

# BEBASHI

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**Rashidah Lorraine Hassan**  
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer

April 20, 1991



Dr. William Robinson  
Office Of Minority Health  
Room 118-F, HHH Building  
200 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Robinson:

I am writing this letter at the direction of Georgia Buggs. Ms. Buggs felt that a direct appeal to you might bring about some positive results.

As I'm sure you are aware BEBASHI is one of the largest HIV Prevention Education Projects to African American in the country. Last year our prevention/education projects provided HIV/STD prevention education to over sixty one thousands (61,000) African Americans in Philadelphia through a variety of community, religious, public, private, and civic organizations and programs. In addition our CDC funded Technical Assistance Program and CPS provided over fifty (50) organizations with technical assistance in program development, needs assessment, board development, grant writing, and fiscal management, in Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and other parts of Pennsylvania.

Each year BEBASHI host a conference focused on the common needs of those agencies in our T.A. program and of agencies and programs requesting assistance outside of that area.

Last year conference was a success drawing over two hundred (200) participants from over fifteen (15) states as far away as California.

As you know there have been numerous personal and department changes in PHS affecting minority HIV programs most noticeable is William Jenkins move from Director for the N.M.O. HIV Programs which we are a part of. William has been an advocate for not only us individually, but all the N.M.O. Programs and the minority HIV initiative.

In planning this years conference we were told in May 1990 to apply to the CDC for conference support by our grant officer. Our request was denied and we asked for written documentation why. When we received the notice of our strengths and weaknesses, we had some questions about them. At that time we received our request and were told to resubmit it, and that the NMO program staff at CDC would support us in the resubmission process.

We were given the impression that this support was forthcoming and begin planning as such. We secured additional funding from local corporations and a variety of in kind donations. We assembled a good conference program, secured speakers, and made arrangements to support some smaller CBO's in coming.

This past Friday, I was told that CDC was not going to provide us any support and that request should have went through there conference support program.

We were not direct to pursue that nor did we know we were eligible for those funds when beginning to plan this conference.

At present we have one hundred (100) participant from ten (10) states registered with an additional one hundred (100) one (1) day registrations. Even with the other support we have secured we will not be able to host this conference without a significant loss to the agency.

With the City of Philadelphia budget crisis and the limit in federal/state/local prevention education dollars this would be a catastrophic lost to us.

We are asking if there is anyway possible for us to receive an emergency allocation of twenty thousand (\$20,000.00) dollars as general conference support.

I do understand that this request is unusual but I ask that you recognize the important role that BEBASHI has played in this epidemic since 1984.

I have enclosed the CDC request for funds we submitted, also the conference program for this year and brochures.

If there is additional information you will need please call and we can fax that you.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Curtis W. Wadlington  
Executive Assistant  
Chief Executive Officer



## REMINDER

BEBASHI's  
"BECAUSE WE CARE..."  
1991

April 29 - May 3, 1991  
Sheraton Society Hill  
1 Dock Street  
Philadelphia, PA

Single Day Registration Available: \$35.00 per day

Choose from a variety of workshops designed to help community based organizations prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in a series of practical approaches, and enhance management and administration of those programs.

### Conference Highlights

Monday, April 29, 1991  
Men and Substance Abusers  
Grantwriting Skills

Tuesday, April 30, 1991  
Adolescents and Community Education  
Developing Funding Sources

Wednesday, May 1, 1991  
Service Provision (Case Management, Support Groups,  
Counseling and Testing, and Volunteer Recruitment and Retention)  
Board Development

Thursday, May 2, 1991  
Women and HIV  
Financial Management

### PLENARY SPEAKERS

Jacob Gayle, Jr., Ph.D.  
Special Assistant for Minority HIV Policy Coordination  
Centers for Disease Control

Sandra McDonald  
Outreach, Inc.  
Atlanta, GA

Grace Gaskin  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO REGISTER CALL  
SANDRA THOMPSON

546-4140