

October 16, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

The National Latino AIDS Action Network (NLAAN) is proud to release the **National Latino/Hispanic HIV/AIDS Action Agenda** (the Agenda). The Agenda is an action-orientated report identifying priorities and recommendations to heighten awareness and build capacity of stakeholders to effectively address the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS in Latino/Hispanic communities. The purpose of the Agenda is to contribute to the national discourse of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States through the collective lens and voice of Latino/Hispanic communities.

NLAAN – a coalition of community-based and national organizations, state and local health departments, researchers and concerned individuals – stands committed to meeting the challenges in this new era by cultivating partnerships across sectors, racial and ethnic communities, issue areas, and geographic borders to effectively leverage expertise and political will to achieve an AIDS-free generation for all communities, particularly Latino/Hispanic communities.

In July 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a comprehensive analysis indicating that only 80 percent of Latinos/Hispanics living with HIV are aware of their HIV positive status; of those a mere 26 percent have the virus under control. These estimates serve as a clear call for stakeholders to take measurable actions in addressing the continuum of care from diagnosis to viral suppression.

The release of the Agenda follows the tenth annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD), a national community mobilization campaign that was established in 2003. While honoring the important of awareness days, the spirit of our release date is to ensure that the discussions and work to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Latino/Hispanic communities is incorporated into our daily conversations, programming and policy initiatives. **Every day is an awareness day.**

The Agenda is the result of a yearlong, multi-faceted process that included two national forums with over two hundred HIV/AIDS leaders, a web-based national community assessment with over 400 respondents from 40 states and Puerto Rico, eleven roundtable discussions across the country with participants from diverse perspectives, and a thorough literature review based on recent science, policy and program efforts.

NLAAN invites public health officials, service providers, community members and other key stakeholders to use the recommendations set forth in the Agenda to develop, prioritize and measure specific action items to address the unique needs of their Latino/Hispanic communities. The Agenda intends to help communities reflect on their capabilities, increase awareness and successfully apply new perspectives to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

NLAAN is coordinating a series of citywide launches around the country that will lead up to World AIDS Day. To get involved in the citywide releases of the Agenda, please email nlaan411@gmail.com.

If you would like to become an NLAAN member and receive updates on our efforts, please complete the online membership form at the following link: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/960001/National-Latino-AIDS-Action-Network-NLAAN-Membership-Form>.

Thank you for your time and contribution in this fight. Let's ensure that the conversations and actions continue tomorrow and beyond...

Officers

Francisco Ruiz, Chair
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS
Directors (NASTAD)
Washington, District of Columbia

Evelyn Ullah, Vice-Chair
Broward County Health Department
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Victor Martinez, Secretary
BIENESTAR
Los Angeles, California

Chris Espinosa, Treasurer
Hispanic Federation
New York, New York

Britt Rios-Ellis, Past-Chair
NCLR/CSULB Center for Community Health,
Evaluation, and Leadership Training
Long Beach, California

Leadership Committee Members

Ofelia Barrios
IRIS House
New York, New York

Patricia Canessa
Salud Latina/Latino Health
Des Plaines, Illinois

Edwin Emilio Corbin-Gutierrez
Center on Halsted
Chicago, Illinois

Edwin E. Espinel
Utah Department of Health
Salt Lake City, Utah

Sergio E. M. Farfan
Louisiana Latino Health Coalition For
HIV/AIDS Awareness
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Anselmo Fonseca
Pacientes de SIDA pro Política Sana
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Elicia Gonzales
Gay and Lesbian Latino AIDS Education
Initiative (GALAEI)
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Susan Malena Gallego
Texas Department of State Health Services
Austin, Texas

Marcos Martinez
Entre Hermanos
Seattle, Washington

Juan Carlos Riascos
Abbott Laboratories
Miami, Florida

Raquel Sapien
National TransLatin@ Coalition
Joplin, Missouri

Carlos Torres
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation
Tucson, Arizona

Michael Valentin
Johnson and Johnson
Union, New Jersey

Miriam Vega
Latino Commission on AIDS
New York, New York

Richard Zaldivar
The Wall Las Memorias Project
Los Angeles, California

