



November 23, 2009

Dear Community Leader:

Advocates for Youth is pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for community-based organizations to receive capacity building assistance and a seed grant in the amount of \$7,000. Advocates for Youth is a national organization dedicated to creating programs and advocating for policies that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates provides information, training, and strategic assistance to youth-serving organizations, policy makers, youth activists, and the media in the United States and the developing world.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) youth of color are at disproportionate risk for negative sexual health outcomes. African American/black and Latino/Hispanic young men who have sex with men (YMSM) are more likely than other YMSM to be infected with HIV. Many young lesbians of color are at heightened risk for HIV infection and pregnancy due, in part, to the strong values placed on childbearing in their racial/ethnic community. Unfortunately, GLBTQ youth may face stigma related to race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity. This stigma places GLBTQ youth of color at risk for unsafe sex, violence, and substance abuse. To better meet the needs of GLBTQ youth, we must integrate awareness of racism and the understanding of how culture shapes sexual attitudes, values, and beliefs. We *must* also be willing to redress homophobia within communities of color and create safe spaces for GLBTQ youth of color. In order to be part of the solution, **Advocates launched its Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Project three years ago. Advocates seeks to build the capacity of organizations interested in and committed to improving the sexual health of *all* young people, including GLBTQ youth of color.**

Through Advocates' Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Project, your organization may receive culturally relevant publications and materials on HIV/STI and teen pregnancy prevention programming for GLBTQ youth; strategic technical assistance and training; and a seed grant in the amount of \$7,000 to create safe spaces for GLBTQ youth of color 13-24 years old and redress homophobia within the local community, including schools and agencies.

Please see the attached materials for more information about this opportunity, including eligibility and criteria for selection. The application form and/or proposal are due by **December 15, 2009, 5:00 p.m. EDT**. Please fax (202/419-1448) or mail applications to Jennifer Augustine, Director, HIV/STI Prevention Division at Advocates for Youth, 2000 M Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20036.

Working together, we believe that we can strengthen efforts to create safe spaces for GLBTQ youth of color within our communities and decrease negative sexual health outcomes among these young people. If you need further information or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 419-3420.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Augustine, MPH, CHES
Director, HIV/STI Prevention Division

**Advocates for Youth
Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Project
Description of Available Services**

The **goals** of Advocates for Youth's Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Project are to:

- Build the capacity of youth-serving professionals to serve GLBTQ youth of color;
- Create safe spaces for GLBTQ youth of color; and
- Redress homophobia within the local community (i.e., schools, agencies, etc.)

Level I Services: Technical Assistance

All partners are eligible to receive tailored technical assistance via mailings, quarterly newsletters, telephone, e-mail, and/or fax. Topics include: sexual health issues and GLBTQ youth of color; creating safe spaces; creating inclusive programming for GLBTQ youth of color; community mobilization; cultural competence; youth-adult partnerships to promote youth's involvement in programming; and youth-friendly services, among others.

Level II Services: Technical Assistance and Training

Up to ten partners will be selected to receive tailored and on-going technical assistance and training to develop strategies to address the above goals.

Selected partners will also receive one free, on-site training or workshop in 2009-2010. Advocates for Youth will cover all expenses of the trainer, including travel, lodging, honorarium, and training materials. Partners are expected to cover meeting logistics, room rental, refreshments, and other associated costs. Training topics include: sexual health issues and GLBTQ youth of color; creating safe spaces; creating inclusive programming for GLBTQ youth of color; community mobilization; media outreach; cultural competence; youth-adult partnerships to promote youth's involvement in programming; and youth-friendly services, among others.

Level III Services: Technical Assistance, Training, and Seed Grants

Four partners will be selected to receive tailored and on-going technical assistance, training, and a seed grant of \$7,000, to develop a project to address the above goals.

Selected partners will receive those services provided to Level III partners, as well as a seed grant, in the amount of \$7,000, for the purpose of developing a project to 1) build the capacity of staff to serve GLBTQ youth of color; 2) create safe spaces for GLBTQ youth; and 3) redress homophobia within the local community (i.e., schools, agencies, etc.).

The seed grant may also be used to conduct a variety of activities, including but not limited to: conducting GLBTQ sensitivity training for staff and youth clientele; creating safe spaces and a more inclusive environment for GLBTQ youth of color within the organization; developing new programming for GLBTQ youth of color; establishing a peer education program to redress homophobia with the local community (i.e., schools, agencies, etc.); conducting community forums to improve understanding of the issues faced by GLBTQ youth of color; and conducting media outreach to raise awareness about homophobia and transphobia. The project period is January 1, 2010 to November 1, 2010. It is anticipated that funded projects will become self-sustaining by leveraging additional funds for use once the project period has ended. Each selected partner will be responsible for completing the activities described in its proposal.

Please indicate your interest in participating in this project by returning the attached form and/or submitting a proposal for Level II or III. The form and proposal are due by December 15, 2009. Awards will be announced by December 21, 2009.

**Advocates for Youth
Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Project
Application Form**

Contact Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Please check one of the following options:

Services (Return this form and/or proposal for Level II or III services. See attached guidelines.)

We would like to receive the services listed below from Advocates for Youth:

- Level I Services.** We are interested in receiving technical assistance and would like to receive a list of technical assistance available.
- Level II Services.** We are interested in receiving technical assistance and training. Please send a brief statement describing the type of training/workshop your organization would like to receive, including potential audience; goals and objectives of training; and setting of training/workshop, for example, a national/regional conference.
- Level III Services.** We are interested in receiving technical assistance, training, and a seed grant in the amount of \$7,000 for the purpose of creating safe spaces for GBLTQ youth of color 13-24 years old and redressing homophobia within the local community. *(Requires submission of a proposal. See Proposal Guidelines.)*
- We are not interested in participating in the project at this time. However, please keep us on your mailing list.

Please return by mail by December 15, 2009, 5:00 p.m. EDT to: Jennifer Augustine, Director, HIV/STI Prevention Division, Advocates for Youth, 2000 M Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20036. You may also fax the application to (202) 419-1448.

**Advocates for Youth
Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Project
Proposal Guidelines for Services
Project Year: January 1, 2010 to November 1, 2010**

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for Level III of the Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Project, the applicant must:

- Be a United States 501(c)(3) youth of color-serving, community-based organization.
- Represent a community of color that lacks resources to effectively address homophobia.
- Have a strong commitment to GLBTQ issues.
- Be willing to work collaboratively with Advocates for Youth.
- Agree to fulfill all expectations for participation.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Proposals will be evaluated based on the applicant's history of working on GLBTQ youth issues; HIV/STI and teen pregnancy prevention issues; geographic location within an African American/black and/or Latino/Hispanic community impacted by homophobia; demonstrated motivation and capacity to serve young people; commitment to youth involvement; solid background working effectively within the community; strong leadership; staff capacity and readiness to implement work plans; and an organizational commitment to address homophobia in communities of color. The target population for the proposed project is young African American/black and/or Latino/Hispanic youth 13-24 years old, the surrounding community, and other service providers.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Proposals should be no more than five (5) to seven (7) single-spaced typewritten pages in length, have 1" margins on all pages (top, bottom, left and right) and be typed in 12 point font. Your proposal should include a project narrative which contains organizational background information, local needs, community demographics, staff capacity, and training need.

Please provide the following:

A. Organizational Background (one page)

Describe the history and background of the organization. Include information on GLBTQ youth programming. Detail, as appropriate, how the organization has:

- Developed specific GLBTQ programming targeting youth;
- Developed youth programming (not focused on HIV/STI and teen pregnancy prevention); and
- Worked in partnership with other local groups to prevent HIV/STI and teen pregnancy in communities of color.

B. Local Needs/Demographics (one page)

Provide an overview of the experiences of GLBTQ youth in the local area (e.g., access to resources, trained youth services providers, availability of GLBTQ specific organizations/resources in the local community) and describe the local need for the project. Include information on issues impacting adolescent sexual health in your local area.

C. Capacity (one page)

Describe the organization's capacity to address homophobia in the local area (see Criteria for Selection). You may address the following areas:

- public education

- technical assistance and training
- coalition building
- community mobilization
- intersectional framework addressing race, class, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability

D. Training Needs (½ page)

Describe the type of training/workshop your organization would like to receive. Include potential audience (i.e. staff, coalition partners, etc.); goals and objectives; and setting of training.

Training topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Science-based sex education
- HIV/STI, and teen pregnancy prevention programming for lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth (including life skills)
- Parent-child communication
- Cultural competence
- Peer support
- Media outreach
- Community coalitions/community mobilization
- Youth-adult partnerships to promote youth's involvement in GLBTQ programming,
- Youth-friendly services/creating safe spaces for GLBTQ youth.

E. Goals/Objectives/Activities/Timeline/Evaluation Plan (two pages)

Describe project goals, objectives, activities, timeline, and evaluation plan of the proposed project. Your evaluation plan should include process evaluation (e.g. attendance log, number of youth/staff trained, etc.). Additionally, you should include short-term outcomes (e.g. changes in knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of youth, staff and/or community). Objectives should be

SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-phased). For each objective:

- List activities that will be implemented
- Provide a timeline for accomplishments.

F. Budget (one page)

Include an itemized budget and budget justification of the proposed project.

G. Letter of Support (one page)

Include a signed letter of support and commitment from the organization's executive director.

Deadline for Proposals

Proposals must be postmarked or faxed by **December 15, 2009, 5:00 p.m. EDT.**

Please submit **two copies** of the proposal to:

Jennifer Augustine
Director, HIV/STI Prevention Division
Advocates for Youth
2000 M Street, NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20036
Fax: (202) 419-1448

**Advocates for Youth
Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Project
Application Check List and Tips for a Successful Proposal**

APPLICATION CHECK LIST

A complete application for the Michigan Anti-Homophobia and Transphobia Project should include all of the following:

- Project Narrative:** Containing organizational background information, local needs, community demographics, and staff capacity and training needs.
- Work Plan/ Timeline:** Outline specific project goals, objectives, and activities.
- Evaluation Plan:** Remember to include process evaluation.
- Budget and Budget Justification:** Provide a plan for the coordination of grant expenditures and a description of the budget items with a justification of the costs by showing their relationship to the project activities.
- Brief Biographies of Key Project Staff:** Limit to one page each and do not include staff résumés.
- Letter of Support and Commitment:** Include a signed letter of support and commitment from the organization's executive director.

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

To ensure that your proposal meets the aforementioned criteria and guidelines effectively as possible, be sure to address the following:

- **Project Narrative:** Have you described how your project will meet the needs of the target population?
- **Documented Need:** Have you provided information that this project will address an unmet need or fill a gap in services in the community?
- **Work Plan:** Have you outlined a clear and practical approach and a preliminary plan for implementing goals, objectives, and activities? Have you used SMART objectives?
- **Community Impact:** Have you shown that funding will help the target population access services and/or strengthen the community's efforts in addressing homophobia?
- **Expected Results:** Have you stated project results or outcomes in measurable terms so that you and others can document, measure, and evaluate your success?
- **Youth involvement:** Have you stated how young people will be involved with the design, implementation and evaluation of the proposed project?
- **Intersectional Framework:** Have you demonstrated your organization's commitment to working within an intersectional framework addressing race, class, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability?

Good Luck!