



From: AIDS Funding Collaborative and Care Alliance Health Center

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New Mental Health Program for HIV-Positive Inmates Receives National Funding

(Cleveland, OH) **Care Alliance Health Center** has received a \$53,000 grant from the **National AIDS Fund** to address the mental health and substance abuse needs of **HIV-positive inmates incarcerated at the Cuyahoga County Corrections Center**. The grant was one of three awarded nationwide as part of the National AIDS Fund's Community Re-Integration special initiative. The National AIDS Fund in partnership with Bristol-Myers Squibb is directing a total of \$125,000 this year through this initiative, aimed at addressing the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS who are transitioning back into the community.

Care Alliance was invited to apply for this funding after the **AIDS Funding Collaborative (AFC)**, a private/public funding partnership in Greater Cleveland, submitted a letter of interest describing the proposed program and recommending funding. The AFC is a Community Partnership of the National AIDS Fund.

Care Alliance's *Enhancing Healthy Connections* program will provide individualized substance abuse and mental health counseling to HIV-positive inmates with identified needs during their incarceration. Upon release, the program will link inmates to community providers and provide brief community-based counseling to fill any gaps in service between release and entry into a community-based program.

"Many of our patients struggle with issues of mental health and chemical dependency which stand in their way of achieving housing and employment. This program gives us an opportunity to ensure that re-integration is successful," said **Francis Afram-Gyening**, CEO of Care Alliance.

"We are so pleased that our affiliation with the National AIDS Fund provided an opportunity for Care Alliance to apply for and receive this national funding," stated **Laureen Tews Harbert**, AFC's director. "Leveraging additional resources to serve the needs of our community is an important aspect of the AFC's impact in Greater Cleveland."

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. www.AIDSFundingCollaborative.org

Care Alliance provides high quality healthcare, patient advocacy, and related services to people who need them most, regardless of their ability to pay, in a manner that is cost effective and that empowers people to improve their quality of life. www.carealliance.org