

## **Community Based Participatory Research to Address Late Diagnosis of HIV Among African Americans and Latinos in Oakland**

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To support the development of community driven responses to the problem of late diagnosis in Oakland, the Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation, in partnership with the University of California, Berkeley, and two well respected community based HIV programs in Oakland -- the California Prevention and Education Project (CAL-PEP) and La Clinica de la Raza -- will work in partnership on a study to explore the reasons for this phenomenon, and define solutions. Through the use the innovative process of community based participatory research (CBPR), the pilot project will engage the Oakland community to understand the reasons for late diagnosis among African American and Latinos, and develop action-oriented solutions. By utilizing CBPR methods, the pilot project seeks to merge the science of public health with community insight and understanding to develop solutions that have never before been tried in Oakland.

The project objectives are:

- 1) to describe the individual and structural barriers to earlier detection of HIV through in-depth key informant interviews with individuals who are late diagnosed as well key Oakland HIV/AIDS leaders who can give insight to understanding the HIV/AIDS socio-cultural factors affecting late diagnosis. A case-control chart review of all individuals who presented in Oakland with a late HIV/AIDS diagnosis within the last 5 years to assess “missed opportunities” for testing and entry into care;
- 2) to make existing county and state-wide HIV testing and AIDS case data available to local communities for better understanding of late diagnosis and improved programming;
- 3) to engage community and other HIV/AIDS stakeholders in reviewing findings from the activities described above and to identify and/or develop community-driven responses to increase early HIV detection and diagnosis, and;
- 4) to pilot test the most promising of these community-driven leading to recommended models of implementation in Oakland.