CSPP CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
ALLIANT INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

AGUILAS

Brief Report: Status of HIV Funding for Capacity Building Assistance for Latino MSM and Transgenders in the U.S. and Puerto Rico

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On September 4, 2009, a formal request for information was submitted to CDC in relation to obtaining information about funding grantees for PS09-906 Category B by Eduardo Morales, PhD, Executive Director of AGUIAS and Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Alliant International University. The information requested was:

1) **Please provide a copy of abstracts of all grantees funded under category B of CDC announcement PS09-906.**
2) **Please indicate the amounts funded to each grantee in category B**
3) **Please indicate the percent of funding specifically targeted for Latino MSM and Transgender (individuals) for those projects funded in Category B.**
4) **Please indicate the funding resources allocated in this round of funding by this RFP that specifically and particularly targets Latino MSM and Transgender (individuals) in the United States and Puerto Rico.**
5) **Please indicate how CDC will address the capacity assistance needed by Latino MSM and Transgender communities in the U.S. and Puerto Rico amid increasing closure of agencies and programs throughout the US and P.R. that target this group of highest risk for HIV. Please indicate the plan and who specifically address those plans with what resources will fund its execution and who are the targeted agencies and communities that are benefiting form that assistance.**

Since this request was referred to the CDC Federal Office of Information Disclosure in relation to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) there was a significant delay in receiving response. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's Office, then the Speaker of the

House, formally wrote a letter to CDC requesting the same information on March 30, 2010. In a letter with no date but marked received on October 18, 2010 to Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. finally responded to the request for information. This is over 13 months after the original request by Eduardo Morales, Ph.D. and 7 months after Congresswoman Pelosi, then Speaker of the House, requested the same information.

According to Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. Director of CDC, and Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 15 community Building Assistance providers were awarded funding. Among these organizations 30% specifically target Latino MSM and transgender individuals with a total finding for the five organizations being $2,137,500. These organizations were reported to be:

Children's Hospital Los Angeles

National Association of People with AIDS

National LGBTQ Youth of Color CBA Initiative

Regents of University of California, SF (CAPS)

Latino Commission on AIDS

Copies of the abstracts and workplans were submitted to Eduardo Morales, PhD for review.

Review of the Abstracts and Workplans of Agencies funded

Each of the workplans and abstracts received was reviewed qualitatively for validation of the information received. Table 1 contains the list of agencies and he amounts they received for funding under this RFP. A total of $9,762,000 was funded according to the award letters from CDC.

The estimates of $2,137,500 of funding does not account for financial resources to address the multiple populations being served by these organizations since they are not exclusively for Latino MSM and transgender. Hence the amount reported is a misrepresentation of the actual funding to target Latino MSM and transgenders.

Table 1 – The 15 Agencies and Total Amounts Funded for Year One

AGENCY	AMOUNT AWARDED FOR YEAR ONE
Harm Reduction Coalition	$1,302,500
Meharry Medical College	$ 427,500
Black AIDS Institute	$ 427,500
Metro Interdenominational Church	$ 427,500

My Brother's Keeper	$ 427,500
Children's Hospital Los Angeles	$ 427,500
Aberdeen Area Tribal Chair HS	$ 427,500
Colorado State University	$ 427,500
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum	$ 875,000
The Balm in Gilead, Inc.	$1,003,500
National LGBTQ Youth of Color CBA Initiative	$ 427,500
Farmworker Justice	$ 427,500
Regents of University of California, SF (CAPS)	$1,003,500
National Association of People with AIDS	$ 427,500
Latino Commission on AIDS	$1,302,500
Total Documented Allocation per year	$9,762,000

Abstract provided for Center of Excellence for Transgender Health – but no award letter, Target group – transgenders

Table 2 contains the agencies funded and the target populations they state they will target in this grant effort for capacity building assistance. A review of the populations targeted indicated only five agencies address issues for Latino MSM and transgenders. These were the same agencies identified by CDC in their report.

Table 2 – Agencies funded and Populations Targeted

AGENCY	Ethnicity and Sexual Orientation Targeted
Harm Reduction Coalition	Only African Americans, Latinos not included in workplan
Meharry Medical College	No mention of Latinos
Black AIDS Institute	No mention of Latinos
Metro Interdenominational Church	African Americans no mention of Latinos
My Brother's Keeper	Only African Americans
Children's Hospital Los Angeles	Minority Youth, African Americans and Latino youth
Aberdeen Area Tribal Chair HB	American Indian tribes
Colorado State University - National Center for Community Readiness	All ethnicities and groups

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum	Asian Pacific Islanders
The Balm in Gilead, Inc.	African Americans
National LGBTQ Youth of Color CBA Initiative	Youth, African American and Latino
Farmworker Justice	Latino Community not Latino MSM
Regents of University of California, SF (CAPS)	African American MSM, African American Transgenders, Partners of HIV positives, Latino MSM, Latino transgender, MSM of all races/ethnicities and transgenders of all races and ethnicities.
National Association of People with AIDS	To include all Latinos not targeting Latino MSM
Latino Commission on AIDS	Latino population in general, to build capacity of Hispanic serving institutions. No mention of targeting Latino MSM in all workplans and in abstract.
Center of Excellence for Transgender Health	Transgenders

Based on the workplans submitted and the award letters provided by CDC Federal Office of Information Disclosure, the following 5 agencies are the only agencies funded that specifically target Latino MSM and transgenders.

Since none of the agencies funded are exclusively for Latino MSM, a correction of the allocations is needed in order to determine the actual financial resources targeted for Latino MSM and transgender individuals. The percentage noted on Table 3 is based on the number of populations stated to target in the abstract and workplan where at least one of those are Latino MSM and transgenders. Percentage reflect estimated effort target for Latino MSM and transgenders.

Table 3 - Percent Effort in Workplan for Latino MSM

AGENCY	Percent Effort for Latino MSM
Children's Hospital Los Angeles	50%
National Association of People with AIDS	50%
National LGBTQ Youth of Color CBA Initiative	50%
Regents of University of California, SF (CAPS)	20%
Latino Commission on AIDS	20%

Table 4 contains the total funding based on the effort noted in the grant for Latino MSM and transgenders. Based on the award letters provided by CDC

Table 4 – Total Funding Based on Percent Effort for Latino MSM and Transgenders Based on CDC Award Letters to Agencies

AGENCY	One-Year Funding	Percent Effort Latino MSM/T	Total for Latino MSM/T
Children's Hospital Los Angeles	$ 427,500	50%	$213,750
National Association of People with AIDS	$ 427,500	50%	$213,750
National LGBTQ Youth of Color CBA Initiative	$ 427,500	50%	$213,750
Regents of University of California, SF (CAPS)	$1,003,500	20%	$200,700
Latino Commission on AIDS	$1,302,500	20%	$260,500

Table 5 contains the adjusted funding based on effort for all five agencies based on the award letters issues by CDC. The second part of the Table uses information provided in a letter by Dr. Frieden of CDC but not substantiated by letter of award.

RESULTS: In either case the total funding allocated for Latino MSM and transgenders for the U.S. And Puerto Rico is between 7% and 8%.

Table 5 – Total Funding Based on Percent Effort for Latino MSM and Transgenders

Total Allocation for Latino MSM & Transgenders, Nationally	$674,950
Total Funding for Capacity Building for all Grantees	$9,762,000
Percent funding for Latino MSM Nationally based on effort	7%
CDC Estimates $427,500 for each of 5 agencies for total allocation for all efforts for all populations targeted	$2,137,500
Using CDC Estimates: Allocation for Latino MSM & Transgenders, Nationally	$ 812,250
Percent funding for Latino MSM Nationally based on effort	8%

Based on HIV/AIDS cases in the U.S. 20% to 22% of all HIV cases are Latino/a. Using 2007 and 2008 estimates 78% of all Latino with AIDS are Latino MSM. In order to

maintain resource efforts based on AIDS cases 15.6% to 18% of funding should be for Latino MSM and transgenders.

Given Latino MSM is a top priority higher levels of funding is warranted.

In the round of funding by CDC for capacity building assistance, in Category B only 7% to 8% of the funding is targeted for Latino MSM thus underfunding this population at highest risk for HIV.

Based on these data, CDC has not funded Capacity building assistance for Latino MSM and transgender at a level reflective of the HIV/AIDS cases.

In addition CDC has not complied with its own prioritization of Latino MSM and transgender being of highest priority.

Conclusion

Unless radical change occurs in the allocation of resources immediately we can expect increases in HIV infection rates and increases in AIDS cases among Latino MSM.

- **Based on the trends the past five to seven years we can expect an increase at the rate of about ½% to 1% per year for over the 5 year period. By 2014 and 2015 when RFPs open up again by CDC direct funding, we can expect Latino MSM to represent 25% or more of the AIDS cases in the U.S. and to represent at least 25% of the new HIV infection rates. At this rate it will take at least 10 or more years to slow down the increase rate through aggressive HIV prevention efforts.**

- **According to Jonathan Mermin, MD, MPH, Director of Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention "The Hispanic/Latino community is one of the populations disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. Because the U.S. Hispanic/Latino population is expected to almost triple between the years of 2000 and 2050, continually addressing HIV/AIDS prevention in this population is vital. (*from DHAP News, October 2009, a CDC Publication*)"**

- **Unfortunately, Dr. Mermin's HIV/AIDS Prevention Division's actions and funding allocations do not mirror nor support his urgency for addressing Latino MSM and Transgenders.**

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