

**A**imed 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 colleges.

The Science and Treatment College (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 Community Mobilization College (CMC) focuses on developing individual grassroots skills and knowledge to engage key stakeholders and at-risk communities in initiatives to combat HIV/AIDS.

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## Academic Sponsors

**Black AIDS Institute** is the only national HIV/AIDS think tank focused exclusively on Black people. The Institute's Mission is to stop the AIDS pandemic in Black communities by engaging and mobilizing Black institutions and individuals in efforts to confront HIV. The Institute interprets public and private sector HIV policies, conducts trainings, offers technical assistance, disseminates information and provides advocacy from a uniquely and unapologetically Black point of view.

**University of California Los Angeles**'s primary purpose as a public research university is the creation, dissemination, preservation, and application of knowledge for the betterment of our global society.

**The UCLA Center for World Health**'s mission is to improve the health of people and communities throughout the world through education, research, and service.

**The UCLA AIDS Institute** receives most of its infrastructure support from the Centers for AIDS Research program of the National Institutes of Health. The program supports a multi-disciplinary environment by promoting basic, behavioral, clinical, and translational research in prevention, detection, and treatment of HIV infection and AIDS.

**Center for HIV Identification, Prevention and Treatment Services** leverages world class science to combat HIV globally, in partnership with communities, families, and individuals impacted by the pandemic.

# African American HIV University

## Science and Treatment College



# AAHU Science and Treatment College

The AAHU Science and Treatment College is a four-stage program sponsored by the Black AIDS Institute and the University of California, Los Angeles Center for World Health in which Fellows learn to promote high quality care in HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention by building the skills and capacity of HIV/AIDS science literacy and treatment strategies.

## The Learning Process

The curriculum focuses on human biology, virology, pharmacokinetics, epidemiology, biomedical interventions, treatment preventions services and policy changes. It prepares Fellows to help community-based and AIDS service organizations serve as qualified liaisons between people living with HIV/AIDS and the entities that serve them.

The College uses a unique method for facilitating communication among treatment and care advocates, exploring the complex issues and barriers that prevent many in the Black community from accessing treatment services and obtaining viral suppression. Fellows are immersed in an environment that requires them to continually practice and assess their skills, not simply listen to lectures.

The 12-month long Fellowship supports the development of strong professional relationships and bonding that occurs through common experience, preparing participants for the networking opportunities that occur in their communities and beyond.

## Training Sessions

Training sessions take place four times throughout the 12-month fellowship. The sessions are held in Los Angeles at UCLA and Black AIDS Institute campuses. Leading



researchers and community advocates from across the country deliver content to ensure Fellows leave trainings with information needed to successfully complete their internship.

## Internships

Fellows have specific assignments during internships such as conducting a local training, completing a community assessment, forging a strategic action plan, planning a mobilization campaign or evaluating and monitoring their own progress and challenges.

Whether it's advocating for increased local research for biomedical interventions or mobilizing local patient navigators to retain people in care, internships are where "the rubber hits the pavement. They are where Fellows apply and practice skills and knowledge obtained in trainings.

## The Four Training Modules

**Science Academy:** This first module is a 30-day intensive on HIV science, biomedical and behavior interventions, effective communication, epidemiology and leadership. Fellows will identify available resources and assess the needs of the community.

**Community Mobilization:** During this seven-day training, Fellows learn how to conduct a community needs assessment to learn strategies to influence mobilization through strategic partnerships and action planning, review national and local HIV/AIDS policies and mobilization efforts, and implement, monitor and evaluate strategies to engage the community in HIV treatment education and advocacy.

**Advanced Science Skills:** Over seven days, Fellows advance their knowledge of HIV and their ability to plan, develop, and implement effective community based HIV biomedical interventions. Fellows review science and treatment, health behavior theories, group level interventions and the role of community organizing.

**HIV Intervention:** In this last seven-day training, Fellows develop techniques for delivering prevention messages to those high risk of or living with HIV/AIDS. Fellows also increase their understanding of HIV-related research and advancements and patho-physiology and treatment leading to viral suppression.



## Eligibility

The STC is a service provided to organizations, not a course for individuals. Although any organization serving the Black community in the United States can apply, priority is given to:

- CBOs/ASOs serving Black communities at high risk, directly or indirectly CDC-funded.
- Local branches of organizations affiliated with the Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative.
- Organizations whose missions align with that of the Institute and the goals of the College.
- Organizations with a specialized HIV/AIDS treatment or adherence educator are strongly encouraged to apply.

Eligible organizations will have the capacity to allow Fellows to participate in training activities and will benefit from increased treatment and care programming in their community.

## Cost and Materials

The STC costs approximately \$17,000 each year for each Fellow. The Black AIDS Institute provides a limited number of scholarships in the form of travel costs, tuition, educational materials, training, housing and meals for selected Fellows.

Fellows must also have access to a laptop during the Los Angeles-based training sessions and be able to attend all trainings in their entirety.

The STC is intensive and requires a significant amount of Fellows time and energy. Fellows spend more than 50 days in Los Angeles for training and an average of one week per month devoted to internship activities. The issues that drive the high rates of HIV/AIDS in Black communities deserve a workforce that is adequately prepared to respond to the challenge, and the STC delivers that.

To provide support to organizations that sponsor Fellows, the Institute provides organizational stipends to help supplement Fellows' salary depending on funding availability.

