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adapadvocacy.org

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ADAP Advocacy Association Urges the Health Resources & Services Administration to Improve Eligibility Recertification Process

Covid-19 dictates annual recertification rather than every six months

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The ADAP Advocacy Association today called on the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) and State AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) to reduce existing barriers to care by moving to annual program recertification. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has further yielded the existing six-month recertification policy requirement obsolete. Both patients and providers characterize it as overly burdensome.

We've long-known that process burden is a barrier to care for ADAP clients," said Brandon M. Macsata, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. "Streamlining the recertification process will help case managers and providers focus first and foremost on what's most important: *clients and their care.*"

According to HRSA, ADAP client eligibility is determined by the state and territory and includes financial and medical eligibility criteria – including clients must provide proof of current state residency, and client eligibility is conducted every six months. State ADAPs must meet HRSA's minimum requirements for recertification.

Theresa Nowlin, who is enrolled in the Massachusetts HIV Drug Assistance Program, agrees the change is needed. "I'd feel far less stress if I didn't have to go through the eligibility process with all of its paperwork every six months, but it also takes time away from my doctor discussing my health."

In supporting the policy change, Dr. David Malebranche summarized, "It makes my job difficult because often patients are given time with me that is sucked up by them having to see the benefits counselor, which throws a wrench in the entire clinic schedule and puts everything behind. It's bad for patient care and causes staff and provider burnout."

An analysis of the State ADAP recertification process is available online at <https://tinyurl.com/ctf5t696>.

To learn more about the ADAP Advocacy Association, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, or ADAP recertification, 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+**[®] 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.