

Contact:

Circe Gray Le Compte, Director of Communications
Telephone: (202) 234-5120 ext. 309 * E-mail: clecompte@nmac.org

USCA to Highlight HIV/AIDS in Communities of Color; NMAC's New Spokesperson, Ravinia Hayes-Cozier, to Conduct Media Interviews

September 4, 2007—Washington, DC—The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) is proud to announce the attendance of their official spokesperson Ravinia Hayes-Cozier at the 2007 United States Conference on AIDS (USCA), set for November 7-10 in Palm Springs California. Recently named Director of the Government Relations and Public Policy Division, Hayes-Cozier will be moderating press conferences on behalf of NMAC and will be available to answer questions related to the agency's stance on issues of public policy. Additionally, Hayes-Cozier will be facilitating a pre-meeting session of a group of black elected officials, also known as the G-9, who have made HIV/AIDS advocacy a priority in their own arenas.

“The breadth of the United States Conference on AIDS makes it the perfect forum to bring together stakeholders from across the nation to discuss the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on communities of color,” states Hayes-Cozier. “I look forward to having the opportunity to sit down with leaders in the African American community, to examine the challenges we continue to face, and strategize a new plan of action to get HIV/AIDS on the agenda of policymakers throughout the country.”

The meeting's plenary sessions will parallel the policy initiatives of USCA sponsor NMAC, focusing on communities in the United States heavily impacted by, and at high risk for, HIV/AIDS. The first plenary session, on Wednesday, November 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., will address “The State of HIV/AIDS in the Native American, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian Communities.” Representatives from many different indigenous communities will open USCA, and Native speakers will address the need for heightened HIV/AIDS awareness in Indian Country today.

The next plenary, “The HIV/AIDS Crisis in the African-American Community” will take place on Thursday, November 8, from 12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., and will feature a moderated panel of African-American leaders discussing impact of HIV/AIDS in the African-American/Black community. The final plenary, “Immigration, Migrant Farm Workers and HIV,” slated for Saturday, November 10, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., will address prevention and treatment challenges for Asian and Pacific Islanders and Latinos/as living with and at risk for HIV/AIDS.

Members of the media are invited to cover the largest domestic conference on HIV/AIDS. USCA's extensive roster of 200 institutes, seminars, workshops and roundtables covers every front of the AIDS epidemic – from nutrition and treatment to prevention and international issues – enables participants to customize their training experience according to their professional and personal needs. The partnership between

conference sponsor NMAC and the Host Committee promises to bring together USCA's largest audience yet—with nearly 3,500 HIV/AIDS professionals scheduled to attend.

About USCA

Since 1997, USCA has helped increase the strength of the community-based response to AIDS by bringing together thousands of HIV/AIDS professionals from across the country to learn new skills and build new partnerships and collaborations. USCA is the largest domestic conference on HIV/AIDS, and features dynamic sessions that enable participants to customize their training experience according to their professional and personal needs.

This year's theme, *One Family, One Voice, One Spirit*, stems from the commemoration of NMAC's twenty years in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The theme emphasizes the need for a concentrated effort to focus new attention on the continuing impact of the disease in communities across the country

“As the longest surviving national AIDS executive director, I understand how tiresome this work can become,” says Paul Kawata, Executive Director of NMAC. “I challenge you to make it one more day, one more month, one more year. We must rely on one another to revitalize our efforts so that they will not be in vain. Join us as we commence at USCA 2007 to breathe new life into our work as *One Family, One Voice, One Spirit*.”

###

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.