



**Press Release  
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**State ADAPs Brace for 1,500 Clients Losing Medication Access;  
Waiting List Initiative Set to Expire Next Month**

Washington, D.C. – The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) has released its latest *ADAP Watch*, a listing of AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) that have implemented, or anticipate implementing, cost containment strategies due to insufficient federal and state funding (see attached NASTAD *ADAP Watch* for details). These strategies, which ADAPs have been forced to adopt to maximize program resources and maintain fiscal viability, have a significant impact on client access to life-saving medications.

As of July 18, 2005, a total of 1,922 individuals were on ADAP waiting lists in nine states. Of those, 1,487 currently receive medications through a special program announced by President Bush in June 2004, which is scheduled to expire in September 2005. The remaining 435 individuals on waiting lists are not covered under the President's ADAP Initiative (PAI). The initiative, administered separately from ADAPs through a contract with BioScrip, Inc., provided \$20 million in immediate and one-time funding for medications for people on ADAP waiting lists in 10 states (registered as of June 21, 2004). On July 15, 2005, BioScrip closed enrollment in the PAI after FY2005 funding for ADAP did not include resources for the program's continuation. As a result, states are investigating various strategies to ensure that PAI clients maintain access to their medications once the program expires next month. States include these clients on their ADAP waiting lists, and most do not have the capacity to transition them into their ADAPs when the program expires unless new resources are made available.

“Now that states have been notified of the initiative's discontinuation, they are scrambling to identify viable strategies to ensure continuous access to treatment for these clients,” stated Julie Scofield, NASTAD's Executive Director. “Without additional funding, states will not be able to incorporate these new patients into their ADAPs, and hundreds of people may face losing their medications,” she warned.

In addition to waiting lists, which are only one indicator of fiscally constrained ADAPs, many states have instituted other cost-containment strategies that limit access to HIV medications for low-income Americans. Since April 2004, 12 ADAPs have initiated other cost-containment strategies, including capped enrollment, limited formularies, lower financial eligibility criteria, annual expenditure caps, cost-sharing, and waiting lists for specific medications. Only one of these states currently receives assistance through the PAI (Alabama). Nine states anticipate the need to implement new or additional cost-containment measures during the 2005 ADAP fiscal year, which ends March 31, 2006.

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ADAPs provide HIV treatments to low income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals living with HIV/AIDS in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, three U.S. Pacific territories (Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa) and one Associated Jurisdiction (the Republic of the Marshall Islands). Each year, approximately 135,000 individuals receive services from ADAPs, representing about 30% of those estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS and receiving care in the U.S. ADAPs are a discretionary grant program funded through the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. Because ADAPs are not entitlement programs, funding levels are not based on the number of people requiring prescription drugs or on the cost of medications. In addition to federal funding, many ADAPs may also receive state general revenue support and other funding, but these other sources are highly variable and dependent on local decisions and resource availability.

Founded in 1992, NASTAD is a nonprofit national association of state health department HIV/AIDS program directors who have programmatic responsibility for administering HIV/AIDS health care, prevention, education, and supportive services programs funded by state and federal governments. NASTAD's mission is to strengthen state and territory-based leadership, expertise, and advocacy and bring them to bear in reducing the incidence of HIV infection, and in providing care and support to all who live with HIV/AIDS. NASTAD's vision is a world free of HIV/AIDS. For more information, visit [www.NASTAD.org](http://www.NASTAD.org).