



April 17, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

Today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the Notice of Award of a Single-Source Cooperative Agreement to fund United Way of Greater Nashville (UWGN). Under PS23-0073, approximately \$4M will be awarded to UWGN for a one-year funding period to start June 1, 2023. The CDC funding awarded to UWGN will ensure critical HIV prevention and care services are available to all who could benefit from them in Tennessee.

In January 2023, CDC became aware that Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) intends to no longer accept core HIV prevention funding and *Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. (EHE)* initiative funding (PS 18-1802 and PS20-2010, respectively) provided by CDC to the health department to support HIV prevention efforts throughout the state. TDH publicly shared its plans to use other state initiatives to support all HIV prevention and surveillance staff and activities in funded metro health departments. As a result, TDH will no longer fund many previously funded community-based organizations (CBOs) that provide HIV prevention services to populations disproportionately affected by HIV in Tennessee.

Lack of adequate CBO funding will likely result in diminished HIV prevention capacity and services in Tennessee, especially prevention services that focus on populations disproportionately affected by HIV. These service gaps may be felt most acutely in the Memphis area, which had the nation's third-highest rate for new HIV diagnoses in 2020. Moreover, the change in the health department's funding approach could result in the closures of CBOs that reach the populations in greatest need of HIV prevention services.

The United Way of Greater Nashville has a proven track record of managing CDC HIV prevention and EHE grants, as well as sub-grantee relationships. Funding through PS23-0073 will enable UWGN to fund CBOs to procure HIV test kits and other supplies previously provided by health departments and continue the implementation of comprehensive, high-impact, community-based HIV prevention programs in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

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