# Black Power

Advocacy and support for African-American HIVers

January 1, 1999 By Shana Naomi Krochmal

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Since the early ’80s and largely without the support of their national leadership or white ASOs, African-American grass-roots groups have mobilized to fight AIDS, taking prevention and support services to the streets and homes of most major U.S. cities. The following organizations draw a diverse membership—from the clergy to the media—and focus on self-empowerment through public education and specialized assistance programs.

**NATIONAL**

**African-American HIV/AIDS Program of the American Red Cross**
Contact your local chapter or call 703.206.7090
*Trains instructors to share community-based information about HIV, particularly with teens. Also develops posters and other prevention materials targeting African Americans.*

**The Balm in Gilead**
130 W. 42nd St., Suite 450
New York, NY 10036
212.730.7381 or 888.225.6243
e-mail: BalmGilead@aol.com
*Mobilizes African-American churches to respond to AIDS through conferences, radio programs, videos and community forums.*

**Leading for Life Campaign**
(Harvard AIDS Institute)
651 Huntington Ave.
Boston, MA 02115
617.432.4400
*An advocacy project that brings together leaders from academia, media, medicine, politics and religion to develop national and local plans of action targeting HIV prevention among African Americans.*

**National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS**
105 E. 22nd St., Suite 711

New York, NY 10010
212.614.0023
e-mail: NBLCA@aol.com
*Works to inform, coordinate and organize the volunteer efforts of clergy, elected officials and the media through community development, policymaking and fundraising.*

**National Minority AIDS Council**
1931 13th St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20009
202.483.6622
*An association of more than 3,000 AIDS service organizations that target people of color. NMAC can provide local referrals to member agencies upon request.*

**REGIONAL**

**African-American AIDS Support Services and Survival Institute (AMASSI)**
105 S. Locust St.
Englewood, CA 90305
310.419.1969, hotline: 800.786.7448
*A community center that provides services to PWAs as part of a wide range of cultural programs and events open to all races but with an emphasis on African-American life.*

**Black Coalition on AIDS**
1042 Divisadero St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
415.346.2530
*A broad-based alliance providing education, services, treatment, emotional support and research in African-American communities.*

**Friends for Friends**
P. O. Box 77075
Washington, DC 20013
202.625.1444
e-mail: friends4friend@geocities.com
www.geocities.com/HotSprings/7880
*Creates innovative grass-roots prevention programs to educate and inform the African-American community about HIV, including distribution of condoms and flyers at Metro rail stations and peer educators in public-housing communities.*

**Together Responsible Informed Black Empowered (TRIBE)**
AIDS Project Arizona
4700 N. Central St., Suite 204
Phoenix, AZ 85012
602.266.7233

*TRIBE programs include a weekly rap group for women of color affected by HIV and a support group for HIV positive African Americans.*

**We the People**
425 S. Broad St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215.545.6868
www.critpath.org/wtp
*A coalition run by and for PWAs with a drop-in center, meals, clothing, support groups, drug and alcohol counseling and testing for HIV, other STDs, TB and CD4 counts. Ninety percent of members are African American*.

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