



### **Latino Community Services' Mission:**

*To reduce the further spread of HIV/AIDS among the Latino Community and other populations at risk and improve the quality of life and health outcomes of individuals affected by HIV/AIDS*

### **Services Available:**

#### HIV/STD Testing

- *HIV Counseling and Testing* - Individuals are offered one-on-one, client centered informational sessions in which they are made aware of basic HIV information, testing procedures, and receive counseling that is relevant to their situation.

#### HIV/Substance Abuse Prevention Services

- *VOICES/VOCES* - a single session video-based HIV/STD prevention workshop designed to encourage condom use and improve condom negotiation skills. Sessions are held in small groups of peers that are gender-specific.
- *Safety Counts* - a four-month harm reduction program for active drug users. This program offers two group sessions, an individual counseling session, and opportunities for social events as clients develop their own goals for reducing their risk for HIV and Hepatitis C.
- *Spiritual Self Schema (3-S) Therapy* - a manual-guided intervention for increasing motivation for HIV prevention that integrates a cognitive model of self within a Buddhist framework suitable for people of all faiths. 3-S Therapy is based on the premise that motivation for HIV prevention can be increased by drawing upon clients' spiritual beliefs and religious faith, and by strengthening a self-schema that is fundamentally incompatible with drug use and other HIV risk behavior.
- *Social Network Testing* - a targeted and focused HIV testing approach that has been shown to be successful in finding people with undiagnosed HIV infection and getting them connected to services. This strategy builds on preexisting trust and social connections, allowing access to otherwise hidden populations.
- *Latino Faith Partnership for Prevention & Treatment* - a variety of services to substance using Latinos in three cities - Hartford, New Britain and Willimantic - with faith-based outreach teams, pastoral counseling, HIV/STD testing, case management, outpatient treatment and recovery support, and risk reduction interventions.
- *Healthy Men, Healthy Lives* - a multi-session intervention that discusses the benefits of health, the risks associated with HIV and substance abuse for older adults, healthy sexual practices and how to share this information with loved ones in the family and the community.



### Services for people with HIV/AIDS

- *Medical Case Management* - A client-centered care coordination service model designed to help People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) obtain social support, enhance their health outcomes and improve independent lifestyle skills. Core elements include an assessment of client's needs, the development of a comprehensive service plan, referrals and linkage to appropriate resources, and coordination of service delivery
- *Comprehensive Risk Counseling Services* - an intervention that offers intensive, individualized client-centered counseling to help HIV-positive individuals adopt and maintain HIV risk-reduction behaviors.
- *Food Pantry* - LCS clients may access the food pantry, twice a month. Referrals are sent with 24 hours notice directly to our food pantry coordinator by LCS medical case managers. Food is also available to LCS non-clients one time only for emergency.
- *Healthy Relationships* – a five-session group-level intervention that aims to build skills for HIV-positive individuals to reduce stress and build healthier and safer relationships.
- *Medical Interpretation* – Trained medical interpreters go with limited English proficient HIV-positive individuals to medical appointments and other services essential to well-being and health.
- *Medical Transportation* - provides transportation services to people living with HIV/AIDS throughout Hartford, Middlesex, and Tolland counties. Through case management, eligible individuals can have access to van services or GHTD Ambassador Wheelchair services.
- *Medication Adherence* - enhances and expands effective care services for HIV+ Latinos in the greater Hartford region by creating a multidisciplinary, integrated program that will increase their medical adherence and disease self-management skills, resulting in improved health outcomes. Effective communication between the Patient Care Liaison, Medical Interpreter, Case Manager and Nurse Supervisor improves communications in the client-provider relationship.

### Capacity Building

- *Healthy Families & Communities* - focused on developing the capacity of small, faith-based and community organizations in Hartford, Bridgeport, and New Haven that have access to and close connections with targeted Hispanics/Latinos and African Americans. The target population includes substance abusers, mental health, reentry populations and women in transition who are at risk of HIV infection, substance abuse, or are already HIV positive and out of care. The faith-based and community organizations selected to participate in the project must be either already providing HIV/AIDS services to minority communities are prepared expand services to strengthen the continuum of HIV/AIDS related services responsive to the target populations.