

## 2011 AUTUMN

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# California Office of AIDS Expands Its Insurance Premium Assistance

BY JACQUES CHAMBERS

For several years, the California Office of AIDS has been paying health insurance premiums for qualified beneficiaries under the CARE/HIPP Plan. That program was greatly expanded effective July 1, 2011. It increases the financial requirement so that more will be eligible. It also increases the amount of monthly premiums it will pay and the program is no longer time limited. For the first time, it will also pay partial premiums for plans whose premium exceeds their new limit of \$1,339 per month for non-ADAP clients and \$1,938 per month for ADAP clients.

Since Medicare Drug Coverage was started in 2006, it has also had a program under AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) to pay the premiums for Medicare Part D beneficiaries on ADAP.

Now it is adding a new program for people who have not been able to get health insurance. It will begin paying premiums for the new Pre-Existing Conditions Insurance Plan (ADAP) created under the new Affordable Healthcare Act (ACA).

For more information on obtaining assistance in enrolling in these plans, contact your local AIDS service organization or see the Office of AIDS Web site at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/AIDS/Pages/OAIAS.aspx>.

Enrollers are currently being trained to not only enroll you in the premium assistance plans under the new rules, but for those that are eligible for the PCIP health coverage, they will be able to enroll you in the health plan itself as well as set up the premium payment program.

PCIP is a health insurance plan available now to “uninsurable” individuals. Since the federal

ACA does not require health insurance companies to accept anyone for coverage regardless of their health until 2014.

Waiting until 2014 to get health insurance is a very long wait for someone with a pre-existing condition and no health insurance. To solve that dilemma, the Act provides for temporary programs called Pre-Existing Conditions (health) Insurance Plan (PCIP). The Plan is temporary and will last only until insurance companies are required to cover anyone who requests coverage in 2014.

There is a PCIP plan in each state, and California has set up one of the first programs. However, there are strict limitations on who can purchase this insurance.

These programs were designed not just to help people who cannot purchase health insurance, but they were also planned as a method to help move some of the “uninsurable” people not having current coverage into the market to ease the pressure of everyone applying for coverage at once when 2014 arrives. Because these plans have not been well advertised, however, enrollments have been much lower than expected.

The plans:

- Cover a broad range of health benefits, including primary and specialty care, hospital care, and prescription drugs. All covered benefits are available, even to treat a pre-existing condition.
- Don’t charge a higher premium just because of the medical condition.
- Don’t base eligibility on income.

To be eligible for these PCIP plans:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# Have Questions? Worried? Need Help?

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### NEWSLETTER

*In memory of Fred Clark, Gilbert Cornilliet,  
Eric Estrada, Mark Allen-Smith, Brian Stott,  
and Cary Alexander*

CIRCULATION 12 000

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# Reasonable Accommodations and Housing

BY B. OSTEN

I recently won a lawsuit against my previous landlord for Retaliatory Eviction and refusing to provide reasonable accommodations for my companion animals, among other issues.

I lived in a substandard one-bedroom bungalow style unit for eight years. Its deplorable, toxic, and oppressive conditions deteriorated my physical and mental health. The landlord knew of my disability needs and ignored my numerous pleas to remove the toxic mold from my unit. The landlord refused to engage in an interactive process regarding my request and threatened to no longer participate in the Section 8 program.

The only time the landlord did address the toxic mold and other deficiencies was for the annual inspection by the Housing Authority. The day before the inspection, the landlord would paint over the toxic mold, only for it to return several days later.

The floor heater was red-tagged for leaking gas and non-functional for years. The only heater was an obsolete, portable heating/air conditioning unit. Each year on the day of the inspection, the landlord would replace this unit with a new one, and then re-install the old one when the Housing Authority inspector left.

I have a life-long affliction of depression that would leave me debilitated for weeks at a time. A

friend from the neighborhood would come over several days a week to check on me, clean, cook, do the laundry and, most importantly, help with my companion animals. The landlord got wind of this and demanded fifty dollars extra a month for water because my friend was visiting me too often. When I refused, the landlord told the Housing Authority that I had an unauthorized person living with me. Shortly after, I received a letter from the Housing Authority stating that my housing assistance was being terminated for committing fraud in connection with a federal housing program. It became a horrendous process to prove that my friend did not live with me and clear the allegation.

On the advice of my doctors, I notified the Health Department of the toxic mold, the lack of a sufficient heater, and other major deficiencies. The landlord retaliated by going after what would hurt me the most, my companion animals. The landlord threatened me with eviction if I did not remove my companion animals from the unit, which created a hostile and offensive living environment.

I sought out and used the resources of PAWS/LA, APLA, HALSA and the Neighborhood Legal Center. In spite of their help, an unlawful detainer was filed against me and I left the unit under duress. I feared losing my housing assistance because

of the landlord's unfounded complaints to the Housing Authority and continuous harassment.

However, my actions got the attention of the Systematic Code Enforcement Program, forcing the landlord to bring up to code the other three units on the property. I'm comforted knowing that my previous neighbors are enjoying the benefits of my effort.

Through perseverance and help from the Fair Housing Counsel, I obtained a lawyer and filed a lawsuit against my previous landlord for Retaliatory Eviction, refusing to provide reasonable accommodations for my companion animals, discrimination, defamation of character, and pain and suffering. Under the federal and state fair housing laws, anyone with a disability is entitled to reasonable accommodations for the equal use and enjoyment from his or her dwelling and not be harassed or threatened with eviction for requesting the accommodations.

In all aspects, I'm in a better place today, with newfound faith and a cause. There are people out there who will listen. All you have to do is speak up. I would like to help by sharing my experience with others who are enduring what I endured for the past twelve years, especially those like me who are HIV+, on SSI Disability, and are Section 8 recipients. For support, please contact [B.Osten@yahoo.com](mailto:B.Osten@yahoo.com) 📧

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# Poor Outcomes in 17-to-24 Year Olds Using Adult HIV Services

BY MICHAEL CARTER

American research published in the online edition of the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* has highlighted the importance of providing appropriate support to HIV+ adolescents and young adults as they begin to use adult HIV clinics.

Investigators from Chicago found that HIV+ individuals aged 17 to 24 were less likely than older HIV+ adults to achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load. Moreover, adolescents and young adults were significantly more likely to be lost to follow-up.

Especially poor outcomes were seen in African Americans adolescents and young adults.

“We found inferior virologic outcomes and higher loss to follow-up among HIV-infected adolescents and young adults (AYA) compared to matched HIV-infected adults,” comment the investigators. They also note “African American AYA had the lowest rates of viral suppression and the highest rates of viral rebound.”

Thanks to antiretroviral therapy, many children who were infected with HIV at birth are now reaching adulthood. HIV care for children is usually provided in specialist paediatric clinics, but in adolescence or early adulthood care is transferred to adult HIV services. Moreover, there are significant numbers of new HIV infections in teenagers and individuals in their early 20s.

Little is known about the outcomes of adolescents and young adults who are cared for in adults-oriented HIV clinics. Therefore, investigators at Chicago’s Northwestern Memorial Hospital designed a retrospective study including 46 patients aged 17 to 24 who were matched on a one-to-one basis with patients aged between 25 and 40.

The investigators compared the proportion of patients in each age group who had an undetectable viral load six months after starting HIV therapy or if they were already taking antiretroviral drugs, the commencement of their care at the clinic. Rates of rebound in viral load and loss to follow-up were also compared. The study included individuals who received care between 2003 and 2009.

Adolescents and young adults were less likely than older adults to have an undetectable viral after six months (59% versus 78%,  $p = 0.025$ ).

Pregnant younger patients also had poor rates of virological suppression after six-months than adult patients who were pregnant (56% versus 85%,  $p = 0.04$ ).

In addition, viral load rebound was more frequent in adolescents and young adults than in older adults (56% versus 13%,  $p = 0.002$ ).

Almost half (44%) of those aged 17 to 24 were lost to follow-up compared to only 11% of older adults, a highly significant difference ( $p = 0.001$ ).

Especially poor outcomes were seen in young African American patients.

Only 44% of this patient group had virological suppression after six months, compared to 71% of African American adults, 77% of non-African American adolescents and young adults, and 91% of non-African American adults.


High rates of viral load rebound were also seen in young African American patients (77% versus 42% non-African American 17 to 24 year olds versus 18% African American adults versus 6% non-African American adults).

However, there were no significant differences in rates of six-month virologic control between the seven younger patients infected with HIV at birth and the 17 to 24 year olds infected with HIV through other means (57% versus 59%).

The investigators suggest that “several factors render adolescents and young adults at higher risk of poor clinical outcomes,” including development issues, socioeconomic stresses, and HIV-related stigma. Moreover, the investigators note “adolescents often experience feelings of invulnerability which can increase their risk of HIV acquisition, reduce rates of testing, and reinforce negative health care behaviors after diagnosis.”

A number of limitations are acknowledged by the investigators, including the study’s retrospective design and small sample size. They also emphasize “our AYA clinic population included only a small group with perinatally-acquired HIV infection, a complex patient population whose outcomes may differ from behaviorally-infected AYA though this was not demonstrated in our study.”

Nevertheless, the researchers believe their findings have implications for the care pro-

vided to adolescents and young adults who are using adult HIV services. They conclude, “These patients will benefit from careful study and additional resources directed to improve outcomes. Potential strategies to improve outcomes may include improved social support, provider training, and systems-based quality improvements.” 

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## INSURANCE PREMIUM EXPANDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- You must be a citizen or national of the United States or reside in the US legally.
- You must have been without health coverage for at least the last six months. Please note that if you currently have insurance coverage that doesn’t cover your medical condition or are enrolled in a state high risk pool, you are not eligible for the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan. Also, people on full Medi-Cal are not eligible for PCIP, while people with Share-of-Cost Medi-Cal may be eligible for coverage.
- You must have a pre-existing condition or have been denied health coverage because of your health condition.

Obviously, the requirement of having been without health insurance at least six months severely limits who can enroll in these plans, but the purpose of the program was to start making coverage available to people without insurance, not draw people from the current health insurance market.

In order to qualify for coverage, you will need to provide one of the following documents:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

# Representative Lee to Introduce Anti-HIV Criminalization Bill

BY JULIE TURKEWITZ

Thirty-four states and two US territories have statutes that penalize HIV exposure. A new bill could put an end to HIV criminalization laws that impose cruel and unfair penalties on people with HIV.

US Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) plans to introduce the legislation in September. A draft shows it would require a review of all federal and state laws, policies, regulations and judicial precedents regarding criminal cases involving people living with HIV/AIDS. The bill, called the Repeal HIV Discrimination Act, would then charge the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services with developing guidelines for state and federal governments. The guidelines would assist governments in altering discriminatory policies.

Laws would change that (1) place an additional burden on HIV+ individuals because of their HIV status or (2) are not consistent with evidence-based, medically accurate public health initiatives. "The criminalization of exposure to and/or transmission of HIV without the re-


quirement of malicious intent violates the civil and human rights of individuals who are HIV+," reads the draft.

Thirty-four states and two US territories have statutes that penalize HIV exposure. While their supporters claim these policies protect the public health, evidence shows they do more harm than good.

A few examples:

- A man with HIV in Texas is serving 35 years for spitting at a police officer.
- A man with HIV in Iowa had an undetectable viral load and had a sexual encounter during which he used a condom and HIV was not transmitted. He received a 25-year sentence. The sentence was eventually suspended, but he was required to register as a sex offender. This barred him from unsupervised contact with his nieces, nephews, and other young children.
- A woman with HIV in Georgia received an 8-year sentence for nondisclosure of her HIV status to a sexual partner, despite the testimony of two witnesses that the partner knew of her HIV status.

- A man with HIV in Michigan was charged under the state's anti-terrorism statute with possession of a "biological weapon" after he allegedly bit his neighbor.

The legislation's expected introduction is part of a growing effort to limit or end laws that punish individuals for HIV exposure or transmission. In February, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors became the most recent group to speak out, calling for an end to laws that impose disproportionately harsh penalties for HIV nondisclosure, exposure, or transmission. "The passage of this bill will make it safer for people with HIV to disclose their status and it will remove an important barrier to those at risk from getting tested," said Sean Strub, co-founder of the Positive Justice Project, which works to combat HIV-related discrimination in the justice system. "The result will be less transmission of HIV." 

*Reprinted with permission from Housing Works.*

## INSURANCE PREMIUM EXPANDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

- A letter from a doctor, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner dated within the past twelve months stating that you have or had a medical condition, disability, or illness. This letter must include your name and medical condition, disability, or illness and the name, license number, state of licensure, and signature of the doctor, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner.

–OR–

- A denial letter from an insurance company licensed in your state for individual insurance coverage (not health insurance offered through a job) that is dated within the past twelve months. Or, you may provide a letter dated in the past twelve months from an insurance agent or broker licensed in your state that shows you aren't eligible for individual insurance coverage from one or more insurance companies because of your medical condition.

–OR–


- An offer of individual insurance coverage (not health insurance offered through a job) that you did not accept from an insurance company licensed in your state that is dated within the past twelve months. This offer of coverage has a rider that says your medical condition won't be covered if you accept the offer.

–OR–

- If you are under age 19 an offer of individual insurance coverage (not health insurance offered through a job) that you did not accept from an insurance company licensed in California that is dated within the past twelve months. This offer of coverage must show a premium that is at least twice as much as the Pre-Existing Condition Plan premium (the monthly payment you make to an insurer to get and keep insurance) for the Standard Option in your state.

The plan provides preventive care (paid at 100%, with no deductible) when you see an in-network doctor and the doctor indicates a

preventive diagnosis. For other care, there is a deductible before PCIP pays for your health care and prescriptions. After you pay the deductible, you will pay 20% of medical costs in-network for coverage in and out of the hospital, in doctor's offices, x-rays and lab tests, and coverage for prescription drugs. The maximum you will pay out-of-pocket for covered services in a calendar year is \$5,950 in-network / \$7,000 out-of-network. There is no lifetime maximum or cap on the amount the plan pays for your care.

More information on the PCIP program can be found at [www.PCIP.ca.gov](http://www.PCIP.ca.gov). 

*Jacques Chambers, CLU, is a Benefits Counselor in private practice with over 35 years experience in health, life and disability insurance and Social Security disability benefits. He can be reached by phone at 323.665.2595, by e-mail at [jacques@helpwithbenefits.com](mailto:jacques@helpwithbenefits.com), or through his Web site at [www.helpwithbenefits.com](http://www.helpwithbenefits.com).*

# HIV/AIDS SPECIALISTS

We invite all HIV/AIDS specialists to mail or e-mail your information to us. Please indicate what insurances you do and do not accept, as well as your address, phone numbers and e-mail.

## MEDICAL DOCTORS

Marcia Alcoloumre, MD  
Dr. Devente, MD  
Dr. Montoya, MD  
St. Mary Medical Center  
1043 Elm Ave, Ste 300  
Long Beach, CA 90813  
562.624.4999

Accepts most insurance plans: Indemnity and PPO, Medicare and Medi-CAL, and uninsured HIV+ individuals.

Daniel H. Bowers, MD  
James Gaede, MD  
Anthony J. Scarsella, MD  
Charles Skiba, DO  
Pacific Oaks Medical Group  
150 N Robertson Blvd, Ste 300  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211  
310.652.2562

Accepts most PPO Plans, Medicare, Medi/Medi.

Paul J. Cimoch, MD, FACP  
Center for Special Immunology  
11190 Warner Ave, Ste 411  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
714.751.5800  
www.CSIHealth.com  
Accepts most insurance plans: Medicare, Medi/Medi, and Medical.

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14429½ Ventura Blvd  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423  
818.783.8750; fax 818.783.8779  
lee@durdodgeod.com  
www.DrDodgeOD.com  
Accepts most PPO insurance plans and Medicare.

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Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center  
The Doctors Tower  
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323.644.4415  
fax 323.663.6897  
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Michael S. Gottlieb, MD  
Synergy Hematology/Oncology  
5901 W Olympic Blvd, Ste 407  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
323.525.1101, press 0

Mark H. Katz, MD  
Kaiser West Los Angeles  
6041 Cadillac Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90035  
323.857.2064  
HIV/AIDS specialist. Not accepting new patients currently, but will help new patients navigate the Kaiser system.

Matt Pekerol, MD  
9201 W Sunset Blvd, Ste 616  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310.858.0880  
pekerolm@hotmail.com  
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Ilya Rachman, MD  
948 N Fairfax, Ste 201  
West Hollywood, CA 90046  
323.654.2020  
fax 323.654.2828

Jorge E. Rodriguez, MD  
Orange Coast Medical Group  
496 Old Newport Blvd, Ste 4  
Newport Beach, CA 90263  
949.646.1111  
Accepts most indemnity and PPO health insurance plans, as well as Medical.

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Los Angeles, CA 90036  
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## MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS

Barry Cardiner, MA, MBA, MFT  
8430 Santa Monica Blvd, Ste 100  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
Lic # MFT34301  
323.874.1967  
HIV+ psychotherapist. Accepts most PPO, POS insurance. Specialty areas: HIV issues, depression, abuse, addiction and recovery, relationships, grief.

Erin T. Childs, MA, LMFT  
11650 Riverside Dr, Ste 7  
Studio City, CA 91602  
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etchilds@sbcglobal.net  
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Payam Ghassemlou, MFT, PhD  
9056 Santa Monica Blvd, #205  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310.801.2927  
Gay male therapist, works with people with HIV and their significant others. Bilingual, accepts most insurance plans, no Medi/Medi.

Richard Gollance, LCSW, MSG  
12402 Ventura Blvd, 2nd Fl  
Studio City, CA 91604  
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Brea, CA 92821  
714.528.9335  
Individual, couple and family therapy; relationship difficulties; disclosure; coping with diagnosis; depression and anxiety.

Christopher Lawver, MA, MFT, Lic#40090  
323.481.2090  
www.ChrisLawver.com  
Long-time advocate for affirming counseling for HIV and AIDS. I offer a sliding scale and accept most insurance plans.

Ronald Carey Rambo, LCSW, BCD  
711 E Walnut St, #309  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
626.821.4063  
225 S Civic Dr, #212  
Palm AUTUMNs, CA 92262  
760.832.6701  
Solution-focused individual, couple, and family therapy. Specialties include HIV issues, gay identity, addiction/recovery, mood disorders, relationships. Accepts most insurance plans.

Matthew Silverstein, PhD, MFT  
8235 Santa Monica Blvd, Ste 309  
West Hollywood, CA 90046  
310.842.6124  
e-mail: MSilversteinMFT@aol.com  
Specialty areas include gay identity, HIV/AIDS issues, addiction recovery, dream work, spirituality. Sliding fee scale and able to accept most insurance (not Medi/Medi).

Fred Wilkey, EdD  
Clinical Psychology  
PSY8380  
9056 Santa Monica Blvd, Ste 306A  
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Enhance your quality of life. Dating, drugs, depression, anxiety are all common issues we have as poz men. I can help.

## BENEFITS COUNSELOR

Jacques Chambers, CLU  
Benefits Consultant and Counselor  
Chambers Benefits Consulting  
2658 Griffith Park Blvd, #290  
Los Angeles, CA 90039-2520  
323.665.2595 or 888.739.2595  
www.HelpWithBenefits.com

# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT BEING ALIVE

Call Being Alive at 323.874.4322. We're located at 7531 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 100, West Hollywood.

## Being Alive Board Meetings

The Being Alive Board of Directors meetings for 2011 will be held monthly. If you would like to attend, call for more information.

## The Young and the Restless

Thursdays • 7:00–9:00pm

A new support group for the young and newly poz. All are welcome, but the focus are on the newly diagnosed and under 30. Topics include emotional and physical well-being, risk reduction and disclosure, HIV 101 and basic information, treat adherence, communication skills, and fellowship. Call Being Alive for more information.

## Psychotherapy by appointment

10:00am–9:00pm

Licensed psychotherapy intern provides one-on-one and couples therapy. Call Being Alive for appointment.

## Positively New

Wednesdays • 7:30–10:00pm

For newly diagnosed or newly identified HIV+ within the past three years. Get emotional support, discuss medical issues, and topics relevant to a new diagnosis. Facilitated by Brian Risley, lead treatment educator for APLA. Call 213.201.1547.

## Silver Lake Meet-and-Greet Support Group

Fridays • 7:00–9:00pm

All those interested in attending a Being Alive peer support group in the Silver Lake area please contact Being Alive.

## Positive Reactions West

Wednesdays • 7:00–9:00pm

At Being Alive. A small drop-in group in a safe, honest place to discuss issues and meet others dealing with HIV. Call Being Alive.

## Ceramics and Pottery

Call Being Alive for location

Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays • 12:00 noon

Learn ceramics and wheel-throwing. Beginners to advanced are welcome.

## Yoga

### Beginning Yoga

Tuesdays, Thursdays • 3:00pm

At Being Alive in the Meditation Room. Call to make an appointment.

Saturdays • 10:30am

Call for location.

## Healing Touch

by appointment

Thursdays • noon–5:00pm

Alternative healing by hands-on and energy-based techniques. Call Being Alive for appointment.

## Hypnotherapy

Thursday

By Dean L. Williams, CHT. Call 877.667.5844.

## Speaker's Bureau

Spread the word about prevention, treatment, living with HIV/AIDS. For more information, call Colin at 310.739.6504.

## Acupuncture Services

by appointment

Mondays • 1:30–4:30pm

Every other Tuesday • 10:00am–1:00pm

Wednesdays • 10:30am–5:00pm

Thursdays • 10:00am–1:00pm

Every other Thursday • 3:00–6:00pm

Treatment for a range of conditions including pain management, neuropathy and other side effects, addictions, stress, headaches, and allergies. Call Being Alive for appointment.

## Chiropractic Services

Fridays • 1:00am–4:00pm

Back and body adjustments. No appointment necessary. New clients, or clients who have not contracted chiropractic services in more than a year, must come in at noon to fill out paperwork.

# BEING ALIVE SUPPORT GROUPS

Our goal is to provide a safe and confidential space where everyone can express themselves in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement.

## TUESDAYS

**New Focus Group Forming** 7:00–9:00pm.  
Open to all who are HIV+. Facilitated by John Balma. Call or e-mail [johnatbeingalive@gmail.com](mailto:johnatbeingalive@gmail.com) for more information.

## WEDNESDAY

**Wise Guys** 7:00–9:00pm. Being Alive West Hollywood (Being Alive Green Room). Co-facilitated. A drop-in group for men over 35 in a safe, honest place to discuss issues and meet others dealing with HIV. Call Being Alive for more information.

**Positively New** 7:30–10:00pm. 1300 N Vermont Ave. (Doctor's Building 2nd floor Conference Room). Facilitated by Brian Risley, Lead Treatment Educator for APLA at 213.201.1547. A fairly large support group for those who are newly diagnosed or newly identify HIV+ within the past three years. Get emotional support, discuss medical issues and topics relevant to a new diagnosis.

## THURSDAY

**The Young and the Restless** 7:00–9:00pm. A new support group for the young and newly poz. All are welcome, but the focus are on the newly diagnosed and under 40. Topics include emotional and physical well-being, risk reduction and disclosure, HIV 101 and basic information, treat adherence, communication skills, and fellowship. Call Being Alive for more information.

## FRIDAY

**Silver Lake Meet-and-Greet Support Group** 7:00–9:00pm. An emotional and social support group in Silverlake area for HIV+ men to discuss current issues and solutions to life with HIV. Contact Being Alive for more information.

## LOCAL RESOURCES

ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights: 213.977.9500 x237  
Aid for AIDS: 323.656.1107  
AIDS Healthcare Foundation: 888.AIDSCARE  
AIDS/HIV Discrimination Unit, LA City Attorney's Office: 213.978.2128  
APLA: 213.201.1600  
AIDS Research Alliance: 310.358.2423  
AIDS Service Center: 626.441.8495  
AIDS Services Foundation/Orange County: 949.809.5700  
Asian/Pacific AIDS Intervention Team: 213.553.1830  
Being Alive San Diego: 619.291.1400  
Beth Chayim Chadashim: 323.931.7023  
Bienestar Hollywood: 323.660.9680  
Clean Needles Now: 213.483.5366  
Common Ground, the West Side HIV Community Center: 310.314.5480  
Congregation Kol Ami: 310.248.6320  
CVS Pharmacy: 310.659.9810  
Deaf Women Outreach: 323.478.8000 (TTY or voice)  
Discount Medical Pharmacy: 323.661.8366

East Valley Community Health Center:  
West Covina: 626.919.5724;  
Pomona: 909.620.8088  
Foothill AIDS Project: 909.482.2066  
HALSA: 213.637.1690  
Jeffrey Goodman Special Care Clinic (GLCSC): 323.993.7500  
Jewish Family Services HIV/AIDS Program: 323.761.8800  
LA Gay and Lesbian Center: 323.993.7400  
The Life Group LA: 888.208.8081  
Los Angeles Free Clinic: 323.653.1990  
Los Angeles Patients & Caregivers Group: 323.882.6033  
Minority AIDS Project: 323.936.4949  
Narcotics Anonymous Hotline: 800-todayna  
National AIDS Hotline: 800.227.8922;  
800.344.7432 (en Español);  
800.243.7889 (TTY)  
The New Hope Learning Center: 213.251.8474  
North East Valley Clinic: 818.988.6335  
PAWS (Pets): 213.741.1950

Peer Education Program: 323.651.9888  
Project Angel Food: 323.845.1800  
Project Inform: 800.822.7422  
Rue's House: 323.295.4030  
South Bay Family Health Care Center: 310.318.2521 x236  
Spanish Language AIDS Hotline: 800.400.7432  
(SIDA) toll-free Southern California only  
Tarzana Treatment Center HIV-Mental Health Project: 818.342.5897  
THE Clinic: 323.295.6571  
USC AIDS Clinical Trials Unit: 323.343.8288  
Valley Community Clinic: 818.763.8836  
Van Ness Recovery House: 323.463.4266  
WeHoLife.org: 323.860.7323  
Wellness Works Community Health Center: 818.247.2062  
West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation: 323.650.8771 x2  
Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project: 562.698.3850  
Women Alive Coalition: 323.965.1564  
Zahn Emergency Shelter: 213.438.1619



# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Notices for this Bulletin Board and the preceding Support Group sections should be submitted to Kevin Kurth via Community Bulletin Board, *% Being Alive* Newsletter, 7531 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90046; or send e-mail to [Kevin@BeingAliveLA.org](mailto:Kevin@BeingAliveLA.org); or send fax to 323.969.8753. Please be concise and indicate if there is a fee. Please also renew notices every six months.

## MORE SUPPORT GROUPS

### WHITTIER HIV+ GROUP

Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project (WRHAP) offers this group for all people with HIV. An open support group. Every other Saturday 10am–noon. For info, call Elizabeth Mendia at 562.698.3850. 6/2008

### SPECTRUM / PASSPORT TO CARE

Various support groups. Yoga: Mondays 10:30am–noon, Building L. Relapse prevention workshop: Tuesdays 10:30am–noon, Building L. Heterosexual support group: Wednesdays 10:30am–noon, Building K. Food pantry: Thursdays 10am–5pm, Building L. Women's support group: Thursdays 11:30am–1pm, Building M. Soul food men's support group: Thursdays 4–5:30pm, Building N. Movie night: first and third Thursdays 6–8:30pm, Building L. Cocaine anonymous: Fridays 10:30am–noon, Building M. Grupo universal: Fridays 5–6:30pm, Building L. For more information call front desk at 323.563.4939. 11/2007

### SOUTH BAY FAMILY HEALTHCARE CENTER

Comprehensive HIV/AIDS social service support—case management, mental health, prevention education, HOPWA, short-term rental assistance. Call Joanne Silva at 310.318.2521 x1422. 11/2007

### TARZANA TREATMENT CENTER—HIV MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

Support groups: HIV support, yoga, relapse prevention group, self-help, vocational counseling, and mental health counseling. For info, call Carol Bishop at 818.342.5897 x2195. 11/2007

### SHABBAT LUNCH AND JEWISH HIV SUPPORT GROUP AT CONGREGATION KOL AMI

Come and schmooze and eat with fellow Jewish HIVers at Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood. We provide a safe, nurturing Jewish environment to talk about life with HIV, Jewish life, and life in general. 1200 North La Brea Avenue, West Hollywood. Call for time and date of next meeting. Reply in confidence to Rabbi Denise Eger at [rabbid@kolami.org](mailto:rabbid@kolami.org), or 323.606.0996, x100. 12/2006

### APLA SUPPORT GROUPS

The following groups are ongoing and offered through APLA's Mental Health Services: HIV/AIDS Gay Male, HIV/AIDS Heterosexual, Substance Use and HIV, and Mono-lingual Spanish-speaking HIV/AIDS. For information in English and Spanish, call Walter Campos at 213.201.1621. 4/2006

### METH AND GAY MEN

Feeling out-of-control? Having trouble finding intimacy? Promising to quit but using anyway? Worried that you need meth to have hot sex? On-going psychotherapy group meeting weekly for men concerned about crystal meth, sex, and intimacy. Conveniently located in Hollywood, this closed therapy group explores issues and feelings in a safe, confidential setting, Monday, 7–8:30pm. For more information, contact Glen at 323.993.7655, or Andre at 323.860.5804. Sponsored by the LA Gay & Lesbian Center. 2/2006

### SPIRITUAL SUPPORT DROP-IN GROUP

For people living with HIV/AIDS or cancer, or dealing with grief or imprisonment. One-on-one spiritual support, primarily Catholic. Can make inter-faith referrals. For info, call 323.225.4461. 5/2004

### BIENESTAR

Bienestar Human Services offers a variety of services and support groups for the Latino community, HIV+ client services, and HIV– prevention programs. Call Miguel Gonzalez at 323.727.7897. 5/2004

### CHURCH OF THE VALLEY HIV+ SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30pm, Disciples of Christ Church, 6565 Vesper, Van Nuys. 818.786.4070. 5/2004

### COMMON GROUND

HIV/AIDS drop-in support group for women and men, Mondays, 12:30–2pm; free; lunch is served. Gestalt Therapy Group, Thursday nights, 5:30–7pm, actively recruiting mem-

bers. Women's drop-in group, second and fourth Thursdays of the month, 12:30–1:30pm. Spanish-speaking drop-in group, Wednesdays, 10–11:30am. Call 310.314.5480. 5/2004

### ALTAMED SUPPORT GROUP

For men and women living with HIV/AIDS. Meets Tuesdays from 2–3pm at AltaMed in Pico Rivera. For more information, call 562.949.8717. 12/2003

### POSITIVES IN SOBRIETY

Open AA meeting for people affected by HIV. Meets every Sunday, 6pm. Great Hall in Plummer Park, Vista St., between Fountain and Lexington in West Hollywood. 323.656.0829. 12/2003

### HIV BY THE BOOKS

Open AA meeting. Intimate book study for people dealing with HIV/AIDS issues. Meets every Friday, 7:15pm at Being Alive. 323.656.0829. 12/2003

### LONG BEACH POZ PEERS

Social support group for HIV+ guys who want to meet other HIV+ guys. Contact David at 562.272.8810. 7/2003

### FOUND SOBRIETY CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS

7pm. 11321 Camarillo St. (upstairs), North Hollywood, CA 91602. Go to [www.crystalmeth.org](http://www.crystalmeth.org) for more information. 1/2003

### PASADENA AIDS SERVICE CENTER

Support groups including Living Positive, HIV Symptomatic, Newly Diagnosed Group, Teen Group, HIV+ Spanish Women, Journaling Group, and Gay Men Over 45 Group. 1030 S. Arroyo Parkway, Pasadena. Call 626.441.8495: Jody Casserly, LCSW, x144. 8/2002

### NA HIV+

Thursdays at 8:30pm. HIV+ and gay narcotics anonymous meeting. Members share their experience, strength, and hope that they and others may recover from the disease of addiction. HIV+ focused. Many new-comers at this meeting. 1919 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles. For more information, call 323.850.1624. 6/2002

### MINORITY AIDS PROJECT

Minority AIDS Project sponsors a variety of support groups for people of color. Call 323.936.4949. 9/2000

## GRUPOS Y NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL

### BIENESTAR

Bienestar Human Services offers a variety of services and support groups for the Latino community. HIV+ client services and HIV-negative prevention programs. Call Miguel Gonzalez at 323.727.7897. 11/2007

### PROJECT ANGEL FOOD

Project Angel Food es una organización que provee comidas para las personas que viven con VIH/SIDA. Nuestros servicios están disponibles para personas que viven en nuestras áreas de servicio y que están oficialmente diagnosticado con el SIDA o VIH sintomáticos. Para recibir servicios, llame el 323.845.1810. 8/2001

### ALTAMED GRUPOS DE APOYO EN ESPAÑOL

Todos los miercoles de 6–8pm le ofrecemos un grupo para hombres y tambien otro grupo para mujeres. Para mayor informacion: Juan—323.869.5403. 2/2001

## WOMEN'S SERVICES

### THE SERRA PROJECT/CASA DE LA MADONA Y EL NIÑO

A home for women and children living with AIDS and HIV. RN and MSW case management, medical transportation, bilingual—English/Spanish, family preservation and reunification. Call Martha Aldreta at 323.342.0705. 4/2008

### PROTOTYPES WOMENS CARE

Complete medical treatment, follow-up, and case management, education available at WomensCare Center, Queen of

Angels/Hollywood Presbyterian. No fee, childcare available. 1300 N. Vermont, Ste. 401. Call Andrea Jackson 323.662.7420. East LA location: 5427 E. Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles 90022. Call Yolanda Salinas 323.869.5467. 11/2007

### ESCAJEDA WOMEN'S CLINIC

Comprehensive health services for women with HIV/AIDS regardless of ability to pay. General and specialized HIV health care includes GYN services. Social Worker. Psychiatric services. English/Spanish speaking staff. For info, call 626.744.6140. Pasadena location. 12/2003

### T.H.E. CLINIC FOR WOMEN, INC.

Offers specialized services for women living with HIV. Early intervention program, HIV testing. Staff speaks ten languages. Call Nola Thomas for information or appointments: 323.295.6571 x3109. 9/2000

## LEGAL SERVICES

### HALSA

A collaborative effort of AIDS Service Center, the L.A. County Bar Barristers, AIDS Project, the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, and Public Counsel. HALSA provides legal assistance in a variety of areas including bankruptcy, benefits, employment, housing, wills, powers-of-attorney to low-income people living with HIV, as well as comprehensive pro bono referrals. For more info, call 213.2637.1022. 4/2006

### INSURANCE

Supplemental health and life insurance, serving our community. Contact Glenn at 818.774.1556 x33, or [Glenn\\_Zorn@us.afac.com](mailto:Glenn_Zorn@us.afac.com). 9/2004

### NOTARY PUBLIC

I live a few blocks from Being Alive in West Hollywood. Services are free if we can arrange a time to meet there. You can also come to my home on Palm Avenue and pay the regular \$10, or I can come to your place in West Hollywood for \$15. Call Michael at 310.659.4299. 2/2002

## MEDICAL SERVICES

### HIV OCULAR SPECIALIST

Lee Dodge, OD. 14429½ Ventura Blvd, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. 818.783.8750. Fax 818.783.8779. [lee@drdodgeod.com](http://lee@drdodgeod.com). [www.drdodgeod.com](http://www.drdodgeod.com). Accepts most PPO plans and Medicare. 6/2008

### NORTHEAST VALLEY HEALTH CORP

Confidential comprehensive medical services for HIV/AIDS provided in English and Spanish at low or no cost in the SF Valley. Call Stefan Ruiz at 818.988.6335. 6/2008

### UCLA CARE CLINIC

The UCLA Care Center conducts clinical research in HIV disease management, new medications, metabolic complications, prevention and therapeutic vaccines, opportunistic infections, AIDS-related cancers and co-infections. Contact Deon Claiborne at 310.557.9062. Provides specialty HIV care to those with private insurance, Medicare, or Medicare and Medi-Cal combined. Contact Mike Marcial at 310.557.2273. 11/2007

### CHIROPRACTIC CARE

Spinal adjustments available for \$10 by appointment for HIV+ people who are uninsured and not working. Other services available. Brian Smith, DC, 8235 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 218, West Hollywood. 323.656.2652. 11/2007

### JEFFREY GOODMAN SPECIAL CARE CLINIC

Provides HIV and STD testing, as well as treatment, case management, complementary therapies and AIDS Drug Assistance Program for HIV+ patients. 1625 N. Schrader, Third Floor, Los Angeles 90028. [www.lagaycenter.org](http://www.lagaycenter.org). Call 323.993.7500 for info. 11/2007

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

## AIM HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Healthcare for adult-industry members. HIV/STD testing, referrals, counseling, GYN services. For clients diagnosed with HIV/AIDS at AIM Healthcare—free-for-life medication placement. Call 818.981.5681. Also in Woodland Hills: 19720 Venture Blvd., 818.961.0291. 11/2007

## COMPREHENSIVE AIDS RESOURCE EDUCATION PROGRAM (C.A.R.E.)

Offers the following services: Out-patient, non-emergency clinic (sliding scale)—562.624.4999 • Dental center (sliding scale)—562.624.4949 • Testing/outreach (no charge)—562.624.4900 • AIDS drug assistance program (no charge)—562.624.4944 • Mental health program and nutritional counseling (no charge)—562.624.4914 • Case management / social services (no charge)—562.624.4900 • Family services program—562.624.4918. Located at 411 E. 10th St., Suite 107, Long Beach, CA 90813 (inside St. Mary Medical Center campus). 11/2007

## ALTAMED HEALTH SERVICES

Comprehensive medical treatment for people with HIV/AIDS. In addition to medical treatment, we provide case management, support groups, and HIV testing. To make an appointment to see a physician, please call 323.869.5548. 11/2007

## LAGUNA BEACH COMMUNITY CLINIC

Treats qualified clients for a low fee. Two HIV specialists accept Medical and Medicare. 362 3rd St., Laguna Beach, CA 92651. 949.494.0761. 11/2007

## FREE RAPID HIV AND STD TESTING

At The SPOT, 745 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, southwest corner of Santa Monica and San Vicente. Tuesday–Friday, 1–7pm, 323.993.7440. If you are experiencing STD symptoms, call 323.993.7575 between 11:30am–2:30pm to schedule an appointment. 11/2007

## VALLEY COMMUNITY CLINIC, NORTH HOLLYWOOD

Offering free, anonymous HIV counseling service and testing Mondays 4–7:30pm, Tuesdays 2–7:30pm, Thursdays 12–3:40pm, and Saturdays 11am–4:30pm. Contact Walter Abb 818.763.8836. HIV case management everyday. Medical outpatient services for people with HIV. ADAP enrollment. For interview call 818.301.6334. www.valleycommunityclinic.org. 11/2007

## AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

AHF Clinics in Hollywood, Downtown, Sherman Oaks, the Westside, Upland, Lancaster, and West Adams provide care to people with HIV/AIDS regardless of ability to pay. No one ever turned away. Free HIV testings at our Out-of-the-Closet thrift stores. Call 800.AHF.2101. 10/2002

## ANDREW ESCAJEDA CLINIC

Comprehensive health services for adults with HIV/AIDS, regardless of ability to pay. ADAP enrollment site and psychiatric services. Open to all HIV-infected, even if receiving medical care elsewhere. Pasadena location. Call 626.744.6140. 8/2002

## TARZANA TREATMENT CENTER

Provides residential rehabilitation and medical detoxification programs for people with HIV/AIDS. Call 818.996.1051 x40. HIV outpatient clinic, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10am–6pm. Call 818.342.5897. 9/2000

## USC AIDS CLINICAL TRIALS UNIT

Free clinical trials for people with HIV/AIDS. Located at 5P21, Rand Schrader Clinic, 1300 N. Mission Rd., Room 349, LA. For info, call 323.343.8288. 9/2000

## METHADONE TREATMENT FOR HIV+ PEOPLE

If you are HIV+ and opiate-dependent, Western Pacific Rehab offers free out-patient methadone treatment at conveniently located sites. Call 800.223.3869. 9/2000

## AIDS SERVICE CENTER, PASADENA

Free treatment education and advocacy via one-on-one counseling/assessment, monthly treatment forums, Treatment Library and more. Call 626.441.8495. 9/2000

## WELLS HOUSE HOSPICE, LONG BEACH

A home-like environment serving Long Beach and Orange County. Volunteers always welcome. Contact Ron Morgan at 562.435.9363. 9/2000

## LA COUNTY RAND SHRADER 5P21 HIV CLINIC

Provides comprehensive HIV care; services available in English and Spanish. Call 213.343.8255. 9/2000

## T.H.E. CLINIC, INC.

HIV/AIDS testing, treatment, counseling, family planning, other services. For more information call 323.295.6571. 9/2000

## PHARMACY SERVICES

### EDDIE'S PHARMACY

As your community pharmacy, we are committed to provide the best service possible. Getting to you know and your individual needs is an integral part of that commitment. Small enough to care; large enough to meet your needs. Call 310.358.2400. 1/2006

### ALL-IN-ONE PHARMACY

For all your pharmacy needs. Adherence tools and delivery provided free of charge. Treatment educators available for any questions you have. Most insurance accepted. Call toll-free: 866.255.6663. 11/2005

### MOMS PHARMACY

The original adherence pharmacy. Services include free delivery, pager notification, and optional MOMS Paks medication packets, the ultimate adherence tool. For more information, visit www.momsparmacy.com, or call 866.993.6337. 8/2005

## PERSONAL SERVICES

### HOME DELIVERED MEALS

Jewish Family Services provides kosher meals (fresh or frozen) to the homebound. Call 323.761.8770. St. Vincent's Meals on Wheels: 213.484.7775. 11/2007

### TRUE NORTH MASSAGE

Swedish circulatory massage. Tim Maloney, Certified Massage Technician. APSB. 818.244.3029. 818.726.9480 (cell). shaktim2001@hotmail.com. 1/2006

### SPORTS MASSAGE

Deep tissue, soft touch, and Reiki therapy. Discount for HIV+. I've worked on athletes for over five years. Call Wayne at 562.235.8716 and mention this ad. 12/2005

### COUNSELING

Payam Ghassemlou, PhD, MFT, gay male counselor. 310.801.2927. Sandplay Therapy—a fun, creative, and healing process to connect to your psyche's self-healing powers. 9/2004

### RESIDENTIAL DRUG TREATMENT

Live-in drug treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. For info, call Robyn at 818.985.8323. 2/2002

### MASSAGE BY JEFFREY

Therapeutic touch at a discount for people living with HIV/AIDS. Contact Jeffrey at jjeffrey54@aol.com, or call 310.770.7515. 10/2001

### PROJECT ANGEL FOOD

Project Angel Food's agency delivers nutritious meals to individuals with a formal diagnosis of AIDS or symptomatic HIV disease living in our delivery area. To start free meal delivery service, please call Client Services at 323.845.1810. 8/2001

### FREE GROCERIES

Food and personal care items are provided to PWAs. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10am–1pm. For more information, call Imani Unidos Food Pantry, 323.754.2320. 5/2001

### LOW INCOME HOUSING FOR PWAs

1-, and 2-bedroom housing wait list. Contact West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, 8285 Sunset Blvd., Ste. 3, West Hollywood, or call 323.650.8771, x2. 1/2001

## 50% MASSAGE DISCOUNT

Full hour Swedish massage. Legit. \$25. Designed for financially challenged HIV+ folk who are looking for a way to afford regular massage. Call Bruce at 323.660.5358. 9/2000

## MISCELLANEOUS

### HOLLYWOOD MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

We are accepting new HIV+ clients who are seeking individual or couples counseling. HIV+ clients may obtain services without any insurance, although Medi-CAL and Medicare are accepted. 1224 N. Vine St., Los Angeles 90038. Contact Chris Bridge, MSW, at 323.769.2125. 7/2009

### ALLEGRIA HOUSE SHELTER

Assist families, and couples (gay or straight) living with AIDS. Sober living program. Contact Julie Lewis at 323.454.4200. 11/2007

### CHOICES RECOVERY SERVICES

Has homes in Long Beach and Los Angeles, providing clean, comfortable, structured, drug- and alcohol-free living environments for men, women, straight, gay, HIV+, and dual-diagnosed individuals. Please call us for further information at 562.930.0565. www.choicesoflongbeach.com 11/2007

### ZAHN EMERGENCY SHELTER

Welcomes singles and families with open arms to our sober living program. Priority is given to referrals living with HIV/AIDS. Referrals only. Please call 213.438.1619. 8/2006

### MCINTYRE HOUSE

A non-profit residential substance abuse recovery and sober living program for men. Low-cost medical care and food provided. Contact Ed at 323.662.0855. 12/2004

### STRENGTH IN NUMBERS (SIN)

A non-profit social network for HIV+ gay men that organizes and promotes fun and relaxed events in LA and Orange County. All HIV+ gay men are welcome. Events include pot luck, breakfasts, and bar nights. All events are low-cost, but everyone is expected to cover their own expenses. Check out our Web site for more information and updates on events: www.strengthinnumbers.org. 5/2003

### TEENS REACH TEENS

Peer Education Program of L.A. offers educators to lead discussions on HIV/AIDS prevention in schools, group homes, and youth agencies. Call Wendy at 323.651.9888. 8/2002

### HELPLINE FOR DEAF PEOPLE WITH HIV

A unique service run by HIV+ deaf people, providing referrals to other deaf and hard-of-hearing people with HIV/AIDS. Contact Emmett Haggen at 323.550.4258 (TDD) or 323.550.4255 (fax). 9/2001

### AIDS EDUCATION/SERVICES FOR THE DEAF

Provides education to schools as well as one-on-one meetings and interpreters to Ryan White-funded HIV/AIDS services and testing with no charge to the service providers. Call 323.550.4250 (TDD/voice). Fax: 323.550.4244. 9/2001

### HIV/AIDS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Common Ground offers mental health services to HIV+ residents of Los Angeles who cannot afford to pay. Call Mark Fairfield, LCSW, Director of Mental Health, at 310.314.5480. 4/2002

### CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS INFO LINE

12-step program offering a 24-hour information hotline at 213.488.4455. 9/2000

### AID FOR AIDS: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Aid for AIDS provides financial assistance to people with HIV/AIDS. Help with pharmaceuticals, nutrition, monthly bus passes, rent, health insurance payments, utilities. For more info, call 323.656.1107. 9/2000