

AIDS EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTERS PROGRAM

The AIDS Education and Training Centers (AETC) Program of the Ryan White CARE Act supports a network of more than 10 regional centers (and more than 70 associated sites) that conduct targeted, multi-disciplinary education and training programs for health care providers treating persons with HIV/AIDS. The AETCs serve all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the six U.S. Pacific Jurisdictions. The AETC Program increases the number of health care providers who are effectively educated and motivated to counsel, diagnose, treat, and medically manage individuals with HIV infection, and to help prevent high risk behaviors that lead to HIV transmission.

PROVIDER TRAINING

Training is preferentially targeted to providers who serve minority populations, the homeless, rural communities, incarcerated persons, and Ryan White CARE Act-funded sites. AETCs focus on training clinicians in primary health care (physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, dentists, pharmacists); training activities are based upon assessed local needs. Emphasis is placed on interactive, hands-on training and clinical consultation to assist providers with complex issues related to the management of highly active antiretroviral therapy. AETCs collaborate with CARE Act-funded organizations, area health education centers, community-based HIV/AIDS organizations, and medical and health professional organizations. Since 1991, the AETC program has sponsored more than 700,000 training interactions for providers. Clinicians trained by AETCs have been shown to be more competent with regard to HIV issues and more willing to treat persons living with HIV than other primary care providers.

NATIONAL CENTERS

Several national, cross-cutting components of the AETC program support and complement the regional training centers. In 1999, the National Minority AIDS Education and Training Center (www.nmaetc.org) was established with funding from the Congressional Black Caucus Minority AIDS Initiative to benefit minorities who are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. Working with historically black colleges and universities' schools of medicine, the Center offers clinical consultation and support to minority providers, builds networks among these clinicians, and expands educational resources to increase the number of minority clinicians providing quality care to HIV-positive individuals.

The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act programs work with cities, States and local community-based organizations to provide services to approximately 533,000 individuals each year who do not have sufficient health care coverage or financial resources for coping with HIV disease. The majority of CARE Act funds support primary medical care and essential support services. A smaller, but equally critical portion is used to fund technical assistance, clinical training and research on innovative models of care. The CARE Act, first authorized in 1990, is currently funded at \$1.9 billion.

AETCs (as of August 2002)

- Northwest AETC
 University of Washington
 Center for Health Education and Research
 Seattle, Washington
- Pacific AETC
 University of California
 Department of Family and Community Medicine
 San Francisco, California
- Mountain Plains Regional AETC
 University of Colorado
 Health Sciences Center
 Denver, Colorado
- Midwest AETC
 University of Illinois at Chicago
 Chicago, Illinois
- Texas-Oklahoma AETC
 Parkland Health and Hospital System
 Dallas, Texas
- Delta Region AETC
 LSU Health Sciences Center
 New Orleans, Louisiana

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Other program components include the National Resource AETC, National Evaluation AETC, and the National HIV/AIDS Clinicians' Consultation Center. The Resource Center is a Web-based HIV/AIDS training resource (www.aids-ed.org) that supports the training needs of the regional AETCs through coordination of HIV/AIDS training materials, rapid dissemination of late-breaking advances in treatment and changes to treatment guidelines, and critical review of available patient education materials. The Evaluation Center is responsible for program evaluation activities, including assessing effectiveness of the AETCs' education, training, and consultation activities. The National HIV/AIDS Clinicians' Consultation Center (www.ucsf.edu/hivcntr) provides health care providers with a national resource to obtain timely and appropriate responses to clinical questions related to treatment of persons with HIV infection ("WARMLINE" (800) 933-3413) and/or possible health care worker exposure to HIV and other blood-borne pathogens (PEPline (888) 448-4911).

The FY 2002 appropriation for the AETC program was \$35.3 million.

- n Florida/Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands AETC
University of South Florida
Center for HIV Education and Research
Tampa, Florida
- n Southeast AETC
Emory University
School of Medicine
Department of Family and Preventive
Medicine
Atlanta, Georgia
- n Pennsylvania/Mid-Atlantic AETC
University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- n The New England AIDS Education and
Training Center
Brookline, Massachusetts

AETC National Centers

- n National Minority AETC
Howard University
Washington, D.C.
- n National AETC Resource Center
Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center
University of Medicine & Dentistry of
New Jersey
- n National Evaluation AETC
School of Public Health Columbia University
New York, New York
- n National HIV/AIDS Clinicians'
Consultation Center
University of California, SF
San Francisco General Hospital
San Francisco, California