

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

September 1, 2010

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), which represents the nation's 2800 local health departments, I thank you for initiating and supporting the nation's first National HIV/AIDS Strategy and urge your administration to include local health departments in each of its key implementation steps.

The Strategy's goals and its focus on improving health in a holistic manner are closely aligned with the ongoing efforts of local health departments to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy. As the cornerstone of the nation's public health system, local health departments work every day in their communities to prevent disease, promote wellness, and protect health. They collect, analyze and apply data; organize local partnerships; and facilitate community initiatives to realize their communities' and the nation's public health goals, including HIV prevention. In many communities, local health departments are the focal point of health care service delivery and often the only entity focused on population health.

Local health department leaders, especially those working in communities with high HIV burden, have the vision, practical on-the-ground experience, and knowledge of local communities that are necessary to actualize the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and achieve its goals. As such, it is imperative that local health department representation be included in carrying out the Federal Implementation Plan and in the development of state-level implementation plans.

NACCHO stands ready to assist your administration in identifying local health department leaders to inform and contribute to the activities outlined in the Strategy and the Federal Implementation Plan.

Thank you again for your leadership and attention to this important public health issue.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Pestronk
Executive Director

cc: Jeffery M. Crowley, MPH; Office of National AIDS Policy
Kathleen Sebelius; Department of Health and Human Services
Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

