

10 REASONS TO FUND HIV/AIDS

Over the last three years, the number of top HIV/AIDS funders has declined by nearly 30%. For that reason, FCAA has chosen to initiate a discussion within our sector entitled “Why I Fund AIDS.” We drafted 10 reasons to fund HIV/AIDS that capture the magnitude of both the need for and impact of investments made to date. It is our hope that this dialogue will help to inform the debate within philanthropy about the urgent and ongoing need to continue to address the greatest pandemic of our time.

1. **AIDS is not over, and the needs of those impacted around the globe are woefully unmet.** Globally, there are 33.3 million PLWHA. To date, only six million have access to ARVs. In 2009 there were more than 7,000 new HIV infections per day.³⁷ Women represent slightly more than half of all PLWHA worldwide. Young people (ages 15-24) account for 41% of new HIV infections (among those 15 and over).
2. **Nearly 2/3 of PLWHA in the U.S. are not in treatment.** There are 1.1 million PLWHA in the U.S.: 20% are unaware of their status, and two-thirds of those (an estimated 640,000) are either undiagnosed, not in medical care, or not receiving the HIV-specific treatment they need.
3. **HIV and AIDS impact vulnerable communities most.** Gay and bisexual men and other MSM account for 61% of new infections in the U.S. Globally, an average of only 2% of national HIV prevention budgets was dedicated to MSM in 42 low- and middle-income countries.³⁸
4. **HIV and AIDS undermine other efforts to combat poverty and social injustice.** According to UNAIDS, HIV and AIDS have a profound impact on growth, income and poverty. In countries with HIV prevalence rates >20%, GDP growth has been estimated to drop by 2.6 percentage points annually.³⁹
5. **It’s a human rights issue.** “HIV/AIDS stigma is often intertwined with the discrimination attached to being a woman, being poor, having a different sexual orientation, engaging in sex work or drug use, or being in prison. They serve as serious obstacles to effective delivery of prevention, testing, treatment and care services.” –Daniel Lee, Executive Director, Levi Strauss Foundation.⁴⁰
6. **Significant impact has been made.** For example, public and private sector support for prevention of vertical transmission has yielded an increase of ARV coverage from 15% in 2005 to 53% in 2009 among pregnant women living with HIV in low- and middle-income countries.⁴¹
7. **AIDS investments are paving the way for other health issues.** In September 2011, the Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon public-private partnership launched to fight cervical and breast cancer in developing countries, especially among women living with HIV/AIDS. PEPFAR-funded AIDS clinics in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America will offer cancer screenings and treatment.
8. **HIV/AIDS has redefined community involvement.** As just one example, the HIV/AIDS advocacy movement transformed the medical research and regulatory systems through patient-designed clinical trials and early access programs.⁴²
9. **Private funders are advancing the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS).** In July 2010, AIDS United was awarded a multi-million dollar grant from the Social Innovation Fund to further expand the scope of its Access to Care (A2C) initiative. A2C supports the “Increasing Access to Care Pillar” of the NHAS in its focus to improve individual health outcomes and strengthen local services systems for PLWHA, representing one of the “most significant public and private sector investments currently being deployed to advance the NHAS.”⁴³
10. **After 30 years there is new optimism that, together, we can end AIDS.** Recent scientific and treatment advances – including in HIV cure research, oral PrEP, microbicides, male circumcision and treatment as prevention – offer new hope for PLWHA.

37 The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. *Fact Sheet: The Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic*. December 2010. Available at: www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/3030-15.pdf

38 Global Forum on MSM & HIV. *An Analysis of Major HIV Donor Investments Targeting Men Who Have Sex with Men and Transgender People in Low- and Middle-Income Countries*. August 2011. Available at: www.msmsgf.org/files/msmgf/Publications/GlobalFinancingAnalysis.pdf

39 Funders Concerned About AIDS. *Corporate Update*. September 2003. Available at: www.fcaaid.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Public/AIYB_Update_903.pdf

40 Funders Concerned About AIDS. *10 Minutes with...* Available at: www.fcaaid.org/OurWork/Impact/10MinutesWith/tabid/185/Default.aspx

41 UNICEF. *Childinfo* website. September 2010. Available at: www.childinfo.org/hiv_aids_mother_to_child.html

42 FasterCures and HCM Strategists. *Back to Basics: HIV/AIDS Advocacy as a model for catalyzing change*. June 2011. Available at: www.fastercures.org/index.cfm/Publications/HIVAIDS_Advocacy:_A_Model_for_Catalyzing_Change

43 AIDS United website. “Aids United Mobilizes Private Sector Investment to Advance National HIV/AIDS Strategy.” September 2011. Available at: www.aidsunited.org/news/aids-united-mobilizes-private-sector-investment-to-advance-national-hiv-aids