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Equal Access Initiative Computer Grants Program Expands to Include Trainings at the 2007 United States Conference on AIDS

November 8, 2007—Palm Springs, CA— This year, the **National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC)**, in partnership with the **National Library of Medicine (NLM)**, expanded the scope of its **Equal Access Initiative (EAI) Computer Grants Program**, with a series of trainings called the ***Equal Access Initiative: HIV/AIDS Information Resources from the National Library of Medicine Training***, held at the **United States Conference on AIDS (USCA)**.

Through the EAI, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Office of AIDS Research (OAR), NMAC distributes one hundred state-of-the art computer systems to faith- and community-based organizations (F/CBOs) delivering HIV/AIDS services in communities of color nationwide. With the computer, grantees are empowered to provide clients access to online HIV/AIDS-related information clearing houses; news sites; and trainings, enabling them to make informed choices related to prevention, treatment and care.

This year, grantees received a scholarship package that included registration for the United States Conference on AIDS, a travel credit and, most importantly, an invitation to a three hour comprehensive training course from the NLM that familiarized them with reliable online health information from government and other reputable resources that address HIV/AIDS and related medical conditions. The training prepared participants to better serve their clients, colleagues and communities by arming them with the skills to effectively access treatment and prevention information. Students also were encouraged to take advantage of the additional networking and workshop opportunities at the 2007 USCA.

“The training was fantastic,” raves EAI participant, Pat Kelly of the Minority AIDS Council of Orangeburg, Bamberg, and Calhoun Counties. “I learned so much that I can take back and teach to other people. With the right information, we can help people overcome their fears about getting tested and protecting themselves from HIV/AIDS. The only problem I had with the training was that it ended!” (To see a video of an interview with Pat Kelly, please [click here](#).)

The **2008 Request for Proposals** was released and distributed this week during the conference. Applications will be accepted starting on **World AIDS Day, December 1, 2007** and will be due on or before **February 7, 2008**, which coincides with **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**.

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The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) was founded in 1987 to develop leadership within communities of color to address challenges of HIV/AIDS. NMAC has responded to the needs of communities of color by developing programs enhancing the skills necessary to confront this

health crisis, including a public policy education program; national and regional training conferences; treatment and research programs and trainings; numerous publications and a website: www.nmac.org. The agency also serves an association of AIDS service organizations, F/CBOs, hospitals, clinics, health departments and other groups assisting people and families living with and affected by the AIDS epidemic. NMAC's advocacy efforts are funded through private funders and donors only.