



News Release

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From: AIDS Funding Collaborative (AFC) and Business Volunteers Unlimited (BVU)

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AIDS Funding Collaborative and Business Volunteers Unlimited Launch Partnership to Benefit Local Agencies Engaged in HIV/AIDS Programming

(Cleveland, OH) The **AIDS Funding Collaborative (AFC)** and **Business Volunteers Unlimited (BVU)** have launched a new project aimed at addressing organizational capacity needs of agencies that provide HIV/AIDS programming in Cuyahoga County. As a result of this collaboration, BVU will conduct needs assessments for at least 10 agencies between May and October of 2009. The goal of the assessment is to learn about the organization's critical issues, make an initial assessment of the board's effectiveness, and determine how BVU can assist in addressing the organization's needs.

After completing the needs assessment, agencies whose needs can be addressed by BVU services will be able to apply to the AFC for support for a one-year BVU membership and appropriate BVU seminars. Agencies whose assessments reveal more extensive consultancy needs or needs beyond the scope of BVU's expertise will be eligible to apply for support to address those needs through AFC's annual grantmaking cycle in November, 2009.

In describing the partnership, **LaTida Lester**, AFC's chair, said "Now more than ever, it is critically important that we invest in strengthening the organizations providing critical services in our community." In assessing community priorities last fall, the AFC identified organizational capacity building as an area of unmet need. Lester continued, "Business Volunteers Unlimited quickly emerged as an ideal partner to help us strategically address this issue."

Brian Broadbent, BVU's president & CEO, added "We value AFC's initiative in supporting this focus on capacity building and its dedication to improving the quality of services for clients."

Laureen Tews Harbert, AFC's director, and **Ann Kent**, BVU's vice president of Services to Nonprofits presented details about BVU's needs assessment process, logistics of applying to participate in the program, and information about the services available to BVU members at an informational meeting on Wednesday, April 29.

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Throughout its nearly 15-year history, the AFC has leveraged and invested nearly \$7 million to support HIV/AIDS-related services, awareness activities, and prevention efforts in the Greater Cleveland region. The AFC's funding partners are: Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County, The City of Cleveland, The Cleveland Foundation, Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners, The George Gund Foundation, Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland, and United Way of 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.

Business Volunteers Unlimited (BVU) links businesses and nonprofits to foster excellence in the nonprofit sector. In its 15-year history, BVU has matched 1,600 business professionals with nonprofit boards, has provided board development and leadership succession consulting, and referred thousands of individuals to specific volunteer needs.