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Release Date: June 3, 2008
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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

Federal Grant to Provide for the Expansion of HIV Testing and Outreach to Communities of Color

Carson City – Richard Whitley, Administrator of the Nevada State Health Division, announced today that the state has received a competitive grant award of \$300,000 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The grant will allow for increased outreach and testing services targeting the African American and Latino/Hispanic communities. Additionally, this funding will allow the Southern Nevada Health District to increase testing in Clark County detention centers. In Nevada's incarcerated population, rates of persons living with HIV/AIDS were 5.2 times higher than the general population.

This grant is a collaborative effort between the Nevada State Health Division, Southern Nevada Health District, Goshen Community Development Coalition, and Luz Community Development Coalition.

For the purpose of this grant, Southern Nevada Health District will be receiving \$136,448 to hire a part-time Disease Investigator Intervention Specialist to increase HIV testing in Clark County Detention Centers. This will increase HIV testing in these detention centers by 5,000 tests. This funding will also be used to conduct physician education to 156 medical providers in Clark County, mainly to educate physicians on the importance of making HIV testing a part of routine medical exams, which is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Additionally, part of this funding will be used to support HIV testing as part of outreach and social marketing to the African American and Latino/Hispanic communities.

The Nevada State Health Division's HIV Prevention Program will be contracting \$160,000 to Goshen Community Development Coalition which will be used to hire two outreach workers; one to target the African American community, and the other to target the Latino/Hispanic community. Outreach workers will provide HIV education to their respective communities and offer HIV testing, which will be provided by Southern Nevada Health District. Incentives will be used to get people to test for HIV and to return for their test results. Additionally, Goshen Community Coalition will provide media spots and public service announcements to target their communities with the, "Get Tested, Know Your Status" campaign.

For more information, contact Lyell Collins, HIV Prevention Coordinator, 775-684-5882 or Martha Framsted, Public Information Officer, 775-684-4014.

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