



National Alliance for HIV Education and Workforce Development (NAHEWD) Funding Recommendation for the AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETC)

NAHEWD, the Alliance of the AETCs, Requests \$58 Million in 2020-2021 for the AETC Program

With new political will to end the HIV epidemic in the US, there is an increased demand for an expanded, well-trained workforce, capable of preventing, diagnosing, and treating HIV and related co-morbidities, such as Hepatitis C and B, sexually transmitted infections, and substance use disorders. *The AETCs have a vital role to play in Ending the HIV Epidemic.*

- AETCs comprise the only national network of HIV clinical experts and educators providing locally-based, tailored education programs, consultation and technical assistance to healthcare teams and systems.
- The AETCs are the federal government's primary resource for providing timely and quality HIV health care provider education, technical assistance, clinical consultation and practice transformation.
- AETCs operate through eight regional offices, 100 local partner sites and two national centers, the National Clinician Consultation Center (NCCC) and the National Coordinating Resource Center (NCRC). These regional centers are agile and able to respond to the changing scope of HIV and related comorbidities.
- While high incidence areas are rightly prioritized, we cannot ignore the many geographic areas and hidden populations characterized by late diagnosis and small clusters of new infections. AETCs serve all of these areas.

A continued flat funding, business as usual approach to AETC funding will inhibit the ability of the AETCs to make a robust contribution to ending the epidemic.

Increased funding of the AETC program would:

- Expand uptake of routine HIV testing within various health and human service systems
- Expand the reach of the AETCS and
 - Increase the implementation of biomedical prevention, specifically PrEP and PEP
 - Increase the quality and number of health professionals willing and skilled to treat persons with HIV
 - Increase the capacity to manage co-morbidities, such as, hepatitis B and C, sexually transmitted diseases, substance use disorders, and psychiatric illness.
- Expand availability of real time consultation on HIV and its co-morbid disorders, substance use, hepatitis, and sexually transmitted diseases to providers
- Expand access to AETC Practice Transformation --- individualized capacity building assistance to federally qualified health centers and Ryan White clinics to provide HIV diagnosis, treatment and care.
- Expand training of the next generation of health care providers to care for persons with HIV via interprofessional education at the professional school and residency levels
- Expand national coordination and dissemination for rapid response interventions to emerging needs