Weep No More

The feds’ willow program empowers women HIVers.

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) looks to be barking up the right tree with WILLOW (Women Involved in Life Learning From Other Women). The program empowers black women with HIV through social networking and education. Led by both an HIVer and an educator, sessions tackle gender pride, coping skills and condom negotiation. Study leader Gina Wingood says, “We talk about their worth, accomplishments, goals and dreams.” A WILLOW study of 366 mostly black women revealed reduced unsafe sex by 44%. Look for WILLOW to grow at your AIDS service organization by 2006.

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