



ADAP Advocacy Association

aaa+

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ADAP Advocacy Association Cautions ADAP Waiting Lists only “Tip-of-the-Iceberg”; Increasing Number of HIV/AIDS Patients being Kicked-Off Programs as States Change Eligibility Criteria

Florida Latest State to Disenroll Nearly 350 Patients

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 16, 2010) – The [ADAP Advocacy Association](http://www.adapadvocacyassociation.org), also known as **aaa+**, today cautioned that the growing waiting lists under the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (“ADAPs”) are only the “tip-of-the-iceberg” as thousands more are being adversely impacted by other cost containment strategies.

“ADAP waiting lists concern all of us, but there is so much more to the ongoing ADAP crisis,” summarized **Brandon M. Macsata**, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “Unless something is done to adequately address the systemic federal funding shortfalls of the program, more and more people will be forced out of care, thus putting thousands of lives at risk for infection, health problems and even death.”

Several states have changed their program eligibility over the last year, thereby making clients who would have otherwise been eligible to receive services no longer eligible for ADAP. Arkansas reduced its financial eligibility to 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL), North Dakota reduced its financial eligibility to 300% FPL, Ohio reduced its financial eligibility to 300% FPL, South Carolina lowered its financial eligibility to 300% FPL and Utah reduced its financial eligibility to 250% FPL. With these changes, many people living with HIV/AIDS could be forced to choose between basic necessities and their anti-retroviral medications.

Beginning in February 2011, nearly 350 current recipients enrolled in Florida’s AIDS Drug Assistance Program will no longer be able to obtain their medication because the program is facing a \$16 million shortfall. With 2,306 people living with HIV/AIDS already waiting to access their life-saving medications, Florida has the largest ADAP patient waiting list in the country – and it is showing no sign of slowing down.

Additionally, Ohio has already disenrolled 257 clients and Utah has disenrolled 89 clients; these are only the numbers that have been publically reported and could actually be considerably higher. Also, states have exercised other cost containment measures which are putting patient health at risk – including reduced drug formularies, instituted monthly expenditure caps, instituted annual expenditure caps, implemented medical criteria, discontinued reimbursement of laboratory assays, instituted client cost-sharing, and capped enrollment. In California, people living with HIV/AIDS who are incarcerated in city and county jails lost their ADAP coverage as of July 1, 2010 as a result of the Governor's January 2010 budget proposal.

To learn more about the ADAP waiting lists or the ADAP Advocacy Association, please contact Brandon M. Macsata by phone at (305) 519-4256 or email at info@adapadvocacyassociation.org.

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