



LINCC™: Linking In-Need Communities to Care

Background

Current estimates suggest that approximately 30% of individuals in the US diagnosed with HIV are not currently receiving treatment. Earlier access to care and treatment has been shown to prolong life, improve health outcomes, and potentially prevent new infections. Specifically, late presentation to care has been associated with higher mortality and diminished recovery of CD4 cells. A myriad of personal, societal and structural barriers impede access to and retention in care, particularly for disadvantaged populations. Findings from the GRACE (Gender Race and Clinical Experience) study, presented in 2009, suggest that women, and women of color in particular, are more likely to discontinue care than men.

Funding Opportunity

In response to this significant unmet need, Tibotec Therapeutics is requesting proposals to address common barriers that prevent HIV-positive individuals from accessing and remaining in care. Any 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization with a focus and experience in HIV is eligible to apply. Proposed programs should commence no sooner than December 2010. Awards will be one-year commitments up to \$40,000. Programs should target communities in need and address one or more of the following documented barriers to care and treatment:

- Fear of medication side effects; lack of understanding of benefits of treatment
- Stigma, isolation and fear of disclosure
- Lack of information; lack of awareness of resources; low health literacy
- Denial; lack of symptoms
- Substance use or mental health barriers
- Lack of personal support structure(s) or psychosocial support services

Half of the funding for this initiative will be allocated to programs focusing on women.

Funding is intended to support programs that are educational in nature and/or that improve access to care. Funding cannot be used for the following: HIV testing (i.e. testing supplies or staff time), clinical research, hiring of staff, client incentives, or client basic needs (transportation, housing, and childcare). Strong consideration will be given to applications from small community-based organizations. Partnership with local health departments, community health centers, and other community-based organizations is encouraged. Applicants are required to submit letter(s) of support from 1-2 organizations familiar with the work of the applicant in this area.

All requests must be submitted using the application template available at www.ttgrants.com, and must be emailed to TTRFGA@its.jnj.com by **September 30, 2010**. Additional details, including submission requirements and a list of frequently asked questions, are available at www.ttgrants.com.