

African American HIV University

Aimed at strengthening organizational and individual capacity to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Black communities, the African American HIV University (AAHU) is a comprehensive training and internship fellowship program. The program is designed to decrease stigma and misperception and increase the engagement of the Black community in HIV prevention and treatment services. This is achieved through leadership development and information transfer among key stakeholders.

AAHU consists of two separate colleges: the Science and Treatment College (STC) and the Community Mobilization College (CMC). Both Colleges are founded on the principle that, by building the capacity of individuals and organizations, Black people are collectively empowered to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in their communities.

The STC focuses on HIV and its relationship to human biology, virology, pharmacokinetics, epidemiology and treatment strategies. Graduates of this program are uniquely qualified to serve as liaisons between people living with HIV or AIDS and the entities that serve them.

The CMC focuses on developing individual grassroots skills and knowledge to engage key stakeholders and at-risk communities in initiatives to combat HIV/AIDS.



Contact Us

For more information on AAHU or to receive an application, please contact:

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Applications may also be downloaded online at www.BlackAIDS.org.



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African American HIV University Community Mobilization College



Our People | Our Problem | Our Solution

AAHU Community Mobilization College



Participants in the AAHU Community Mobilization College (CMC) learn incremental community mobilization techniques and strategies. The curriculum is concentrated and repetitive, tackling

the underlying social, economic and cultural factors that prevent Black leaders and communities from fully engaging the HIV/AIDS problem.

Using the AAHU Community Mobilization Model as a foundation, the CMC curriculum prepares community-based and AIDS service organizations to engage traditional Black institutions such as churches, civil rights and social organizations, Black political leaders, sororities/fraternities, academia and the Black media in local strategies to fight HIV. The curriculum also includes Science and Treatment College components, focusing on biomedical interventions, HIV science and literacy, treatment preventions services, and policy changes. The CMC uses a unique method for exploring the complex issues and barriers that prevent many in the Black community from using HIV prevention services.

AAHU CMC Components

TRAINING MODULES. Participants travel to Los Angeles four times for week-long trainings. Training curriculum incorporates the latest and most effective mobilization strategies with a strong understanding of Black social and cultural norms.

INTERNSHIPS. Internships allow participants to apply and practice the skills and knowledge obtained

in each training module. Fellows have specific assignments during internships such as conducting a community assessment, forging strategic action plans, planning a mobilization campaign and evaluating and monitoring their progress and challenges.

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION SYMPOSIUM. Fellows come to Los Angeles to present their community mobilization experiences, key findings and best practices to peers, Institute staff and representatives of community partner organizations.

AAHU CMC Success

AAHU is successful because participants learn by doing. Participants are immersed in an environment that requires them to continually practice and assess their skills, not simply listen to lectures. Participants leave AAHU CMC understanding the fundamentals of Black community mobilization for HIV prevention.

The length of the Fellowship also supports the development of strong professional relationships and



"Since my participation in AAHU, my fraternity has developed a statewide HIV prevention project," he says. "Right now our coalition is still working and growing, and we're doing various community events."
—Kenneth Robinson, Atlanta, GA Class of 2008.

The AAHU CMC teaches four fundamental steps of community mobilization:

ASSESSMENT: Learn how to conduct community needs assessments to understand the characteristic of the HIV epidemic in Black communities.

PLANNING: Learn strategies to influence mobilization through partnerships, coalitions, and strategic action planning.

IMPLEMENTATION: Organizations plan and carry out HIV mobilization events that bring together non-traditional HIV partners and responds to the needs of their community assessment.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION: Learn to assess the impact of mobilization activities and techniques to sustain mobilization campaigns.

Each training module is taught by experts, on-site at our Los Angeles facility.

bonding that occurs through common experience, preparing participants for the networking opportunities that occur in their communities and beyond.

How AAHU Builds Capacity

By participating in AAHU, organizations will have the benefit of highly skilled personnel able to strengthen organizational goals in mobilizing their communities for HIV prevention and awareness. Participating organizations will have:

- Increased ability to mobilize Black communities using the latest and most effective mobilization strategies.

- Participation in a national network of ASOs, CBOs and traditional Black institutions who are committed to HIV prevention mobilization.

- Increased HIV science literacy by building HIV science and prevention knowledge.

- Increased numbers of people in their community and organization who have access to the latest prevention and treatment information.

Fellow Eligibility

AAHU is a capacity building and scholarship service provided to organizations, rather than a course for individuals. Any organization serving the Black community in the United States can apply to AAHU.

Financial Matters

AAHU costs approximately \$8,500 a year for each Fellow. The Black AIDS Institute provides scholarship in form of tuition, educational materials, training, housing, meals and ground transportation for selected Fellows who are accepted to the program and apply for scholarships. All Fellows who are accepted to the program must have their sponsoring organization provide ground and air transportation. Fellows must also have access to a laptop during on-site training modules.



"...I learned how to look beyond my biases and see people from another perspective. It enhanced my ability to come back and be able to do education and treatment and prevention on a non-biased basis."
—Mamie Harris, Cincinnati, OH Class of 2007.



"Not only did AAHU help me but it helped my agency organize and put together a community needs assessment... I was able to bring the tools I gained from class back to my home-based agency and.. mobilize people to join us in the project." —Jeffrey Padilla New York, NY Class of 2010.