e.g., substance abuse treatment programs, shelters for battered women, etc.) and through one-on-one outreach in places where high-risk persons are known to congregate. This project will, with the assistance of a Teen Health Task Force, make contact with families that include a pregnant or parenting teen and bring together teens, mothers and grandmothers in family-centered house parties. These sessions will focus on HIV prevention

in the context of a general, constructive approach to the life problems of the target audience. In addition to house parties, there will be family-centered street outreach and various family-oriented community events. Teens will get information and learn skills while enlisting the support of family members in maintaining safer behaviors.

The Fortune Society

53 W. 23rd St., 8th Floor

New York, NY 10010

(212)691-7554

Contact: Diana Davila-Ross

Project: **WISE Workshop Initiative (Women: Informed, Safe, and Empowered)**

Grant Award: \$75,000

In 1999, women accounted for 33 per cent of all AIDS cases in New York City (NYC). This alarming statistic suggests that women will make up half of the newly diagnosed cases by 2010. The NYC Prevention Planning Group identified a strong need for services for incarcerated women in the criminal justice system. In the state of New York, only a few organizations are currently serving this population.

The Fortune Society, located in lower Manhattan, has over 32 years of experience working with black and Latino women formerly incarcerated in New York city and state correctional facilities. Part of Fortune's mission is to provide ex-offenders with the skills and services to break out of the cycle of crime and incarceration to build productive lives in the community.

The primary goal of this project is to expand the agency's services to ex-offender women at high risk of HIV infection. The program will reach about 50 women, incorporating individual and group level interventions. Individual interventions will include case management, one-to-one counseling and crisis intervention services offering assistance in finding housing, food and shelter. The group level intervention will meet once a week for eight weeks in three-hour sessions. A female ex-offender counselor will conduct the workshops to improve awareness on substance abuse, negotiating safer sex, and healthier lifestyles. After completing the workshops, clients will become peer leaders in their community and educate others about HIV/AIDS.

Latino Community Development Agency

420 S.W. 10th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73109
(405)236-0701

Contact: Jonas Mata

Project: **Breaking the Silence: Talking Openly
About HIV/AIDS**

Grant Award: \$74,987

HIV/AIDS and STD data specific to Oklahoma Latinos is scarce, despite exponential growth of the Latino population in the state. HIV prevalence among Oklahoma Hispanics is underestimated because of a severe absence of culturally and linguistically appropriate testing, counseling, and health services. Still, as of 1999, available figures showed the rate of AIDS cases among Hispanic females was about equal to the rate among African American females, 10 times the rate for white females, and STD rates were disproportionately high for Latinas. Oklahoma has the highest number of women incarcerated per capita in the country, and given the overrepresentation of people of color in the criminal justice system incarcerated Latinas are a significant high-risk group. Yet community-based organizations focusing on HIV/AIDS issues tend to lack bilingual/bicultural staff to do effective outreach to Latinos, and almost no funded programs have targeted Latinos for HIV-related services.

The Latino Community Development Agency has been providing a wide range of health-related services since its inception in 1992. Following a successful youth HIV prevention project, community leaders suggested that adult Latina women also needed these services. Two overall intervention strategies will be used in the project: small-group interventions (featuring a basic prevention education and skill development curriculum) and community-level awareness-raising. The groups will be held in a number of sites where high-risk Latinas can be found, such as substance abuse treatment centers, homeless shelters, and correctional centers; a core curriculum of four sessions will be adapted according to specific settings and subgroups. To implement community-level activities, a group of peer educators will be recruited and trained to deliver prevention messages at a number of community events, such as festivals, dances, and Hispanic Pride Month activities. Some peer educators will be more intensively trained to go into bars, shelters, jails, and other high-risk

settings and offer prevention messages on a one-to-one basis. Spanish-language media contacts will be enlisted to spread the word about program activities.

Mon Yough Community Services, Inc.

500 Walnut Street
McKeesport, PA 15132
(412) 675-8865

Contact Person: Deb Rock

Project: **Outreach to Prostitutes and
Disadvantaged Women**

Grant Award: \$75,000

Mon Yough Community Services is located in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, 15 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. In the state of Pennsylvania, the southwest region ranks second to Philadelphia in total AIDS cases. In Allegheny County, where Mon Yough is located, women are at risk for HIV primarily due to injecting drugs or having sex with partners who inject. Additionally, many women turn to sex work or criminal activity to support their drug and/or drinking habits and may become incarcerated in the Allegheny County Jail. African American women are at highest risk for HIV/AIDS in Allegheny County. In 1999, 100 percent of all HIV cases in women reported in Allegheny County were among African Americans, although African Americans represent only 12 percent of the local population.

Mon Yough Community Services is a community-based organization that promotes wellness, recovery, community integration, and inclusion for individuals with substance abuse and mental health problems and developmental disabilities. The organization has been providing HIV/AIDS education and testing for its substance and alcohol abuse clients since 1992.

The Outreach to Prostitutes and Disadvantaged Women project is a dual strategy effort that involves HIV risk-reduction street outreach and small group sessions in the Allegheny County Jail. Staff will contact high-risk women through street outreach in designated areas where commercial sex workers and disadvantaged women can be found. The women will be offered counseling, including the creation of an individualized risk-reduction plan. Staff will also reach out to incarcerated women at the Allegheny County Jail through small group sessions. Group sessions will include HIV knowledge assessment,



advice on using male and female condoms, discussion of HIV testing issues, instruction on safer sex options, and the development of a risk-reduction plan.

St. Louis Comprehensive Health Centers, Inc.

5471 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive

St. Louis, MO 63112-4299

(314)367-5820

Contact Person: Myrtle Davis

Project: **Northside Women's Health and
AIDS Network**

Grant Award: \$75,000

African Americans account for a disproportionate percentage of reported HIV and AIDS cases in Missouri. In the city of St. Louis, African American women comprise 72% of new HIV cases. St. Louis Comprehensive Health Centers is located in an area of St. Louis characterized by economic devastation, a decaying physical infrastructure, a high percentage of single-parent homes, and family incomes that are at or below the federal poverty guidelines. In this environment, many young women are at risk for HIV due to injection drug use or addiction to other drugs, sex work, and being the sexual partners of men who are HIV infected.

St. Louis Comprehensive Health Centers, which has been in existence for over 30 years, is a minority-run community-based health center that serves uninsured or underinsured community members, a majority of whom are African American. *The Northside Women's Health and AIDS Network* will target African American women of childbearing age and their sexual partners in order to increase HIV awareness, prevention skills, and accessibility of HIV testing in the wider community. St. Louis Comprehensive will convene a coalition that includes representatives of the health center, nine area churches, and two transitional housing programs, as well as members of the target population. The program involves community-, group-, and individual-level interventions. Community-level activities will consist of forums focused on the subject of African American women and AIDS to be held twice a year during health screenings in each of the member churches, information dissemination at health fairs, and the development of community billboards featuring HIV testing and counseling information. Group-level activities will involve two five-week group sessions



St. Louis Comprehensive Health Centers project team members.

which will be conducted in each of the two transitional housing shelters. Importantly, each group participant will be asked to invite her main sexual partner to attend one of the sessions with her. Finally, individual-level HIV prevention education and counseling sessions will be conducted on an ongoing basis at the health center.

Funding Priority: HIV Prevention Programs for Gay/Bisexual Men of Color

In 1993 USCM established a new funding priority in response to a USCM-initiated study assessing the HIV prevention needs of gay/bisexual men of color (GBMC), i.e., African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino/Hispanic and Native American men, in five cities. The assessment revealed a need for much higher levels of prevention activities targeting GBMC. Among the report's recommendations was this:

“Federal, state and local resources for prevention which target gay/bisexual men of color need to be substantially increased. The funds should be provided specifically to programs developed by and for gay/bisexual men of color.”

—from *Assessing the HIV Prevention Needs of Gay and Bisexual Men of Color*, USCM, 1993, pp. xi-xii

From 1994 through 1997, USCM funded 26 projects throughout the country targeting GBMC; at the same time, through the HIV Prevention Community Planning

process, many communities were able to identify and fill gaps in services directed to GBMC. USCM discontinued its GBMC grants program in 1998, in the hope that it would no longer be needed. But it has since become clear that, while more resources have been devoted to GBMC programs, the basic problem of disproportionately high HIV rates among GBMC has not been solved. GBMC (both those who self-identify as gay or bisexual and those who do not) continue to be at alarmingly high risk for HIV infection, and the problem appears to be getting even worse. Therefore USCM has reinstated its GBMC track, to complement efforts already under way and to encourage new initiatives targeting areas and subpopulations which have not yet been effectively reached.

African American AIDS Support Services and Survival Institute

222 14th St. 2nd Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

(510)588-5900

Contact:

Project: **Latex Lovers**

Grant Award: \$80,000

According to data compiled by the Alameda County African American AIDS State of Emergency Task Force, African American men are five times more likely to be infected with HIV than white or Latino men, and over sixty-five times more likely to be infected than Asian men. The disproportionate prevalence of STDs among African American men who have sex with men (MSMs) seems to suggest disproportionate high-risk sexual behavior within that group. A study of sexual behavior among MSM in San Francisco and Alameda Counties found that gay and bisexual African American men reported a substantially higher prevalence of unprotected anal intercourse than did gay and bisexual white men.

AMASSI is a prevention services agency established and still predominantly governed, managed and staffed by African American MSMs. It therefore always involves its target population in every aspect of its activities, and Client Advisory Boards provide further input.

This program attempts to deal with difficult issues such as community norms that glorify risk-taking, the prevalence of many sources of stress that distract from

and disrupt attempts at behavior modification, and an insufficient investment in self-preservation among many African American MSMs. The project features a combination of intensive outreach and multiple home parties, with referrals to other, specialized services (such as prevention case management) available at AMASSI. An outreach team will visit gay and drag bars (where they will present a choreographed dance routine), parks known for MSM public sex, the local bathhouse, and other places where the target population can be found. Men will be recruited to come to in-home safer sex parties (or workshops) where additional services, such as HIV testing, will be offered. It is hoped that the visibility of the outreach team, backed by the home parties and other services, will begin to affect community norms, promoting more general condom use and safer behaviors.

Asian/Pacific Islander Community AIDS Project

4776 El Cajon Blvd., Ste. 204

San Diego, CA 92115

(619)229-2822

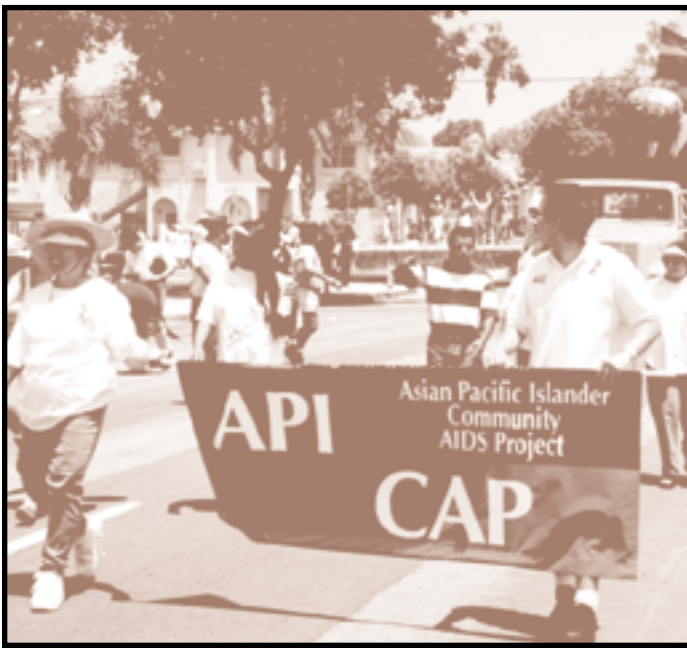
Contact: Jess San Roque

Project: **Filipino MSM Prevention Project**

Grant Award: \$78,114

Filipinos are the largest Asian sub-group in the city and county of San Diego, numbering almost 100,000 county-wide. As of early 2000, 100 AIDS cases had been reported among Filipinos in the county, with almost 90 percent of the total due to MSM contacts (including 3.8 percent reporting both MSM and IDU modes of exposure). Among the total cases, 63 percent were born in the Philippine Islands. San Diego's second fastest growing AIDS population is the "Asians and others" group. Surveillance studies have shown that there is an under-reporting of AIDS cases among Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs) due to cultural barriers and immigration issues.

Asian/Pacific Islander Community AIDS Project (APICAP) was founded in 1993 and has until recently been run by dedicated volunteers. These volunteers joined together to respond to a dramatic increase in HIV among API men, although official numbers did not reflect the increases. Activities have included a peer advocacy program, individual outreach, a speaker's bureau, and technical assistance to local agencies need-



APICAP contingent in the gay parade.

ing support and information on API sensitivity; these efforts reach as many as 15,000 high-risk APIs per year.

This project will employ a variety of group, individual, and community-level interventions. These include small home parties featuring a strong curriculum called “Hot Healthy & Keeping It Up,” peer educators who will promote safer sex throughout the community, a small social marketing campaign, two community events, and a daily drop-in center. Strong backing from the Filipino community will heighten the program’s visibility and lead to an increased awareness of HIV issues among all Filipinos. Staff will be assisted by numerous volunteers who will assist in outreach (in person and by phone or the Internet) to encourage Filipino MSM to take part in program activities. Through this project, APICAP hopes to build a foundation for future programs targeting this important but frequently neglected group.

Housing Works, Inc.

320 W 13th St.

New York, NY 10014

(212)645-8111

Contact Person: Hans Desnoyers, CSW

Project: **HIV Prevention Program for Transgender Persons of Color**

Grant Award: \$75,000

The exact number of Male-to-Female (MTF) transgender persons in New York City is unknown, as is the racial/ethnic make-up and HIV status of this population. Housing Works, which will be targeting MTF transgender persons of color, estimates that there are approximately 1,000 such individuals in need of prevention services in New York City. The rate of HIV infection among MTF transgender persons in New York is thought to be very high but exact figures do not exist since transgender persons are usually grouped under the category of Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM) in official statistics. However, one study of transgender persons in New York City estimates an HIV infection rate of over 60 percent. Other research indicates that the majority of MTF transgender persons are not receiving services of any kind and that most do not know their HIV status.

Housing Works is a minority-controlled AIDS service organization whose mission is to reach the most vulnerable and underserved of those affected by AIDS—primarily homeless persons of color with HIV/AIDS and a history of chronic mental illness and/or chemical dependence. Approximately one-third of the agency’s clients identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

The HIV Prevention Program for Transgender Persons of Color is a comprehensive program that will attempt to fill gaps in the continuum of prevention services for MTF transgenders of color in New York City. An intensive street outreach component will provide the target population with general health information and gradually move toward a discussion about HIV prevention with emphasis on risk reduction. Interested individuals will be asked to engage in an individualized HIV risk assessment followed by risk reduction counseling. HIV positive clients will be offered enrollment in Housing Works’ Adult Day Health Care Program (ADHC) and will be assigned to a Case Manager/Housing Specialist who will work with them to develop treatment and risk reduction plans and to assist in meeting their basic needs, including health and nutrition, housing, Medicaid and other government entitlements. In addition to case management services, the program will offer clients on-site transgender-affirming services in the areas of medicine, complementary therapy, substance use, psychiatric/mental health, vocational/educational, and creative art therapy. Clients will be encouraged to access group activities including existing psychosocial groups, specific transgender

support and advocacy groups, and the peer educator training program, which will prepare participants to assist the outreach team and serve as peer facilitators for the transgender support group.

Morton Comprehensive Health Services, Inc.

603 E. Pine

Tulsa, OK 74106

(918)587-2171

Contact: Bernard Goodman

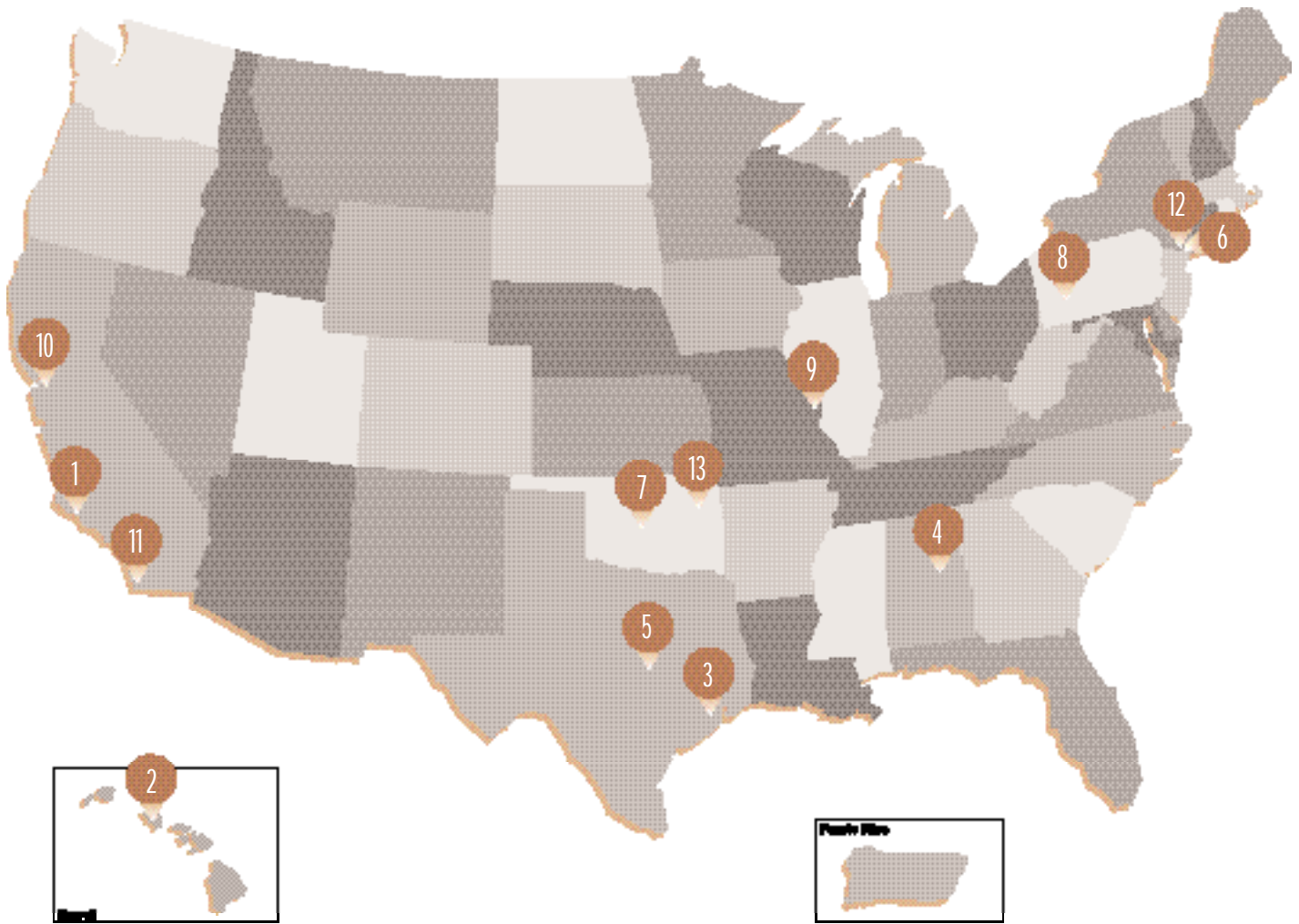
Project: **Brother 2 Brother Empowerment Group**

Grant Award: \$65,000

In the state of Oklahoma, no funded, sustainable organization is currently providing HIV prevention services that target African American MSM, although the Oklahoma Comprehensive HIV Prevention Plan lists this group as its number one priority. In Oklahoma, as elsewhere, African Americans have been disproportionately affected by HIV, with dramatically higher STD rates and death rates than other groups, but services in the state have not kept pace with the growing need.

Morton Comprehensive Health Services is a minority community health center, one of the largest providers of primary health services in Tulsa. HIV/AIDS services have been available at Morton for many years but have not been a significant focus for the agency.

In the coming year, in a major shift, Morton will aggressively reach out to the at-risk population and work to address the barriers in the community that contribute to the disproportionate impact of HIV. Since the agency is relatively inexperienced in dealing with gay/bisexual men, a preliminary strategic planning process is being carried out to get further input from the target community. Intensive outreach, a small media campaign, and regular workshops and support groups have so far been identified as priority activities for the project. Clients will be encouraged to get tested for HIV and individual counseling will be provided. Further refinements will follow as community needs are more clearly defined.



2000-2001 USCM HIV Prevention Grant Recipient Organizations

Native Americans

- 1. **American Indian Health & Services**
Santa Barbara, CA
- 2. **Ke Ola Mamo**
Honolulu, HI
- 3. **Montrose Counseling Center**
Houston, TX

Women at Risk

- 4. **AIDS Services Center, Inc.**
Anniston, AL
- 5. **Austin Outreach & Community Service Center**
Austin, TX
- 6. **The Fortune Society**
New York, NY
- 7. **Latino Community Development Agency**
Oklahoma City, OK

- 8. **Mon Yough Community Services, Inc.**
McKeesport, PA

- 9. **St. Louis Comprehensive Health Center, Inc.**
St. Louis, MO

Gay/Bisexual Men of Color

- 10. **African American AIDS Support Services & Survival Institute**
Oakland, CA
- 11. **Asian Pacific Islander Community AIDS Project**
San Diego, CA
- 12. **Housing Works, Inc.**
New York, NY
- 13. **Morton Comprehensive Health Services, Inc.**
Tulsa, OK



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