

## **POSITIVE VOICES - MAY 2012**

*Your Newsletter by Positive People for Positive People*

**3,240** - The number of people on ADAP waiting lists in 10 states, according to the National Association of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) as of April 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **HUD Awards \$33 Million to 18 HIV/AIDS Housing Programs**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced on April 3 that extremely low-income people living with HIV/AIDS will continue to receive permanent housing as a result of nearly \$33 million in HUD grants. Annually, these grants will provide permanent supportive housing for over 1,200 households so they can manage their health and access needed support services such as case management and employment training.

The funding is offered through HUD's [Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program \(HOPWA\)](#) and will renew HUD's support of 18 local programs in 17 states.

“These grants offer housing, vital healthcare, and hope to hundreds of households that combine to literally save lives,” said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. “Having stable housing can make all the difference to the health of someone living with HIV/AIDS who might otherwise be struggling to live on our streets.”

Many of the projects receiving renewed funding provide for specialized models in outreach and service delivery, including efforts that target help to those who have been homeless or are at extreme risk of becoming homeless. These grants offer innovations in HIV care to increase job readiness and employment opportunities for HIV-positive people as well. The grants also support [Opening Doors](#), the Obama Administration's strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.

Ninety percent of HOPWA funds are distributed by formula to cities and states based on the number of AIDS cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). HUD's formula grants are managed by 135 local and state jurisdictions, which coordinate AIDS housing efforts with other HUD and community resources. Earlier this year, HUD awarded these jurisdictions nearly \$300 million in formula grants. This year, HUD had made available a total of \$332 million in HOPWA funds to help communities provide housing for this special needs population. Overall, these resources assist over 60,000 households annually to provide stable housing and reduced risks of homelessness for those living with HIV and other challenges.

## “100 Questions & Answers about HIV and AIDS” 2.0 Now Available

The second edition of *100 Questions & Answers about HIV and AIDS*, by Dr. Joel Gallant, is now available. Dr. Gallant, of Johns Hopkins University Medical School and Associate Director of the Johns Hopkins AIDS service, is a frequent contributor to PA and has been the doctor for the *Positively Aware HIV Drug Guide* for the last two years. This handy book provides the answers to the most common questions asked by individuals with HIV and AIDS, their partners, and their families. Visit [jblearning.com](http://jblearning.com), search by title or author, and order your copy today. It's also available on Amazon.com (be sure to order the second edition!).

\*\* All above came from *Positively Aware Online*; March/April 2012

## ON GOING MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Join/ Attend: Consumer Advisory Committee [CAC] Meetings

The STAP Consumer Advisory Committee is a committee facilitated by and made up of consumers (STAP clients) who welcome other consumers and their significant others, caretakers and family members to join them on the second Tuesday of each month. This collaborative effort provides a confidential space for clients to make recommendations regarding STAP client services and other programs in a non-judgmental environment. The meetings are held following the Friends Dinner @ 5:45 at Trinity Memorial Church (on the corner of Main & Oak Streets) in downtown Binghamton. Call 1-800-333-0892 for directions or more details. If you cannot attend these meetings, mail your opinions or suggestions to STAP, 122 Baldwin Street, Johnson City, 13790, Attention CAC. CAC is encouraging consumers in other counties to organize monthly meetings in their area.

### Friends Who Care Support Groups

Broome County: “Friends Who Care” meets every Tuesday at 3 pm - 4:30 pm at Trinity Memorial Church located at 44 Main St. in Binghamton... come join us for Binghamton's HIV/AIDS Support Group \*\* (open to clients only). Also stay for a good (free) meal afterwards at the “Friends Dinner”.

Chemung County: Men Living with HIV Support Group; 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month; 6-7:30pm; Ivy Clinic, 600 Ivy St., Suite 206, Elmira. For more information people can contact me via phone or email. [Lynn Bassler, LMSW](#) Treatment Adherence Counselor, Ivy Clinic, 737-8188.

Tompkins County: The IVY Clinic is pleased to let all HIV+ men in the Ithaca and surrounding area know there is a support group that is held the third Tuesday of every month at the Ithaca STAP office. Time for the group is 6-7:30 pm and topics vary from month to month. If you are interested in attending please e-mail Shannon Sprague at [ssprague@aomc.org](mailto:ssprague@aomc.org) for further information.

### Friends Dinner

“Friends” meet every Tuesday evening for a time of fellowship and good food. Join us at Trinity Memorial Church (on the corner of Main & Oak Streets) in downtown Binghamton. Doors open at 5PM and dinner is served @ 5:30. No charge, just come with a smile and a friendly attitude - ready to meet and greet friends and have a hearty meal. Parking is available on Oak Street behind the Church Annex. Use the Oak Street entrance for the cafeteria. Call your case manager for details. Free Bus passes available for transportation to/from the Friends Dinner only. (STAP clients only) For more information about the “Friends Dinner, call STAP in Johnson City and they will get you in touch with Bill.

### Free Anonymous Rapid HIV Testing

Walk-in *Anonymous* testing is available in our STAP Johnson City office every Monday from 1:00-4:30PM and Thursdays from 1:00-3:00PM. *Confidential* testing is available in our STAP Johnson City office Thursdays from 9:00AM - 12:00PM. STAP's office is located at 122 Baldwin Street Johnson City, NY 13790. Walk-in *Anonymous* Testing is also available at STAP's Ithaca office located at 501 S. Meadow Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 on Tuesdays from 9:00AM-11:30AM, and *Confidential* testing can be scheduled Thursdays, 9:00AM-11:30AM. For more information and other testing opportunities available throughout the month, please call (607)798-1706.

### Free EDUCATIONAL Lunch/Dinner: June 2012

\*\* At this time there will not be one in May. June will be the next one - date TBD.

Ask The Medical Advocates:

\*\* Do YOU know what the C.H.O.I.C.E.S. program is?

C.H.O.I.C.E.S. is a self-paced educational series designed specifically for YOU to learn and understand HIV and your body. Whether you take one quick course or decide to go through the entire program and take charge of YOUR HIV, ask a Medical Advocate about C.H.O.I.C.E.S. today...

This program can help you by:

- Answering general questions or concerns regarding HIV
- Help you better manage side effects of your HIV medications
- Alleviate concerns about interactions between your HIV meds and other meds
- Help you better understand the results of your blood work or other lab tests
- Learn how to reduce HIV exposure risks for your negative partners

Medical Advocacy Coordinator: Stacy #798-1706 Ext. 210

Medical Advocate: Autumn #426-9445

\* Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 5 pm - just before the Friends Dinner come join us for our monthly C.H.O.I.C.E.S. module (open to everyone). We have found that we get more out of the program when we learn the modules as a group. Informative questions and discussions are raised.

\* Next Program will be May 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm with Autumn Cook, Medical Advocate, in the dining room at Trinity Church. Followed with a free dinner prepared by one of the local churches that supports our “Friend’s Dinner”.

*Congratulations to all those who have completed all the modules required to earn their certificate of completion of the C.H.O.I.C.E.S. program. We will be having our Grad. Picnic during the month of May (date TBD).*