



North Carolina Legislators Increase ADAP Funding

Asheville, NC (July 22, 2010) – Governor Perdue signed into law the North Carolina State budget on June 30, 2010, which includes a substantial increase in funds to support the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. In addition to the current funding of \$11,245,753 an additional and recurring \$14,177,632 has been added. The Western North Carolina AIDS Project applauds Governor Perdue and our supporters in the state legislature for their efforts.

For many months now, federal and state budget cuts have directly affected funding for many of the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs nationally. These programs provide free, essential, life-sustaining drugs for the uninsured, underinsured and low-income people living with HIV & AIDS. North Carolina closed its program to new enrollment early this year. At its peak, there were over 800 people on the waitlist across North Carolina. As for those in Western North Carolina, Marlene Clarke, Case Management Coordinator at WNCAP, said, “The comprehensive service coordination provided by Western North Carolina AIDS Project’s Case Managers allowed WNCAP clients to experience no interruptions in their access to HIV medications during this recent ADAP funding crisis.”

On July 14th, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced that the additional funding in the new budget immediately begins moving people off the ADAP waiting list. People at 125% of the federal poverty level are now eligible to receive their medication. ADAP expects to remain open to these clients, depending on funding availability.

People in need of HIV/AIDS medication who are at 126% - 300% of the federal poverty level and are currently not enrolled are no longer eligible for ADAP and will need to seek help from various pharmaceutical assistance programs due to the reduced formulary. Clients who are currently enrolled and have incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty level will continue to be served.

It is important to note that the new legislation offers only a temporary solution. A long-term solution would require a multi-year funding commitment to ADAP and the integration of a permanent solution into Health Care Reform. Until then the Western North Carolina Aids Project will continue to monitor the AIDS Drug Assistance Program funding and find other resources for assisting clients as needed.

WNCAP works to support all those affected by HIV and AIDS live healthy and productive lives regardless of financial status. Client service case managers assist people living with HIV and AIDS with assessing their needs and acquiring various medical, emotional, and educational support to ensure quality of life. Western North Carolina AIDS Project also works to reduce the number of new infections through its prevention education and outreach activities. For more information, please go to www.wncap.org.