

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

June 10, 2025

Advocating for using the AIDS Drug Assistance Program Rebate Fund to Sustain County HIV Programs

Los Angeles County shoulders the second largest HIV epidemic in the United States and continues to be disproportionately impacted by this public health crisis. At the end of 2023, approximately 58,000 individuals in the County were living with HIV, including an estimated 6,800 residents with undiagnosed HIV infection. Additionally, the County estimates that 1,400 new HIV infections occur each year. Gay and bisexual men of all racial/ethnic groups, transgender persons, persons with opiate and stimulant use disorder, persons experiencing homelessness and cis-gender women of color are sub-populations most disproportionately impacted by this epidemic. The HIV epidemic has had a devastating impact on gay and bisexual men, and transgender persons since it began in the 1980s, and has shaped the LGBTQ+ movement, particularly due to lives lost.

Since 1993, Los Angeles County has maintained a HIV prevention cooperative agreement (High Impact HIV Prevention and Surveillance (HIHPS)) with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that includes the investment of critical resources to support prevention, testing, surveillance, linkage and other

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interventions. HIHPS is scheduled to end on May 31, 2025, and in a recent federal budget proposal, the CDC Division that maintains these cooperative agreements (the Division of HIV Prevention) was recommended for elimination, and more than 40% of senior staff recently experienced layoffs. As a complement to HIHPS and given the significant impact of HIV on Los Angeles County residents, our County is also one of 57 priority jurisdictions in the United States, that are part of the national Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Initiative. The EHE initiative aims to reduce new HIV infections in the United States by 90% (compared to 2020 levels) by 2030 by focusing on preventing, diagnosing, treating, and responding to HIV outbreaks quickly.

Funding from the CDC's Division of HIV Prevention and more recently, the EHE initiative, have enabled Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) to support the delivery of critical comprehensive HIV prevention services through more than three dozen local community-based partners to ensure broad geographic reach of culturally and linguistically appropriate services targeted to the sub-groups at elevated risk for HIV infection or transmission.

The President's recently released federal Fiscal Year 2026 Budget blueprint has no mention of HIV prevention funding, and a previously leaked draft of the President's "Skinny Budget" indicated that the Administration was planning to fully eliminate funding for certain HIV programs, including the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative and domestic HIV prevention programming, which fund Public Health's HIV prevention efforts. The Administration's announced reorganization of the Federal Department of Health and

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Human Services, including the elimination of the CDC's Division of HIV Prevention and the lack of federal staff and communication related to grants also signify that the Administration is likely intent on reducing or eliminating funding for HIV prevention efforts in the United States. Without a federal notice of the intent to award continued HIV prevention funding, Public Health is unable to continue funding HIV prevention efforts supported by the federal grant; this impacts community-based providers who rely on this support to maintain cost- and life-saving HIV prevention programs and services.

The American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) projects that there will be more than 75,529 new HIV infections in the United States over the next five years if the domestic HIV prevention is halved. Based on these estimates, Public Health estimates that an additional 500 to 650 new HIV infections will occur each year over the next 5 years, translating to 1900 to 2050 infections each year compared to the current level of 1,400.

While restoration of domestic HIV prevention funding must be a priority, Los Angeles County must explore alternate support options to preserve HIV prevention efforts. Currently, the California AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Rebate Fund continues to accumulate rebates from pharmaceutical companies as a result of the State's bulk purchase of HIV/AIDS medication. The Rebate Fund is intended to be used to support the purchase of additional HIV medication and support services that enhance the State's response to the HIV epidemic, including vital HIV prevention programs that are now at risk of being eliminated.

AGN. NO. _____

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I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch, in partnership with the Department of Public Health, to send a five-signature letter to Governor Newsom and the Director of the California Department of Finance with a copy to the Senate Pro Tempore, the Assembly Speaker, Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Budget and Health, and Los Angeles County State delegation members, to incorporate funding from the California AIDS Drug Assistance Program Rebate Fund in the State budget to sustain vital HIV prevention programs.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct CEO, in collaboration with DPH and Center for Strategic Partnerships, to explore partnerships with philanthropy to preserve HIV prevention efforts.

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