

A PROGRAM PLAN TO CONDUCT
AIDS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION
TO BLACK HOMOSEXUALS AND LESBIANS

Submitted to:

The National Minority AIDS Council
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Submitted by:

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1. Introduction:

Statistics support the fact that Blacks are effected by AIDS in disproportionate numbers. Since the onset of the disease, there has been an increase rather than decrease in the number of Blacks contracting the HIV virus despite programs designed to prevent and lessen its spread. Key to this increase is the absence of AIDS and sexuality education targeting Black homosexuals and Lesbians. Most existing programs are designed either for Black IV drug users or for the at-large homosexual community, and barely touch those most at-risk in the Black community. Among Blacks with AIDS, Black homosexuals comprise the largest group.

Sexuality in the Black community is such that it escapes traditional, clear-cut definitions. There are Blacks who are Gay or Lesbian identified, but, are sometimes sexually active with persons of the opposite sex. There are Blacks who are primarily sexually active with persons of the opposite sex, but occasionally sexually active with persons of the same sex. There are Blacks who are not active in mainstream Gay and Lesbian communities and do not identify as Gay or Lesbian eventhough they engage in sexual activities with persons of the same sex exclusively. There are Black Gay and Lesbians prostitutes and IV Drug users. All of these individuals are at-risk.

Negative public opinion about homosexuality, coupled with traditional reluctance to discuss sexuality and ignorance about homosexual and Lesbian lifestyles within the Black community create barriers to the effective dissemination of AIDS information and education. This is further complicated by difficulties in identifying and accessing Black Lesbians and Gays using established outreach methods, i.e., Gay and Lesbian publications and organizations, due to the racial polarization of the at-large Gay and Lesbian communities.

Programs and projects aimed at providing AIDS education to Black Gays and Lesbians must reach beyond existing programs to initiate specialized outreach methods and must include basic sexuality education. Black Lesbians and Gays are involved in mainstream Black organizations, churches, and community groups, and form Black Gay and Lesbian social groups, organizations and clubs which are not public. Therefore, in order to reach the highest number of this target population, AIDS information/education, and sexuality education must be provided to individuals who are allowed entry into these organizations, and to individuals who provide services and minister to Black Gays and Lesbians, as well as to the identifiable Black Gay and Lesbain community.

The proposed program takes two directions. First, it will provide AIDS education to those Black Gays and Lesbians who are openly Gay and Lesbian identified and active. Secondly, it will take into consideration the reluctance of many Black Gays and Lesbians to access existing AIDS education/information for fear of exposure, and others in the above target population by conducting workshops for these individuals and for those who have access to Black Gays and Lesbians active in non-Gay and Lesbian groups and organizations.

2.0 Components of the Overall Program

2.1 Direct Education to Black Gays and Lesbians

During the weekend of September 30 - October 2, 1988, the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays will host its Tenth Anniversary Homecoming Conference in Washington, D.C. Black Lesbians and Gays from across the country will attend. NCBLG will conduct three AIDS education workshops which will be culturally relevant and language appropriate. The workshops will be entitled:

- Black Gay Men in Search of Safer Sex;
- Lesbians are At-risk Too!
- Getting Past Rolls to Save Lives

Two AIDS information fact sheets will also be distributed to all conference participants. One will address methods of Lesbian safe sex and the other homosexual safe sex. Each will present explicit information.

2.2 Workshops on AIDS and Sexuality

One day workshops will be held in major metropolitan areas to provide AIDS education and sexuality education to Black Lesbians and Gays, and to individuals who provide services to, minister to, work with, socialize with, have sexual relations with, or are related to Black Gays and Lesbians. The purpose of the workshops will be to promote and empower change in sexual behavior in order to reduce the spread of the HIV virus. Toward that end each workshop will address the following:

- a. Basic AIDS Information: what is AIDS; how has the Black community been effected; what resources are available nationally and locally; how has the government responded; testing information; what are the symptoms; etc.
- b. Gay and Lesbian Sexuality: how do homosexuals and Lesbians have sex; Black Gay and Lesbian lifestyles; roles (butch/femme; tops/bottoms); transvestites and transsexuals; Gay and Lesbian relationships; sexual addictions.
- c. Safe Sex: methods of safe sex for Lesbians; methods of safe sex for homosexuals; methods of safe sex for individuals who occasionally have sex with persons of the opposite sex; having fun while having safe sex; safe sex in groups.
- d. Negotiating Safe Sex Practices: role playing ways to talk about sex; how to get your partner to use a condom; dealing with peer pressure around safe sex.

e. Engaging Existing Black Institutions in AIDS Education: methods of providing AIDS education to Black churches and community groups, Black private Gay and Lesbian groups, and to members of Black families, review of materials used in educating Black non-Gay and lesbian groups, including samplings of available AIDS videos, slides and brochures.

The first workshop will be held no later than May, 1989, in Detroit, Michigan.

2.3 AIDS Education and Sexuality Training Manual

NCBLG will create a training manual for workshop participants. Included in these manuals will be the following:

- a. Basic AIDS information: what is AIDS; what causes it; how is it transmitted; warning signs.
- b. Basic definitions of terms used to communicate Gay and Lesbian sexuality, including, but not limited to the following: rimming, butch, butch queen, top, bottom, real man, black jack, trade, fish, femme, cum, etc.
- c. Articles about Black Gay and Lesbian sexuality written by individuals active in that community.
- d. Guidelines for AIDS rap groups.
- e. Guidelines for hosting AIDS information house parties.
- f. Lists of local AIDS information resources.
- g. List of local individuals willing to provide spiritual counseling and support.
- h. Sample AIDS brochures designed for the Black community.
- i. Safe sex guidelines for both Lesbians and Gay men.
- j. Suggested methods for initiating dialogue around sexual histories, practices, and safe sex.

2.4 AIDS Education and Risk Reduction Brochure

Two brochures will be created. One will be designed to appeal to Black Lesbians. The other will focus on Black men and women who are sexually active with persons of the same sex, but occasionally sexually active with persons of the opposite sex.

3. Program Budget

(Note: This budget is based upon a contract lasting only nine months.)

Program Coordinator (30hr./wk. @ \$12/hr.)	\$12,960.00
Fringe Benefits (15%)	1,900.00
Workshop Facilitators (5 @ \$150 per)	750.00
Workshop support staff (5 @ \$75 ea.)	375.00
Phone (\$75/mo.)	675.00
Space Rental (NCBLG Conference)	240.00
Office Rent (\$200/mo.)	1,800.00
Postage	850.00
Xeroxing	650.00
Borchures - design and typesetting	500.00
Brochures - printing (1000 ea.)	600.00
Fact Sheets - typesetting	150.00
Fact Sheets - printing (300 ea.)	200.00
Training Manual - typesetting	500.00
Training Manual - printing (200)	1,000.00
Travel (Facilitators)	2,000.00
Travel (Coordinator)	950.00
Office Supplies	550.00
Equipment Rental (workshops)	<u>400.00</u>
Total:	\$26,250.00