



1605 Peachtree Street, NE | Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Executive Director: Nicole Roebuck nicole.roebuck@aidatlanta.org **Office:** 404-870-7711
Contact: Jon Santos jon.santos@aidatlanta.org **Office:** 404-870-7763
Email: aidatlantainfo@aidatlanta.org **Web:** www.aidatlanta.org **Main:** 404-870-7700

For Summer, 2017, AID Atlanta seeks a grant of \$40,000 to cover labs for one (1) quarter of the calendar year. \$400 labs x 100 prep clients. Other funding sources are being sought for the next 9-months.

History and Mission

AID Atlanta, Inc., founded in 1982, began as a grassroots organization with a small group of friends who, in response to the national HIV/AIDS epidemic, went into action educating gay men in the Atlanta area about prevention and assisting with accessing medical care. Continuing to fight the epidemic 35 years later, AID Atlanta, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) public organization that provides HIV testing, counseling and prevention, and linkage services to high risk HIV negative and HIV Positive individuals living in Greater Atlanta, Georgia

The mission of AID Atlanta is to reduce new HIV infections and improve the quality of life of its clients and the community by breaking barriers and building community.

This mission is accomplished through direct client services, a primary health care clinic and HIV prevention education. Our mission is further shown through HIV testing and prevention services including outreach to heavily burdened communities and is done in a manner that is meaningful and impactful to the communities being targeted.

AID Atlanta is committed to providing any prevention tool to the target population that needs it most, including HIV negative individuals who may be in a sero-discordant relationship in which their sexual partner is HIV positive, men who have had anal sex without condoms or have been diagnosed with an STI will all have access to these services.

The effort to reduce the risks was enhanced by offering PrEP, nPEP, STI screenings. By striving to provide a community dialogue about PrEP and STI services, AID Atlanta increases awareness and decreases misinformation and judgement, resulting in the target population becoming better informed of all prevention tools, including condoms, PrEP, and nPEP.

Program Overview

Late in 2015, AID Atlanta set out to expand its prevention programs by opening a safe, medically supervised, clinic program offering PrEP to high-risk negative clients. The program was set up to follow the President's Strategy on HIV/AIDS and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) strategy on HIV/AIDS and recommended guidelines for implementation, assessment, and evaluation. AID Atlanta's PrEP Clinic was the first opened in Greater Atlanta. To date over 824 individuals have requested and received information about PrEP, and 132 have been placed on PrEP therapy.

Interested clients receive information about HIV transmission modes, receive an assessment of risk and review advantages and disadvantages of beginning PrEP therapy, and sound-information about the therapy, treatment, side effects, and all pertinent information.

While treatment is known to be 92% effective, PrEP, or Truvada, is a powerful medication. If taken daily as prescribed for PrEP therapy, the CDC strongly recommends that clients on this aggressive therapy have medical lab work completed every 90-days to ensure the medication does not adversely affect the liver, kidneys and filtering systems of the body.

While AID Atlanta can submit claims to most insurance providers, 95% of clients on therapy in our PrEP Clinic are uninsured or underinsured.

Request for Funding

Funding for the program currently relies on medication through patient assistance program from the drug manufacturer and private grants to underwrite the bloodwork/lab tests. Expenses for overhead, staff, fixed costs, etc. are absorbed by AID Atlanta. In 2017, AID Atlanta submitted a grant application for renewed annual funding for the bloodwork/lab tests portion of the clinic. Unfortunately, the application was denied.

The pharmaceutical company will still make the medication available to patients desiring PrEP therapy, but ethically, AID Atlanta must follow CDC guidelines on labs, and must find a new funding source for the lab work.

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Summary of Programs and Services

Prevention and Member Education Programs

The Georgia AIDS and STD Infoline is a statewide information hotline staffed by trained AID Atlanta employees and volunteers to provide the information needed and/or point you in the right direction. Some issues may include risk for HIV and STD transmission, accessing services and resources to address HIV/AIDS issues, questions about treatment and/or support services, and many other concerns related to HIV and STDs. The Georgia AIDS and STD Infoline can be reached, toll-free, at 1-800-551-2728.

CTRS (Counseling Testing and Referral Services) and STI Screening – AID Atlanta offers free and confidential Rapid HIV Testing and Counseling and screening for STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections). Results from the Rapid HIV Screening Test are provided during the same visit. Results will only be provided confidentially to the individual being tested.

HIV testing will include direct linkage to medical care and to prevention counseling and referrals to appropriate agencies and community resources. HIV Testing is also offered through a number of AID Atlanta's outreach events

Healthy Relationships Workshop is a fun and interactive workshop for HIV Positive People. We use well known movie clips to help participants learn new decision making and problem-solving skills in a small group setting. Healthy Relationships is open to any person living positively who is 18 years or older and is led by a skilled facilitator who can relate to the experiences and challenges of the attendees.

The AIDS 101 Awareness and Action Seminar is widely considered the best AIDS volunteer training in the region. AIDS 101 addresses a wide range of subjects and concerns. Presentations at each program may vary, but each seminar offers broad-based insight on the HIV crisis. The program format consists of lectures, special interest sessions, and panel discussions. AIDS 101 takes place 5 times each year in partnership with various community partners, including churches, colleges and universities, and community-based organizations. AIDS 101 is required training for new volunteers to AID Atlanta, and a volunteer interview is required following attendance at AIDS 101.

AID Atlanta's SPEAKERS BUREAU utilizes volunteer speakers to broaden our reach into the community by providing HIV basics presentations, giving personal experience talks and representing AID Atlanta at health fairs and community events.

AID Atlanta's Volunteer /Student Internship Program – If you are interested in finding out more about how to become a volunteer or how to intern at AID Atlanta Contact 404-870-7764 to learn more.

Medical Care and Pharmacy

The HIV Health Center is the on-site health center facility providing premium level primary health care to HIV+ patients, including provision of medications. Members receive more than just medical care, with a comprehensive educational, adherence and nutrition session to explain all aspects of HIV, as well as laboratory testing, early intervention services, routine physical exams, and the diagnosis, treatment and management of common illnesses associated with HIV/AIDS.

The Midtown Health Center also provides free and insurance eligible PrEP (PreExposure Prophylaxis) treatment services to individuals at highest risk for contracting HIV. In addition, AID Atlanta, the Midtown unit, provides Free STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections) treatment to patients who screen positive for STIs through our onsite HIV/STI screening clinic.

AID Atlanta HIV Health Center -Newnan is AID Atlanta's rural health center facility that provides a premium level of primary health care to HIV+ patients, including provision of medications. Members receive more than just medical care, with a comprehensive educational, adherence and nutrition session to explain all aspects of HIV, as well as laboratory testing, early intervention services, routine physical exams, and the diagnosis, treatment and management of common illnesses associated with HIV/AIDS.

Pharmacy Service: AID Atlanta partners with AIDS Healthcare Foundation which provides comprehensive Pharmacy services at both our Midtown and Newnan locations. AHF Pharmacy specializes in HIV medications and can fill all non-HIV medications. Most major insurances are accepted, and they also process PAP medications and PAF assistance for those who are eligible. AIDS Healthcare Foundation pharmacy provides onsite access, mail-order and home delivery services.

Client Services

Case Management is designed to help those living with HIV to live longer, healthier lives by reducing healthcare barriers including mental illness, chemical dependency, homelessness, unemployment, poverty and a lack of insurance benefits. AID Atlanta employs case managers that are located at our Midtown Atlanta office and several sites throughout greater Atlanta.

Self-Management Program provides educational and low intensity support to people living with HIV who do not require intensive case management services. Individuals that are members of the Self-Management Program have access to bi-monthly educational sessions about HIV/AIDS Treatment Updates, Adherence, Housing resources, Social Security, Medicare Part D, Emotional Wellness and other helpful topics.

Medication Assistance is provided to assist a member who's only needs involve applying for medication or insurance assistance programs. Eligible members can receive help in obtaining free HIV medications through the State's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and/or assistance with insurance premiums through the state's Health Insurance Continuation

Program(HICP). AID Atlanta is a recognized “ADAP and HICP Enrollment Site” in the State of Georgia.

Housing is critical to maintaining a healthy life-style. Unfortunately, many members are often faced with limited housing options. AID Atlanta provides HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With HIV/AIDS) funded financial assistance for eligible members. Two major programs include the STRMU program (Short Term Rental/Mortgage/Utility) assistance for short term assistance with rent, mortgage or utilities that are past due and our TBRA (Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program) provides from 6-24 months of rental assistance for eligible members that qualify and can demonstrate proof of need and proof of a realistic, attainable and sustainable housing plan.

Emotional Wellness Services/Behavioral Health (Mental Health) Members with HIV tend to have a myriad of emotional and behavioral issues that sometimes hinder their ability to maintain stable and healthy lives. In some cases, the mental health and substance abuse issues precede their HIV/AIDS diagnosis, and may have contributed in some way to the contraction of the disease and in other cases, the diagnosis itself sets off emotional reactions that members often times are unable to process effectively without the assistance of a professional. Members suffer from depression, anxiety, behavioral disorders, personality disorders, psychotic disorders, chemical dependency and addictive disorders.

Member Assistance Fund: AID Atlanta maintains a very limited member assistance fund which provides members with financial assistance to help pay for medication co-pays, insurance premiums, medical related issues, food vouchers, and similar items. These funds are very limited and may be seasonal based on availability of funding. Please always call ahead to inquire if such funds are available. For more information, contact your case manager.

Recreational Programs for Children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS: Each year AID Atlanta works to provide recreational events and programs for children that are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. These recreational programs give children and families the opportunity to do fun things together while providing a loving, safe and caring environment where kids can just be kids. Events include an Annual Holiday Party, recreational trips, and back to school events.

AID Atlanta Program Effectiveness

AID Atlanta has an aggressive range of procedures to assess the outcomes, efficiency, and impact of the agency's care and services. These assessment procedures are crucial to program management, including, but not limited to strategy, process improvement, program development, staffing, performance and impact.

AID Atlanta's approach to ensuring data quality is an ongoing process including, identification of evolving data needs, routine data integrity reviews, and ensuring standardized and structured data. Quantitative reports are generated for review, and include comprehensive data from sources such as surveys, committee reports, and data collection logs. Universal data collection includes demographic data, services accessed, and referrals. Data is collected at initial encounters and varies depending on the level of engagement with programs. Data validation ensures that programs operate on clean, correct, and useful data, and the CAREWare database has validation rules, so routine "checks" ensure data correctness, meaningfulness, and security of data that are input to the system.

Assessment and evaluation are implemented across agency services and care. Based on a continuous review process, priorities are set and opportunities for improvement are identified for corrective and/or improvement planning. Assessment and evaluation activities may include observations, audits, interviews, focus groups, surveys, team meetings, and monthly program reports. Program performance is assessed based on the goals and objectives set forth, as well as performance indicators. Continuous Quality Improvement methodology may include quality tools such as, PDSA (Plan/Do/Study/Act), Flow Chart Analysis, Cause and Effect Diagrams, Root Cause Analysis, and/or Observational Studies. Improvement plans are established, including a timeline and may include approaches such as process redesign, training, and policy revisions or development.

To ensure compliance with Standards of Care, industry standards and best practices set forth expectations for AID Atlanta programs. Monthly records reviews occur to evaluate individual service provision, as well as overall program compliance. Corrective action or improvement plans are established by program teams to determine and plan the most effective approach to address the deficiency. Compliance is assessed for all aspects of services and care across the HIV continuum to ensure total continuous quality improvement.

Key Performance Indicators	Jan-Jun 2017	2017 Goal	2015 Actual
Patients served through the clinics (Midtown and Newnan Combined)	2028	2100	740*
Patients achieving viral suppression who receive care through the clinics	74%	90%	51%
Individuals tested for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)	4,559	13,000	7,061
Individuals tested for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)	3,102	5,000	2,564
Case Management Clients	1,530	1,425	1,457
Individuals Enrolled in PrEP. (<i>PrEP</i> means Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, and it is the use of anti-HIV medication that keeps HIV negative people from becoming infected.)	76	51	NDA**
Community members receiving information about PrEP treatment	126	500	NDA**
Encounters (calls/emails/visits) for the GA HIV and STI Infoline	6,720	15,000	11,976

NDA* = No data Available from Newnan.

NDA** = No Data Available as program did not exist in 2015

Other Noteworthy Impact

- 100% of individuals testing positive are offered medical treatment when their results are given. Appointments are scheduled within 72-hours of diagnosis. 74% of these individuals accept the offer of treatment.
- 79% of HIV+ patients remain in care 6-months after initial medical appointment.