

AIDS ACTION COUNCIL PRAISES \$585 MILLION INCREASE IN AIDS FUNDING

AIDS Action Council, the Washington representative of the community based response to AIDS, praised President Clinton's FY 1994 AIDS budget as representing a "sea change in Presidential leadership."

The budget released on April 8th contains over a half billion dollars in increases for HIV-related research, prevention and health care services. Overall, the President's proposals represent a 28 percent increase over this year's funding levels with substantial increases proposed for AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health and the Ryan White CARE Act.

"These funding proposals for HIV-related research and care demonstrate the President's commitment to fulfill his campaign promise to make a significant response to the HIV epidemic a national priority," said Christine Lubinski, AIDS Action Council deputy executive director for programs. "While these funding levels are still inadequate in light of the overwhelming need, they do represent unprecedented increases in funding for care and vigorous Presidential leadership in moving the AIDS research agenda forward," Lubinski said.

The \$227 million, 18 percent increase proposed for NIH AIDS-related research is offered in the context of Presidential proposals for NIH overall that represent increases of only 3.2 percent. "The NIH AIDS proposal is the largest presidentially initiated

increase since the beginning of the epidemic. Our only regret is that all of behavioral and biomedical research did not get similar increases, Lubinski said.

The 1994 budget request for the Ryan White Care Act — an astounding 89 percent increase over current funding — assumes the enactment of the President's economic stimulus package and it's \$200 million in emergency funding for Ryan White to be made available this fiscal year. This funding level meets the President's commitment to fund the Ryan White program at it's original authorization level. "White House and Senate members are home in their districts for the holiday recess and upon their return, AIDS Action Council and it's community-based organizational members across the nation, will make enactment of the economic stimulus package with the HIV care funding intact a major organizational priority," stated Lubinski.

HIV-related prevention activities, administered by the Centers for Disease Control, are slated for only a modest increase of \$45 million over current funding. "Absent a vaccine, comprehensive, targeted prevention offers the greatest promise for reducing further HIV transmission," Lubinski stated. "While we had hoped for a more significant federal commitment to HIV-related prevention in the President's budget, we look forward to working with the Administration to ensure that the funds

which are available are utilized in ways which will make a difference to those individuals at high-risk for contracting HIV."

Treatment and prevention programs funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration receive only minimal increases. "Given the direct relationship between the expanding HIV epidemic and substance abuse, this is a critical deficit in our nation's effort to stop the spread of AIDS," Lubinski said.

"We are also disappointed that the only housing program specifically designed to address the needs of HIV-infected individuals, the AIDS Housing Opportunities Act, has been slated for an increase of only \$2.7 million, leaving it well below it's authorized level of \$156 million," said Lubinski.

"Nevertheless, the Clinton federal AIDS budget represents a sea change in Presidential leadership on this urgent public health issue and we look forward to working closely with the Administration and Congress to see the funding increases reflected in Clinton budget enacted

HEALTH

BAKER PARK HOLDS FINAL SPRING CPR WORKSHOP

The Baker Park Community School, 1100 E. St. Louis Ave., hosts their third and final CPR workshop for the spring session, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 12. The seminar is designed for those 14 and older. Taught by CPR Plus, the workshop will cost \$11, which includes testing for certification. Registration continues through the day of the seminar. This program is sponsored by the City of Las Vegas. Call 733-6599.

HEALTH WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

AFRICAN AMERICANS SUFFER HIGHER LUNG CANCER RATE

Lung cancer is the United State's leading cause of cancer deaths, but African Americans, especially men, are more likely to get the disease and die from it than whites, says a recent study from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. The study, which focused on lung cancer survival rates, suggests that the reasons for this difference are social and environmental, not biological.

Dr. Mary Graham, lead author of the study, studied 1701 patients who had been diagnosed with inoperable, non-small cell lung cancer. She discovered that "when African American males and white males received the same level and qual-

ity of medical care, the racial gap in survival for lung cancer was not apparent." In the general population, however, African American men have a 45% higher death rate from the disease. Dr. Graham says that her research suggests poor diet, occupational exposure to hazards such as asbestos, smoking, alcohol consumption, and insufficient access to health education and care as reasons for the differences in survival among those in the study and the general population.

For more information call: Juli Leistner, Washington Univ. School of Medicine, 314-362-8255.

GOOD NEWS IN MINORITY MEDICAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT DATA

The Association of American Medical Colleges reports that medical school enrollment among African Americans, Mexican Americans, mainland Puerto Ricans, and Native Americans entering the nation's medical schools has reached an all time high of 1,827 for 1993. This amounts to a gain of 15.3% over the 1991-92 school year the largest year-to-year increase on record. For more information call: The Association of American Medical Colleges, Div. of Minority Health, Education, and Prevention at 202-928-0584.

HEALTH BRIEFS

AAAS OPENS FORUM FOR MINORITY SCIENTISTS & STUDENTS

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has announced an electronic network and newsletter that will serve as a forum for minority scientists to share information about their research, conferences, educational opportunities (at the college level), and discussions of values and ethical issues in science and technology. The same information will be carried by both the newsletter and electronic service.

By computer: the service will be available on Internet. To receive the newsletter call or write to: Paul Higgins, Directorate for Science and Policy Programs, AAAS, 1333 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, 202/326-6798.

The Clark County Health District is searching for persons who are able to serve as loving and supportive friends of patients and families experiencing terminal illness. These persons will serve as volunteers in the Health District Hospice Program. Thirty (30) hours of training are provided for volunteers at the Clark County Health District. Additional training in special areas is also available. An application and personal interview are required prior to training.

If you think you can fill this very special calling, contact Edie Blanchard, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, Clark County Health District, 625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas - 383-1341.

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