

ADAP Advocacy Association PO Box 15275 Washington, DC 20003

adapadvocacy.org

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## ADAP Advocacy Association Launches AIDS Drug Assistance Program Advisory Council

Consumer-led effort will promote greater input by ADAP clients

For Immediate Release: February 7, 2019 Media Contact: info@adapadvocacy.org

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The ADAP Advocacy Association today launched its AIDS Drug Assistance Program Advisory Council, which will solicit consumer input on improving access to timely, appropriate care and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS under the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP). In continuing the organization's strong commitment to patient-centric advocacy, each will include ADAP clients to ensure "*that the voice of persons living with HIV/AIDS shall always be at the table and the center of the discussion*."

"In light of the current political environment this consumer-led effort seeks to leverage the experience and knowledge of the people who rely on ADAP: *the clients themselves*," summarized Brandon M. Macsata, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. "The ADAP Advisory Council will advise the ADAP Advocacy Association and its Board of Directors using a bottom-up approach."

Robert Skinner, President & CEO of the Valley AIDS Information Network in Corvallis, Oregon, will chair the ADAP Advisory Council. Bob leads HIV/AIDS advocacy, education, and mentorship activities in Oregon, where his organization reached over 3,000 individuals last year alone. Bob is also the past recipient of the Community Access National Network's prestigious Gary R. Rose Advocacy Scholarship.

Two advocates – LaWanda Wilkerson from Henderson, North Carolina, and Noel Chavez-Guizar from Denver, Colorado – will serve as co-vice chairs of the ADAP Advisory Council.

Advocates interested in submitting an application should do so online at <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3CD98ZX</u>.

To learn more about the ADAP Advisory Council, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, or the ADAP Advocacy Association, please email info@adapadvocacy.org.

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About the ADAP Advocacy Association: The ADAP Advocacy Association mission is to promote and enhance the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and improves access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. aaa+<sup>®</sup> works with advocates, community, health care, government, patients, pharmaceutical companies and other stakeholders to raise awareness, offer patient educational programs, and foster greater community collaboration.