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NMAC Receives the 2007 National Organizational Leadership Award from the New York University Center for the Study of Asian American Health

July 18, 2007—Washington, DC—The National Minority AIDS Council has been selected to receive the 2007 National Organizational Leadership Award at the 4th Annual Asian American Health Conference on September 28, 2007. In line with this year's conference theme, "Leading the Way, Partnering for Change," the award recognizes organizations which have made significant contributions to improving Asian American health on a national level.

"We are so honored to be recognized as a leader and partner for change," says NMAC Executive Director, Paul A. Kawata. "NMAC would not exist without the support of its constituents – the thousands of faith- and community-based organizations working on the frontlines of this epidemic everyday."

HIV/AIDS has become an area of increasing concern among Asian Americans. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of Asian Americans living with HIV/AIDS has increased by more than 10 percent in each of the last 5 years; between 1999 and 2003, the number of AIDS diagnoses among Asian Americans increased by 34%.

"This trend has been facilitated by cultural barriers concerning sexual behavior and illness, a lack of health care providers with Asian-specific cultural competencies, and a low overall rate of testing," explains Kawata. "As the nation's leading organization for providing capacity building, technical assistance, and training to minority community-based organizations NMAC has dedicated itself to finding a way to respectfully work within these populations to ensure they get the education and treatment they need."

"We are extremely excited and look forward to recognizing [NMAC] at our conference for [its] commitment to empowering the Asian American community through advocacy, policy, community education, and research," stated Henrietta Ho-Asjoe, Director of Community Development at the Center for the Study of Asian American Health.

The conference will be held at New York University School of Medicine, Farkas Auditorium in New York City. The conference seeks to foster a comfortable environment to coalesce a network of concerned community members, including advocates, health providers, researchers, students, and policy makers, to engage in dialogue about lessons learned and best practices for addressing Asian American health disparities. For more information about the 4th Annual Asian American Health Conference, visit <http://www.med.nyu.edu/csaah/training/conf2007.html>.

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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. Today, NMAC is an association of AIDS service organizations providing valuable information to community-based organizations, hospitals, clinics 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.