

**OTHER AGENCY PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE...**

- LIAAC Annual Report
- LIAAC At-A-Glance
- LIAAC Agency Newsletter
- Project Safety Net Brochure
- LIAAC Prevention Education Services
- LIAAC Programs and Services
- Substance Abuse Prevention Brochure

# LIAAC

(Long Island Association For AIDS Care)

**60 ADAMS AVENUE  
HAUPPAUGE, NY 11788**

**HOTLINE**

**1-877-TO-LIAAC** (within Suffolk/Nassau)  
**631-385-AIDS** (outside Suffolk/Nassau)

**www.LIAAC.org**



**FROM OUR HEADQUARTERS  
TO YOUR COMMUNITY**

**LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION FOR AIDS CARE, INC.**

**DONATIONS**

LIAAC's fundraising efforts are essential to the agency's autonomy and allow for the development of important programs and services not funded by other sources.

If you wish to join us in our fight against HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases or help us raise public awareness, please complete the donation card in the pocket of this brochure.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When HIV/AIDS first emerged in the 1980's, few treatment options were available. Services were limited to palliative care - the average person could expect to live only a few years upon entering the "symptomatic period". In the early years of the epidemic, little was known about HIV disease. Testing was not yet promoted as a public health campaign and was relatively inaccessible. The overwhelming majority of individuals were diagnosed only after presenting multiple symptoms, when the disease had already progressed enough to cause significant damage to the immune system.



Many HIV-positive individuals are living into their 50's and beyond and thus have a greater chance of developing other, non-related diseases associated with old age, such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and vision problems.

LIAAC's services have evolved to meet the changing needs of our clients. Over the last several years we have seen a drastic change in the epidemic. HIV positive individuals seeking our services have presented with a multitude of needs that were not as prevalent in years past, including substance abuse issues, chronic mental health problems, Hepatitis C and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Today, HIV/AIDS often is not the primary concern of individuals who are requesting our services.

The Long Island Association for AIDS Care is distinguished by both its ability to provide high-quality services and its propensity to successfully anticipate, monitor, and preemptively adapt to the evolving challenges presented to people infected or affected by HIV disease.

## MISSION STATEMENT

LIAAC is a regional community based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit agency delivering comprehensive services to all Long Islanders infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. Additional priorities include services and supplemental support to promote health and wellness.

Utilizing a field-based mobile outreach model, our professionally trained staff are committed to providing a continuum of quality client services, responsible public policy, aggressive advocacy and effective testing/prevention education.

LIAAC's driving philosophy is to provide a stable and comprehensive safety net that ensures our services reach the many diverse communities of Nassau and Suffolk Counties.



**THANKS YOU  
FOR YOUR DONATION**



## ABOUT LIAAC

Since 1986, the Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc. (LIAAC) has been a community-based, not-for-profit agency that provides services and support for Long Islanders (1) infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and (2) at high risk for HIV infection and other infectious diseases. LIAAC is the only agency serving L.I. with HIV/AIDS prevention and care as its founding purpose and core mission. LIAAC was the nation's first suburban-based AIDS service organization; its endurance over the past 2 decades has required overcoming harmful, inaccurate stereotypes portraying all Long Islanders as affluent, healthy, and not as vulnerable to HIV or other harmful diseases as residents of neighboring New York City. LIAAC remains L.I.'s only bi-county, comprehensive community service-provider, with the region's only HIV/AIDS Hotline. The New York State Department of Health has designated LIAAC as the only community service provider (CSP) for Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Over 75 employees and several consultants work to achieve the goals of reducing the spread of HIV, Hepatitis C, and other STD infections in the community; contributing to responsible HIV public policy; and enabling Long Islanders whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS to achieve the highest possible quality of life.

### HOTLINES

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1-877-TO-LIAAC (1-877-865-4222)  
1-866-236-3448 Project Safety Net  
1-866-930-7227 | Get Care

*For a comprehensive list of all LIAAC services and programs, please visit our website at [www.LIAAC.org](http://www.LIAAC.org)*

## CORE SERVICES

### HIV / AIDS

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HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. This is the virus that causes AIDS. HIV is different from most other viruses because it attacks the body's immune system. HIV finds and destroys a type of white blood cell (T cells or CD4 cells) that the immune system must have to fight disease. HIV is spread through some of the body's fluids. HIV is in: blood; semen; vaginal fluids; and breast milk. AIDS stands for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. AIDS is the final stage of HIV infection. Having AIDS means that the virus has weakened the immune system to the point at which the body has a difficult time fighting infections. When someone has one or more of these infections and a low number of T cells, he or she has AIDS. Whereas there are some symptoms of HIV, the only way to know that you are living with the virus is to be tested. Everyone should know their HIV status to protect themselves and others. Following this section please find LIAAC's core services, including its HIV testing program.

### CO-INFECTIONS

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**Hepatitis C** is a blood-borne infectious disease that is caused by the Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infecting the liver. HCV can cause liver inflammation (hepatitis) that is often asymptomatic (no symptoms), but ensuing chronic HCV can result in cirrhosis (fibrotic scarring) of the liver or liver cancer.





For individuals who are at risk for HCV and do not know their status, LIAAC can offer the following options: 1) field-based assistance with conducting the Home Access Hepatitis C test; 2) referrals to HCV screening programs; and 3) case management services.

**Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)** are spread from person to person through vaginal, anal, or oral sex. Some STDs, however, are also transmitted by skin-to-skin contact. Some of the most common STDs are: chlamydia, genital herpes, gonorrhea and syphilis.

- Individuals who are infected with STDs are at least two to five times more likely than uninfected individuals to acquire HIV if they are exposed to the virus via sexual contact
- If an HIV-infected individual is also infected with another STD, that individual is more likely to transmit HIV during sexual contact with other individuals who may not be infected. This is because the concentration of HIV in semen is greater in individuals infected with another STD versus those who are only HIV-infected
- If you suspect that you have contracted an STD or HIV contact a health care provider. LIAAC can assist you with: 1. Free, confidential HIV testing for anyone age 18 and older, 2. Education concerning any Sexually Transmitted Disease, 3. Referrals to health centers, test sites, physicians, screening and hospitals.



## **MOBILE OUTREACH & HIV TESTING PROGRAM**

*(Prevention On Wheels & Project Safety Net)*

The hallmark of LIAAC's integrated mobile service program is: using mobile approach (vans/r.v.'s and trained mobile staff) to overcome barriers and literally bring an array of core services to disadvantaged clients "on their own turf," in culturally and linguistically sensitive ways. The program builds and earns trust among distressed community members by helping them first receive services that are most needed and most important to them. LIAAC's "no wrong door" policy means that every individual encountered through our program receives access to an extremely wide net of highly needed services: medical care, food & shelter assistance, mental health treatment, and social service advocacy, as well as help obtaining benefits.

LIAAC's direct mobile services include HIV and hepatitis prevention education and these core services:

- Comprehensive personalized risk assessments for motivated, disadvantaged clients
- Substance abuse screenings and more in-depth assessments
- Rapid HIV testing, with on-the-spot results

LIAAC's mobile outreach program provides HIV Counseling, Testing, and Referral (CTR) services to Long Island's underserved communities targeting high-risk individuals.

LIAAC provides confidential and free HIV testing with OraQuick® Advance Rapid HIV-1/2 Antibody Test. The person receives their preliminary test results in 20 minutes. For individuals who test preliminary positive, a confirmatory test will immediately follow with an OraSure® HIV-1 Oral Fluid Specimen Device.

## **HIV / AIDS HOTLINE (BILINGUAL) —**

1-877-TO-LIAAC (within Nassau/Suffolk)  
631-385-AIDS (outside Nassau/Suffolk)  
1-866-236-3448 Project Safety Net  
1-866-930-7227 I Get Care

The LIAAC Hotline serves as the entry point for all LIAAC direct services and prevention initiatives to ensure that clients and community members are directly linked to a wide range of health-related services. Our highly trained staff assess the client's needs and link them to appropriate, effective services.



## **CASE MANAGEMENT —**

Case Management Services is a multi-step process used to ensure timely access to, and coordination of medical and psychosocial support services. LIAAC provides case management, crisis intervention and support to HIV positive individuals, those at high risk for HIV infection and their families living on Long Island. These services include different levels of case management, depending on client needs:

- Community-Based Case Management
- Comprehensive Medicaid Case Management
- Supportive Case Management
- Comprehensive Risk Counseling Services





## PREVENTION EDUCATION

The Prevention Education Department educates communities in Nassau and Suffolk Counties by conducting an extensive range of primary and secondary education presentations to a wide array of audiences and provides on-the-spot education about HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Hepatitis, Methamphetamine and substance use; HIV counseling and testing, fast-track admission into substance abuse treatment and referrals to services through Prevention on Wheels, one of our mobile outreach programs.

LIAAC's primary educators conduct single-session and multi-session education interventions to a large and varied selection of Long Island residents. The main focus of these interventions is to deliver basic HIV/AIDS primary prevention education messages that increase awareness, build general support for safe behaviors, support personal risk reduction efforts and/or provide individuals with general information about programs and available services.

Secondary Prevention Education involves working with populations who are known to be infected with HIV or at high risk for HIV infection and teaching them strategies for improving and maintaining good health. The Health Education Risk Reduction Program provides education for our clients and their loved ones about a variety of health and risk reduction issues. The Consumer Outreach Program recruits high risk and HIV-positive individuals to train to conduct one-on-one education with high risk individuals in their social networks (sexual and/or substance using partners/acquaintances) with the goal of referring them to LIAAC's HIV testing program.

## LEGAL CLINIC

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Our Legal Clinic provides free comprehensive legal services in a safe and supportive environment. LIAAC's Legal Clinic provides assistance with: wills, health care proxies, powers of attorney, debt management, bankruptcy, permanency planning, guardianship, discrimination complaints and confidentiality violations, consultations and referrals for a wide range of other legal issues.

## I GET CARE®

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IGetCare® is designed to link HIV-positive Long Islanders with health care and other community resources. Whether newly diagnosed with HIV/AIDS or a long term survivor, getting regular medical care is an important part of monitoring and maintaining health. Staff assist with answering questions, help finding the best doctor, and getting individuals linked to HIV health care and medications regardless of ability to pay. IGetCare® assists with connecting people to medical care, substance abuse treatment, counseling, support groups, transportation and a variety of other services are also available.

To learn more about IGetCare® please visit [www.igetcare.com](http://www.igetcare.com) or call 1-866-930-7227.