

Dear Patient Care Coordinator,

According to statistics released recently by the Minnesota Department of Health, 280 confirmed new cases of HIV were reported in Minnesota during 2011. The Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP), the leading source for HIV information and services in Minnesota, believes that this data underscores its view that the need for HIV prevention and education is at a critical point if we are to stop the increase in new cases.

Because the number of Minnesotans living with HIV continues to rise, given a greater percentage of the population is living with the virus, there is an urgent need to ensure that current information about remaining safe is available to all who may be sexually active, especially those in high—risk communities. It is also equally as important that we get information about medical care and supportive services to those living with HIV so they can maintain their health and reduce their risk of transmitting HIV.

The MAP AIDSLine is a phone, text and Web-based service that provides information about HIV prevention and referrals to services for people living with HIV in Minnesota. Community Educators and Care Linkage Specialists through the AIDSLine can assist both your staff and your patients with questions that arise regarding HIV and related services. We are asking for your help in raising awareness about this valuable public health service and the new option for connecting to us and asking questions through our text messaging service.

Enclosed are multiple tools that can help you spread the word about the MAP AIDSLine. These tools can be distributed to your staff and patients/clients as appropriate. We encourage you to consider stocking these items in your patient care rooms or waiting rooms. We have enclosed a sampling of our promotional tools, for free additional copies to distribute, please contact us and we will be happy to send more. We also provide community education services including presentations and trainings for atrisk individuals and the professionals that serve them.

With your organization's help, the Minnesota AIDS Project will be one step closer in fulfilling its mission of a world free of AIDS, to enhancing the lives of people living with HIV, providing prevention education for those at risk, and advocating for the rights of all affected.

Please fill free to contact the MAP AIDSLine with further questions or for additional supplies at (612) 373-2437 or (800) 248-2437.

Sincerely,

Minnesota AIDS Project AIDSLine



Founded in 1983 as a statewide nonprofit agency, the Minnesota AIDS Project envisions a world free of AIDS. Our mission is to lead Minnesota's fight to stop HIV through prevention, advocacy, awareness and services.

## Minnesota AIDS Project Programs and Services

AIDSLine: Provides information about HIV and referrals to HIV related services in Minnesota through phone and web-based services. Provides basic information on HIV and information about and referrals to prevention, testing, and services. Available for people with HIV, friends, partners, families, service providers and others wanting information about HIV or resources. Telephone interpretation services available in many languages. Serves as a drop-off site to donate HIV medications.

**Benefits Counseling:** Provides information and advocacy related to public and private health insurance, disability benefits and income assistance programs. Reviews impact on benefits resulting from leaving or starting the work force. Service providers can contact the Benefits Counselor for assistance with client issues.

HIV Case Management: Assists individuals in accessing programs and resources including health insurance, medical care and financial assistance in order to maintain health and meet basic living needs. Case management is provided to eligible residents of the Twin Cities metro area, and those living in and around Duluth.

**Chemical Health Services:** Provides Rule 25 assessments, linkage to services, aftercare support, advocacy to those living with HIV and consultation for providers. Can assist in looking for treatment, and community support or harm reduction skills.

CLEAR (Choosing Life: Empowerment! Action! Results!): Assists HIV positive or negative young gay/bi men in taking charge of their lives, being proactive, setting goals, learning how to reduce HIV and STI risks and protecting their health. CLEAR counselors work with participants during weekly individual counseling sessions.

Every Penny Counts Emergency Financial Assistance (EPCEA): Provides financial assistance for rent, mortgage (Greater MN only), utilities, medical care, health insurance premiums and food to eligible HIV-positive individuals.

HIV Education and Instructor Training: Provides HIV education and speakers for the community. Offers HIV Instructor Training certification; Upon completion, individuals are eligible to be volunteer HIV educators. Also offers a one-day HIV Professional Development Course and shorter HIV Institutes that highlight HIV-related topics of interest to HIV educators, public health and social service professionals and college students.

**HIV Testing:** Provides risk assessment to assist individuals in evaluating the need for HIV testing. Free rapid HIV testing is provided through the IDU Outreach program and PrideAlive at various sites. Check PrideAlive's website for more information. Testing is also provided by appointment at MAP. Contact the MAP AIDSLine to schedule an appointment or to find other free or low-cost testing sites throughout MN.

**Housing Services:** Assists individuals and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to obtain and maintain safe, affordable housing. Provides help finding housing, education on tenants' rights and responsibilities and short-term rental assistance. Must be referred by an HIV case manager.

**IDU Outreach:** Provides access to clean syringes, disposal of used syringes, promotes awareness and use of pharmacies for purchase of clean syringes, connects individuals living with HIV to medical care and services, facilitates the Crystal Tuesday support group for gay/ bi men who use crystal meth, and provides HIV risk assessments and testing. Focuses on risk reduction strategies to prevent HIV and hepatitis C infections among injection drug users and their partners as well as others at risk of HIV infection due to drug use.

**Legal Services:** Assists with HIV-related legal matters including public benefits denial, estate planning, estate planning for parents with minor children, housing and employment discrimination, workplace accommodation, debt and credit resolution, confidentiality and immigration. Staff and volunteer attorneys available for consultation and/or representation.

**Positive Link:** Fosters a community of gay/bi men who are living with HIV. Works to create and sustain a healthy community through social interaction and health education. Provides social and education events in safe and supportive environments.

**PrideAlive:** Fosters a community of gay/bi men working to create and sustain a healthy community through health education and social interaction. Provides HIV risk assessment and testing, health education activities, and training for volunteers. Provides outreach to gay/bi men at high risk for HIV infection, offering risk reduction education and supplies, health-promoting social events, and an opportunity to join in building community.

**Public Policy:** Advances policy priorities that help prevent new HIV infections and keep people living with HIV healthy. The program works in four main areas: community organizing: building an educated and mobilized network of advocates; Legislative advocacy: advancing a legislative agenda that forwards proactive legislative policy and protects existing rights and service levels; Coalitions and partnerships: positioning MAP as a policy leader in the HIV community and on related policy/advocacy coalitions; and Media advocacy: conveying clear, consistent messages and ensuring an accurate representation of HIV policy issues through the media.

**Quick Connect:** Provides short-term, face-to-face assistance to persons living with HIV. Ideal for individuals who are newly diagnosed, new to Minnesota, or who are not currently receiving care. Provides information on services available in the community and helps people connect to HIV medical care and case management as well as other needed programs.

SHIELD (Self-Help in Eliminating Life-threatening Diseases): Provides peer educator training for young gay/bi men who are current or former drug users. Building on participant's existing knowledge of HIV, SHIELD develops communication skills needed to educate others on HIV prevention to foster safer and healthier lifestyles.

**Transportation Services:** Provides transportation to medical care for people with HIV in Twin Cities Metro through taxi and/or bus passes (also limited mileage reimbursement for people living in outlying metro counties). Includes rides to doctors, medical clinics, speech and physical therapy, pharmacy, dental, HIV case management and eye care.

For more information on MAP's programs and services, visit <u>www.mnaidsproject.org</u> or call the MAP AIDSLine at 612-373-2437 or 800-248-2437.

## The MAP AIDSLine HIV Resource Guide

2011 Edition

# This latest edition of the MAP AIDSLine HIV Resource Guide helps you find the information you need when:

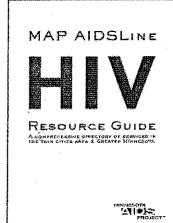
- You want to access programs that will help limit your risk of getting HIV.
- You are newly diagnosed with HIV and you want to know what services are available in Minnesota.
- You have been diagnosed for awhile, but you are just now looking for assitance, or you are needing services you did not need in that past.
- You need HIV or STD testing and need to know where to get tested.

 You are a care provider who works with people needing HIV prevention health care or social services.

#### Order your free copy

Printed guides will be available starting September 2011
Here are the ways you can order your free copy of the
MAP AIDSLine HIV Resource Guide:

- Call MAP AIDSLine at 612-373-2437 or 800-248-2437, and a MAP AIDSLine Community educator will take your order.
- Complete the order form below, and mail it to the Minnesota AIDS Project.



Please note that this guide contains resource and referral information only. It does not contain educational information about HIV disease, treatment or transmission.

You can also find a searchable version of the HIV Resource Guide on the MAP web site. Go to www.mnaidsproject.org and click on "HIV Resource Guide".

Return this completed form to MAP, 1400 Park Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404

Name			*. * **	
Agency Name			·-	
Address		<del></del>		
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Email Address				
Number of MAP AIDSLine Resources Guides yo	u would like	<u></u>		
*Orders greater than 10 ma	y require pick-up or po	ayment of shipp	ing fees*	



# **TEACH Program**

### **Training, Education And Capacity-building for HIV!**

#### **HIV Presentations and Health Fairs**

The Minnesota AIDS Project is committed to providing up-to-date, quality educational programming to prevent the spread of HIV, reduce stigma and improve the lives of those living with HIV. TEACH utilizes trained staff and volunteers to provide HIV presentations to community groups and professional organizations. We also participate in community awareness events, such as health fairs.

#### **HIV Instructor Training**

This 2—day course prepares individuals to become community educators knowledgeable in HIV basics such as prevention, transmission, testing and HIV-related statutes and policies. Individuals will learn how to effectively communicate basic HIV messages in a sensitive, non-judgmental style using different strategies for various audiences. Minnesota AIDS Project coordinates a volunteer speakers' bureau that provides certified instructors the chance to conduct HIV education in community settings.

#### **HIV Professional Development**

This 1—day course is designed for individuals seeking an advanced training on HIV disease and information on how to provide competent and sensitive care for individuals living with HIV. Participants will be introduced to unique counseling considerations for clients living with HIV. Participants also receive training on Hepatitis C, sexually transmitted infections and information on local resources to refer clients into testing and treatment. This training is well suited for health and social service providers, professionals new to the fields of HIV/STI and Hepatitis C, students pursuing graduate degrees in social work, public health, nursing and other human service fields. This training is approved for 7 CE hours by the Minnesota board of Social Work and the Minnesota Nursing Board.

#### **HIV Institutes**

HIV Institutes are 2-hour training events designed for individuals seeking to expand their knowledge on timely topics related to HIV. These trainings are geared toward professionals, educators and college students working with populations at-risk and living with HIV. Institutes are offered monthly on a variety of issues. Check out our website for future training topics! (www.mnaidsproject.org)

For more information, contact communityeducation@mnaidsproject.org.