

What is a Statewide Capacity Development Meeting?

The Office of Minority Health Resource Center (OMHRC) would like to work with state Offices of Minority Health, local CBOs, FBOs, ASOs, health departments and community leaders in eight states to coordinate a series of national forums that will highlight the capacity development needs within these organizations. More specifically, these meetings aim to clarify the needs of rural organizations in delivering HIV/AIDS services to the diverse communities within their states.

Why are these meetings needed?

Currently, the majority of national attention and funding is being directed towards urban centers and their capacity to combat HIV/AIDS.

The Statewide Capacity Development Meetings mark the first time that similar attention is directed to grassroots minority agencies in rural and ethnic communities. U.S. statistics show that:

- Minorities comprise 15 percent of the total rural population and account for 30 percent of the rural poor;
- Thirty-nine percent of the people living with AIDS (PLWA) are in the South; and
- Nineteen percent of PLWAs live in the West.

What are the expected benefits of these meetings?

Some of the benefits will include:

- Creating a national database of rural minority CBOs working in ethnic communities;
- Describing national and regional trends supporting the capacity development needs of minority agencies and communities;
- Clarifying the obstacles agencies face when engaging in health promotion activities;
- Creating a body of data that will assist organizations in determining their capacity building needs;
- Pooling data that can influence funding strategies and resource development within minority communities; and
- Focusing on the capacity development of ethnic communities, as opposed to comparing data sets solely to majority norms and values.

Where will the Statewide Capacity Development Meeting occur?

Meetings will be held in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, New Mexico, Arizona and Hawaii.

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How did OMHRC determine where these meetings should take place?

The OMHRC HIV Team used the following data to select the states:

- AIDS incidence by region
- AIDS among women in the United States
- AIDS among men in the United States
- Teen pregnancy in the United States
- STD cases by region

When will the Statewide Capacity Development Meetings take place?

The meetings are scheduled to take place from April - June 2004.

What will be the results of these meetings?

The information gathered from these meetings will be collected and distributed for review by September 2004. Final drafts of outcome data will be made available to each of the states participating in the forums. Meetings to discuss the project outcomes and determine future steps for capacity building in local communities will follow.

What types of support are needed from the states?

The OMHRC endeavors to create State Planning Teams. These volunteer boards will work with OMHRC to determine crucial elements in the outreach, planning and implementation of each Statewide Capacity Development Meeting.

Their ability to work together and drive interest in these meetings is crucial to gathering useful information for rural communities at risk for HIV/AIDS.

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