

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Mission of the Gila County HIV/AIDS Case Management Program is to increase knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS, and improve the quality of life for those who are HIV positive and their affected caregivers. The program provides them with resources within their communities and assist with barriers that would prevent them from receiving medical care and maintaining a safe environment in which to live.

The Gila County HIV/AIDS Case Management program has provided services to our targeted population since 1998 with the same level of excellence and equality. The service area of our three counties is 25,875 square miles. The current Case Manager has been providing service to this area for almost 4 years now and has built a rapport and trust with clients and providers that are important to the success of the program. Confidentiality is one of the top priorities for people living with HIV/AIDS in a small rural community and continuity of care is also important for adherence to treatment.

The Case Management services provided through our Program include but are not limited to intake, needs assessment, education, risk reduction, counseling, and referral services. Staff also locates and coordinates with available resources in the effort to meet specific needs of our clientele. We make every effort to tailor the services to the clients need and ensure our referrals are appropriate and confidentiality is maintained. In our rural service area, HIV medical care often requires the burden of distant travel, the access to care is at a minimum of 50 miles or greater in most cases. As many of our clients do not have transportation it is essential for the Case Manager to travel to them for much of the needed documentation when time is a factor.

The HIV/AIDS Program staff has established strong interagency linkages to the County Health Departments and Indian Health Service Units in our service area to ensure that newly diagnosed clients and clients who move into our area are aware of our services and they are afforded the opportunity to obtain those services. Area Dentists and Physicians are also working with our program to coordinate care in a comfortable environment. This program assists in the continuum of care that is necessary for individuals who are infected with HIV/AIDS in maintaining medical and medication adherence, and a good quality of life.

Our clients provide feedback that is vital to the adaptation of our program; we have been able to increase our resource list of services due to this collaboration. The clients interact with each other as a result of Support Groups that have been developed by the current Case Manager

enabling them to have a feeling of belonging and reduce the loneliness factor that can be felt in these small rural communities.

The entire Division of Health and Emergency Services, including the HIV/AIDS Department provides services to a diverse and targeted population with the same level of commitment to excellence and equality. Cultural diversity is taken into consideration when services are offered. Bilingual staff is available within the department to assist the non-English and monolingual population and a sign language interpreter and a Spanish language translator is available if the need arises. For our Native American clients we have a liaison from the Apache and Navajo tribes that will assist us with translation. Most program brochures are available in English and Spanish. The HIV/AIDS program provides “family focused” services because the family is an essential element in the clients treatment program. The HIV/AIDS program does not discriminate on any basis. Program staff provides services to our targeted population with attention and consideration of cultural issues with various groups within our services area. In addition, staff has received training regarding multi-cultural awareness and will continue to seek future trainings to assure cultural sensitivity is ongoing.

This Proposal is submitted in the effort to afford our program the opportunity to continue to provide much needed Case Management Services and to provide funding for the support services needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Services will be provided to all eligible individuals who are living with HIV/AIDS and their affected caregivers in our service area, which is Gila, Apache, and Navajo counties. There are also services provided to the Navajo and Apache Reservations within this area.

The program staff is well trained and has extensive experience and expertise. The Gila County HIV/AIDS Case Management Program team is devoted to identifying the immediate and unmet needs of our clientele and in providing quality services.