



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

March 6, 2006

CONTACT: Leslie Ridgeway (619) 685-2239

COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR HIV/AIDS SERVICES UNDERWAY

People Living With HIV/AIDS Asked to Participate to Identify Service Needs

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency HIV, STD & Hepatitis Branch (HSHB) is conducting a needs assessment, which takes place every two years, of people living with HIV/AIDS in San Diego County. Interested members of the community are encouraged to participate.

The Needs Assessment effort includes an anonymous consumer survey of people living with HIV/AIDS regarding their health care, support and prevention service needs. Participants may complete the survey online, or request a paper copy. The online survey can be found at www.sdplanning.org in English and Spanish. The paper version is available in English and Spanish through health and social service agencies countywide, or at the HSHB: 3043 Fourth Ave., San Diego. Response deadline is March 20.

More than 1,100 people living with HIV/AIDS responded to the 2004 consumer survey. The Needs Assessment effort is critical in helping San Diego HIV Health Services Planning Council members allocate more than \$9 million in federal funds. Data gathered from the survey is used to plan HIV prevention, housing and substance abuse treatment services.

A survey of service providers will be conducted in early April to assess capacity to provide HIV care, support and prevention services in San Diego County.

The 2006 Needs Assessment is a collaborative effort between HSHB, County Alcohol and Drug Services, County Housing and Community Development, the San Diego HIV Health Services Planning Council, the HIV Prevention Community Planning Board, and a multitude of community agencies, consumers and concerned individuals.

For more information or to request paper copies of the consumer survey, contact Deborah Roseman at (619) 293-4711.

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