



Request For Grant Applications

Black Adolescent MSM Treatment Education Initiative

Background

Recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate an increasing number of HIV/AIDS cases in black adolescent (13-24 years) men who have sex with men (MSM).¹ The areas with the highest prevalence are the South, including Washington DC, and the Northeast, with the majority of cases centered in urban areas (population >500,000).¹ Research has shown that black MSM are less likely to know their status and be on HAART, have an overall mistrust of the healthcare system, suffer from poor self-concept and self-esteem, tend to be part of fractured hard-to-reach social networks, engage in high risk sexual networks, and experience community-level stigma. There is a limited understanding of the unique needs and concerns of the black MSM community among health care provider networks, including public health departments.²⁻⁵

Funding Opportunity

In response to this emerging need, Tibotec Therapeutics is requesting grant applications to address the significant challenges facing this community at risk. Proposals are now being accepted for programs that will be implemented in early 2010. Grants will be one-year commitments up to \$25,000.

The goal of this request for grant applications is to support efforts targeting at-risk, adolescent black MSM in the following areas:

- Outreach and prevention education
- Importance of knowing one's HIV status (to encourage early diagnosis and linkage to care)
- Linkage to care and treatment for newly diagnosed individuals
- HIV treatment education

Programs must address one or more of the four categories outlined above. Funding provided by Tibotec Therapeutics is intended to support programs that are educational in nature and/or that improve access to care. Funding cannot be used to support HIV testing-related expenses (eg, test kits, lab, staffing), clinical research or hiring of new staff. Strong consideration will be given to applications from small community-based organizations and those with demonstrated cultural familiarity with the intended audience. Partnerships between health departments and other small community organizations is encouraged. Applicants are required to submit letter(s) of support from 1-2 community-based organizations familiar with the work of the applicant in this area.

Applicants should complete and submit an application describing the unmet educational need in the community, an outline of the initiative proposed to fill the educational or access gap, and the intended program outcome(s). All requests must be submitted using the application template available at www.ttgrants.com and must be emailed to TTRFGA@its.jnj.com by **October 31st, 2009**. Full program details, including submission requirements and a list of frequently asked questions are available at www.ttgrants.com.

This initiative is managed by a program committee, with representation from the HIV community, in conjunction with Tibotec Therapeutics Clinical Affairs.

Citations: www.CDC.gov¹; Millett et al. *AIDS* 2007²; Peterson and Jones. *Am J Public Health* 2009³; Wilson and Moore *Am J Public Health* 2009⁴; Hall et al. *Am J Public Health* 2007⁵

