



The National AIDS Housing Coalition

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For immediate release

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National AIDS Housing Coalition Officially Launches Policy Toolkit

Washington, D.C. September 5, 2007 -- Today, the National AIDS Housing Coalition unveils its Policy Toolkit. The NAHC Policy Toolkit, developed through a grant from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, translates research findings confirming the critical role of housing in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment into a user friendly format to inform public policy at the local, state and federal level.

In addition to providing relevant and reliable facts, this user friendly model also equips national advocates with resources aimed at educating decision-makers and impacting policy and funding decisions. NAHC Board Member and Consumer Advocate Cassandra Ackerman asserts that “the toolkit provides ammunition to convince local policymakers of the benefits of housing for the health of people with HIV/AIDS.” NAHC Executive Director, Nancy Bernstine agrees that “the toolkit is a dynamic and powerful resource for HIV/AIDS housing advocates and their partners.”

The role of housing in preventing transmission of the HIV cannot be underestimated. An often overlooked, yet undeniable correlation between improved housing status and reduction in HIV risk behaviors among HIV positive persons with multiple behavior issues highlights the significance of housing as an exciting new structural intervention to reduce the spread of HIV.

“A growing body of research is demonstrating that housing has a powerful impact on health, access to effective care, and costs in the health care system”, says Carol Wilkins, Director of Intergovernmental Policy for the Corporation for Supportive Housing . “The National AIDS Housing Coalition is helping to translate rigorous research into persuasive policy arguments for cost-effective housing solutions that can save lives.”

“Access to safe and stable housing for people with and at risk for HIV is critical if we are going to end this epidemic”, says NAHC Board President, Joe Carleo, Executive Director of the AIDS Housing Corporation in Boston. “The tool kit is designed to help address access issues at all levels within many different types of regions and communities. NAHC is grateful to the SFAF for providing the financial support to create this new resource.”

The National AIDS Housing Coalition is proud to have the support of the following national housing and AIDS service organizations endorsing NAHC’s policy imperatives set out in the Toolkit: AIDS Action, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Housing Works, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Association of People with AIDS, National Coalition for the Homeless, National Health Care for the Homeless Council, National Housing Conference, National Low Income Housing Coalition, National Minority AIDS Council, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and The AIDS Institute.

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The National AIDS Housing Coalition is a national non-profit housing organization that works to advance the creation, development, management and growth of housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS in our communities.

Use this link, <http://www.nationalaidshousing.org/policytoolkit.htm>, to view and start using the **Policy Toolkit now!**