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adapadvocacy.org

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ADAP Advocacy Association Urges D.C. Mayor to Distribute Covid-19 Funding to Nonprofit Addiction Treatment & Mental Health Providers

One of the District's longest-serving, non-profit residential substance use treatment programs in danger of closing

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The ADAP Advocacy Association [joined twenty-seven organizations](#) urging the District of Columbia's Mayor Muriel Bowser to direct the Department of Behavioral Health to immediately allocate and release the \$17.9 million awarded via federal Covid-19 response laws – including the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan. Both laws were passed as emergency measures targeted at addressing the *immediate* financial impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, with an obvious intent to provide “bridge” funding to entities already providing critically necessary services to the District of Columbia.

“If we don't have our emergency funds, our ‘stimulus check’, the oldest continuing residential treatment service provider in the District of Columbia will close. More than 1000 residents per year will lose critical access to care and another 80 people will join the rolls of unemployment. And that's just us. We're not the only provider facing these grave decisions,” Michael Pickering, executive director for the Regional Addiction Prevention told the *Washington Post* earlier this year on May 29th.

Regional Addiction Prevention's dire situation is a public health emergency. The intersection between the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and an increase in addiction rates has been well-documented, not to mention the impact on HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections. This is especially true for the District of Columbia.

Summarized Brandon M. Macsata, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association: “The need for these services is near unprecedented elsewhere in the country, with D.C. reporting the highest rate of new HIV diagnoses of any state or territory and more than 15,000 chronic Hepatitis C infections in 2019 alone, the residents these providers serve are in dire need of immediate action.”

To learn more about the ADAP Advocacy Association, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, or Coronavirus' impact on people living with HIV/AIDS, 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.