

# Consumers: Involvement in Unmet Need (Parts A & B)

Technical Assistance for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program



## Overview

The Advanced Skills for Consumers Education and National Development (ASCEND) Leadership Training Program enlists consumers to reduce the rates of clients lost to care in eligible metropolitan areas (EMAs), transitional grant areas (TGAs), states, and territories that are most severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The program has evolved in direct response to estimates that at least 250,000 people living with HIV/AIDS are aware of their HIV infection, but do not receive primary care, and another estimated 250,000 people are unaware of their HIV+ status.

The ASCEND Program utilizes a proven approach to increase peer-to-peer trainings, peer-led and innovative outreach interventions, and nationwide community dissemination through a train-the-trainer model. The curriculum addresses the education needs of consumers related to epidemiology, adherence, co-morbidities, substance abuse, risk reduction, resource allocation, disclosure, self-care, assessment tools and evaluation in the learning process.

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## Major Activities – Year 3 of 3 – 2010–2011

¶ After revising the ASCEND curriculum for Year Two, conduct a minimum of three trainings in three regions for a minimum of 60 participants.

¶ Prepare trainees to conduct outreach with other PLWHA who have fallen out of the health care system in order to get them re-engaged in care. Each of the 60 trainees will reach and train at least 50 PLWHA in Year Two.

¶ Conduct ongoing individual and group/team conference calls with trainees to provide assistance and counsel as they conduct their trainings, to log and track program activities, and to provide HRSA with useful data on results over time.

¶ Complete evaluation of the program and produce a report on outcome measures, barriers to program effectiveness, accomplishments, and recommendations.

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## Accomplishments

¶ Revised the Project ASCEND curriculum to enhance its use by EMAs, TGAs, and States in activities to engage consumers in activities to reduce unmet need.

¶ Enhanced awareness among TGAs, EMAs, and States about unmet need rates and methods of engaging PLWHA in care in order to reduce unmet need.

## National Cooperative Agreement

### TA Partner

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### Project Period

September 1, 2008 to  
August 31, 2011

