

North American Housing & HIV/AIDS Research Summit

Initial concept for Summit V – May/June 2010 – Toronto

200 Participants; full-day pre-summit learning institutes; 2-day conference

Overarching themes for Summit V – Scale; Sustainability; and Accountability

Primary focus – Evidence-based activism and practice (data, tools and strategies to translate knowledge into action)

Scale

Now that we have solid evidence of the effectiveness and cost-utility of housing as an HIV prevention and care intervention, we are moving on to the question of how to go to scale with proven housing interventions. What are the costs/savings associated with unmet housing needs? “How much” and what types of housing do PLWHA require? How should evolving research on HIV prevention and treatment inform eligibility for targeted housing resources? What are the unique housing needs and barriers faced by special populations and in different parts of the world? How can we use existing research on the importance of housing to effective HIV prevention and intervention to elevate the issue on a global level?

Sustainability

At the practice level, the Summit series provides an opportunity to transfer and exchange knowledge from successful interventions, to promote evidence-based practice and to address practice challenges. At the policy level, we need to continue to share and synthesize evidence to support and expand public investment in housing as HIV prevention and care. Summit V presentations will include: final cost effectiveness and cost-utility findings from CHHP and H&H; a cost analysis of the San Francisco findings on housing and HIV mortality; a process evaluation of H&H housing interventions; and a policy toolkit for disseminating results.

Accountability

Sustaining public investment and bringing it to scale will also require holding providers, communities and governments accountable for outcomes. Summit V would provide a forum for interdisciplinary discussion of and work on: benchmarks for monitoring housing need and interventions; report card metrics for use globally; and other advocacy strategies and tools to ensure accountability at the local and national level. Summit participants might also develop concrete messages to be delivered at the 2010 International AIDS Conference.

Proposed Learning Institute topics:

- Evidence-based best practices in housing delivery and evaluation
- Evidence-based policy work: translating findings into policy/advocacy/media strategies
- Meta-analysis of housing and health data – across programs, populations, geographic areas, countries, etc.
- Research and evaluation basics