



MAP *Facts*

MINNESOTA'S PROGRAM HH (ADAP)

MAP Action

MAP supports legislation that revises Minnesota's Program HH (ADAP), which provides HIV health care and services to low-income and uninsured HIV positive Minnesotans.

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Access to Treatment is Critical for HIV Prevention

- HIV disease requires comprehensive and continuous care because it can spread rapidly in vulnerable, hard-to-insure populations.
- For treatments (HAART) to be effective, adherence to the medication regimen is critical. If individuals with HIV miss more than 1 in 20 doses, or in other words, are less than 95% adherent to their regimen, they face the possibility of developing a drug resistant strain of the virus. This strain could then be passed along to others.
- People with consistent access to treatment and medication are more likely to adjust their behaviors, thereby reducing the risk that the virus will spread.

Current Policies are Out of Date

- Existing policies for care are based on assumptions made prior to newer treatment options. New treatment regimens and longer life expectancy require more continuous and comprehensive health care delivery.
- Cost share and co-pay policies implemented by the Department of Human Services in 2004 require low-income and uninsured Minnesotans to pay a portion of their income in order to receive access to HIV treatment and medication. In the fall of 2005, DHS has started to terminate clients from the program due to non-payment of cost-share.

Program HH (ADAP) Should:

- Provide access to health care that is consistent with guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control.
- Promote the reduction of HIV transmission through continuous and uninterrupted access to treatment.
- Provide access to HIV treatment that includes substance abuse and mental health services because these factors interfere with HIV treatment adherence.
- Provide access to services for low-income Minnesotans that is not dependent on their ability to pay for the services.
- Regularly report status of the program to the legislature and involve the community in program changes.