Background

NLM collaborates with rural, underserved, and minority communities to improve access to health information. Outreach efforts to special populations include (but are not limited to) NLM database training, providing Internet access, acquisition of computer equipment, and Web site development. NLM offers competitive awards to community-based organizations and libraries through the HIV/AIDS Community Information Outreach Program. This program offers funding to design and conduct projects that will improve access to HIV/AIDS related health information for patients, the affected community, and their caregivers.

Barriers

NLM recognizes the many barriers that affect the availability and accessibility of HIV/AIDS information, such as the lack of:

- Computer stations with Internet access in community settings
- Anonymity
- Computer skills
- Relevant and appropriate sites for special populations
- Qualitative, authoritative and accurate information on the Internet

Breaking Down the Barriers:
HIV/AIDS Community Information Outreach Program

National Library of Medicine (NLM) offers funding for communities to design and conduct projects with the following goals:

- Promote improved access to HIV/AIDS information for health care professionals, patients, the affected community, caregivers, and the general public.
- Encourage partnerships and community-focused activities.
- Promote awareness and use of technology applications for improved information access.

Areas improved by funding:

- Skills development
- Utilization of emerging technology
- Information retrieval
- Resource development
- Document access

Types of organizations and consortia:

- Public libraries
- Community-based organizations and patient advocacy groups
- Health departments and other local and state organizations
- Faith-based organizations

Standard awards are offered up to $60,000. Express awards are offered up to $10,000. Previously funded HIV/AIDS Community Information Outreach Projects are posted at sis.nlm.nih.gov/outreach/aids_cio_projects.html
HIV/AIDS Web Resources

**NLM HIV/AIDS Portal**
A comprehensive HIV/AIDS information service that provides access to high quality, accurate, and timely information for patients and their caregivers, health professionals, educators, as well as community-based organizations.

sis.nlm.nih.gov/hiv.html

**MedlinePlus®**
Reliable consumer health information related to HIV/AIDS, opportunistic infections, and living with HIV/AIDS.
medlineplus.gov

**AIDSinfo®**
Provides the latest federally approved treatment guidelines for health care professionals as well as additional information on treatment, prevention, and research for both health care providers and consumers.
aidsinfo.nih.gov

**DIRLINE®**
An online directory of more than 8,500 health-related organizations offering information and referral for many diseases and conditions.
dirline.nlm.nih.gov

**PubMed ®/MEDLINE®**
Access to more than 20 million references to articles published in 5,500 journals in the fields of medicine and the life sciences.
pubmed.gov

**ClinicalTrials.gov**
Regularly updated information about federally and privately supported clinical research for a wide range of diseases and conditions, including locations and phone numbers for more details.
clinicaltrials.gov

**HIV/AIDS Information Resources from the National Library of Medicine**
A workbook designed to convey the basics of searching NLMs HIV/AIDS resources.

**How to Find Reliable HIV/AIDS Treatment Information on the Internet**
A comprehensive list of HIV/AIDS treatment resources on the Web.
oris.orau.gov/AIDSTreatment

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