From: AIDS Funding Collaborative and The Center for Community Solutions
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RTA Outreach Event Encourages HIV Testing for All

(Cleveland, OH) Thousands of Greater Clevelanders will be touched by a local event this month to raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing and to encourage participation in National HIV Testing Day (Sunday, June 27).

On **Wednesday, June 23**, volunteers at RTA Rapid stations will distribute information on where to find a **free HIV test** in Cleveland, including **five special community testing events later that week**. Volunteers will be at the following RTA stations on the 23rd from 3:30–6 p.m.:

Brook Park
Cedar/University
Shaker Square
Tower City – Public Square
Triskett
Warrensville/Van Aken
West 25th – Ohio City
West 117th – Madison
West Blvd. – Cudell
Windermere

National HIV Testing Day is a public education campaign to raise awareness of and reduce stigma around HIV testing. "These events are an excellent opportunity to raise awareness for HIV testing and our wonderful local resources," said Laureen Tews Harbert, AFC director.

In Ohio there are over 15,000 people with HIV or AIDS, and many of them call Cuyahoga County home. "It is estimated that an additional 25 percent of Americans who are HIV positive are unaware of their status. This campaign is a reminder that we should all be tested," added David Merriman, AFC Chair and Project Coordinator in the Office of HIV Services at the Cleveland Department of Public Health.

Between 5,000 and 7,000 people are reached each year at the outreach event, coordinated since 2006 by the AFC. For information about other activities related to National Testing Day, HIV and/or testing, contact Tammie Jones at the Cleveland Department of Public Health at (216) 420-8641. For information about the AFC, visit www.AIDSFundingCollaborative.org.

The AIDS Funding Collaborative (AFC) strengthens the community's response to HIV/AIDS as a public/private partnership providing coordination, leadership, and funding in Greater Cleveland. The AFC is located within the offices of The Center for Community Solutions, which provides fiscal and administrative oversight.