



# The E-Newsletter of the National AIDS Housing Coalition

JULY 26, 2005

SUMMER 2005

## Contents

1. HOPWA Appropriations Update
2. NAHC Convenes National Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit
3. AIDS Housing Training Institute at NAEH Conference
4. Affordable Housing Fund Update
5. Second Chance Act
6. CDC Estimates That Over One Million People Are Living With HIV or AIDS in the U.S.
7. The Campaign to End AIDS
8. Calendar of Events
9. Join NAHC!

## 1. HOPWA Appropriations Update

NAHC has been closely monitoring the recent FY2006 Appropriations legislation in both houses of congress. The funding level for the **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)** Program is still uncertain and NAHC has been aggressively advocating for the highest possible level of the program.

The **House** Appropriations Subcommittee that handles HUD originally approved \$285 million for the program, but with a bi-partisan effort from Representative Nadler (D-8<sup>th</sup> NY) and Representative Shays, (R-4<sup>th</sup> CT) the House HOPWA funding level was increased to \$290 million (H.R. 3058) without a recorded vote.

On July 19th, the **Senate** Subcommittee appropriated a disappointing \$282 million for HOPWA—a number which reflects only current services and is \$13 million less than the \$295 million HOPWA funding in FY2004. Thanks to the efforts of Senator Durbin, (D-IL) who worked with Committee leadership, the Full Committee approved a funding level of \$287 million on July 21st. The bill is expected to go to the Senate floor after the August recess.

Senator Durbin and his staff indicated that they will continue working to ensure a higher funding level for the program when the bill goes to Conference in early Fall.

Thanks to those of you who contacted your Senators' and Representative's offices over the past month requesting that they support greater funding for HOPWA!

For more information about the HOPWA program, visit [www.nationalaidshousing.org/advocacy.htm](http://www.nationalaidshousing.org/advocacy.htm).

## 2. NAHC Convenes National Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit

On June 11 and 12, NAHC convened the first National Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit, *An Examination of the Role of Housing in the HIV/AIDS Continuum of Care and of Housing Status as a Determinant of Individual and Community Health*, at Emory University in Atlanta, GA immediately preceding the CDC's HIV Prevention Conference. Researchers and policy experts came from around the country to participate in this innovative event.

During the first day of the Summit, leading researchers in the field of HIV/AIDS and housing presented on their recent work in a series of panels:

- Epidemiological overview of housing status and HIV/AIDS
- Housing as an HIV prevention intervention
- Housing and HIV treatment access, adherence, and outcomes

On Sunday, HIV housing providers, consumers, and advocates joined the group for a Community Discussion.

NAHC plans to use the presented research as an advocacy tool to demonstrate to policy-makers that housing is an effective HIV prevention method and a vital healthcare tool for those already infected. Some powerful findings from the research include:

- Between **40%** and **60%** of people living with AIDS have a lifetime experience of homelessness or housing instability.
- People experiencing homelessness have a HIV infection rate that is roughly **ten times** that of the general population.

Plans to build on the Research Summit with additional events and publications are now underway.

[Click here](#) for a complete summary of the Research Summit on our website.

### 3. AIDS Housing Training Institute at NAEH Conference

On July 11, NAHC hosted an AIDS Housing Training Institute at the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Annual Conference in Washington, DC. Fifty people participated in the all-day institute which focused on using AIDS housing research, evaluation, and advocacy tools to maximize community resources.

A grant from the Fannie Mae Foundation supported the Institute and allowed NAHC to bring AIDS Housing Consumers from states as varied as Missouri, Connecticut, and Mississippi to participate in the Institute. The consumer advocates also attended the following two days of the conference and made advocacy visits to key members of Congress, requesting increased funding for the HOPWA program.

### 4. Affordable Housing Fund Update

AIDS housing providers join other low income housing providers in urging the adoption of an Affordable Housing Fund as a component of pending legislation to regulate the Government Supported Enterprises (GSEs) -- Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The Affordable Housing Fund would be a deeply targeted dedicated source of funding for low income housing

#### HIV/AIDS & Housing Facts of the Quarter:

Recent research has shown that there is a reduction in HIV infection risk with improved housing status. The cost of HIV prevention methods, including housing, is dwarfed by the savings realized by preventing infections:

The estimated lifetime medical treatment cost of each new HIV infection is **\$155,000** to **\$195,000**.

*HIV prevention, including **providing housing**, saves money.*

production, rehabilitation and preservation funded by post-tax profits of the GSEs or some other agreed upon metric. It is projected that for the first several years the Fund could yield up to \$600 million annually and reach as high as \$1 billion thereafter.

The Senate Banking Committee plans to mark-up the GSE regulation bill on July 28. However, the pending bill, S. 190 (changed considerably since introduction), does not include an Affordable Housing Fund as members from each side of the aisle continue to work towards compromise legislation that can garner the support needed to favorably report the measure to the full Senate. For more information on the Affordable Housing Fund visit the website of the [National Housing Trust Fund Campaign](#).

## 5. Second Chance Act

NAHC is an organizational endorser of H.R. 1704, the *Second Chance Act of 2005: Community Safety Through Recidivism Prevention*, now pending before the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. This measure authorizes a range of comprehensive services to assist the thousands of individuals leaving prisons and jails nationwide each year – including those coping with the effects of HIV/AIDS as they reintegrate into their communities. It is estimated that the incidence of confirmed AIDS has grown to be five times higher in prison than in the general population and incidences of HIV are estimated to be between 10 and 14 percent higher.

The housing-specific provisions, though modest, are an important beginning. They include authorization of a demonstration to assist those returning in securing permanent housing and expanding the use of reentry courts to coordinate delivery of community services to offenders including housing assistance. A federal study of the barriers to admission to the federal housing programs as well as the impact of evictions would be required one year from enactment. For more information on the Second Chance Act visit [NAHC's website](#) or the Open Society Institute's [Policy Center](#).

Companion legislation is expected to be introduced in the Senate soon.

## 6. CDC Estimates That Over One Million People Are living with HIV or AIDS in the U.S.

In mid-June, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated numbers relating to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It is now estimated that between 1.039 and 1.185 million people are HIV positive in the United States, the highest number in history. They also estimate that nearly half of these cases are among African Americans and that 25% of people who are infected are unaware of their status.

View the CDC's "[A Glance at the HIV/AIDS Epidemic](#)" fact sheet summarizing the new estimates.

AIDS Housing of Washington reported that one-third to one-half of those living with HIV/AIDS are homeless, incapable of affording their current housing, or at impending risk of homelessness.

**National AIDS Housing  
Coalition**  
1518 K Street NW  
Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20009

**Phone**  
202-347-0333

**Fax**  
202-347-3411

**E-mail**  
nahc@nationalaidshousing.org

**We're on the Web!**  
www.nationalaidshousing.org

## 7. The Campaign to End AIDS (C2EA)

Plans are well underway for a C2EA caravan, originating in nine U.S. cities, to travel across the country this Fall, ending Washington, DC for five days of action. To learn more with the campaign or to find out what's happening in your community, visit: [www.endaidsnow.org](http://www.endaidsnow.org).

## 8. Calendar of Events

**September 29 – October 2:** United States Conference on AIDS in Houston, TX. Visit [www.nmac.org](http://www.nmac.org) for more information.

**October 8 - 12:** Campaign to End AIDS (C2EA) five days of action in Washington, DC. Visit [www.endAIDSnow.org](http://www.endAIDSnow.org) for more information.

## 9. Join NAHC!

The National AIDS Housing Coalition is looking for new members! Please visit our membership page for more information:

[www.nationalaidshousing.org/join.htm](http://www.nationalaidshousing.org/join.htm).