

# The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention Overview of Services and Programs

GAY MEN OF COLOR



The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention was launched in 1988 to advocate for and provide HIV programs and services by and for gay and bisexual men of color. The organization now provides an array of training, technical assistance, research, treatment advocacy, client care and prevention education services which encompass and encourage the involvement of all communities in the creation of appropriate programs and services.

At NTFAP's inception, African American, Asian, native American and Latino gay and bisexual men were contracting AIDS at an alarming rate, scores of men had died or were dying, yet there were few—if any—services dedicated to serve these communities. This problem was rampant in cities and municipalities across the nation. Private and government funding initiatives tended to assume that either than indigenous heterosexual-based organizations in racial/ethnic specific communities, or worse, that gay and bisexual men of color did not exist.

Over the years, NTFAP has made great strides to make HIV prevention education and care services relevant to those communities at greatest risk. NTFAP was founded on the principle that the messenger is every bit as important as the message. Working with other community-based organizations around the country and advocating with health department officials and legislators at national, state and local levels, NTFAP helped to establish new program models for targeted risk reduction, health education, and treatment and research advocacy activities. In 1993, the Centers for Disease Control changed its guidelines for state and local funders to target specific communities at greatest risk, i.e., gay and bisexual men of color. This represented an important victory in stemming the spread of HIV.

The activities of the National Task Force share three primary goals:

1. To increase the capacity of disenfranchised communities to effect and maintain behavior change which reduces their risk of contracting or spreading HIV disease;
2. To empower individuals and groups within target communities with knowledge, skills and attitudes which increase self-efficacy around HIV prevention behaviors;
3. To establish and reinforce community norms and values which support and reinforce HIV risk reduction behaviors and care for all those infected and affected by HIV.

*NTFAP has provided essential services, technical assistance and training to more than 22,000 individuals and 150 organizations. There are 45 staff members and the yearly budget is \$3.51 million. There are four National Programs, five Local Programs and four Collaborations:*

## NATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Training and Technical Assistance
- Advocacy and Public Policy
- Research and Evaluation
- Resource Development

## LOCAL PROGRAMS

- The Brothers Network
- Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida
- Native American AIDS Project
- HOPES Prevention Case Management
- Educational Models for Community Change

## COLLABORATIONS

- Communities of Color United Against AIDS
- El Ambiente
- Gay Men of Color AIDS Consortium
- African American HIV Service Providers