



For Release

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Catholic Charities Community Services Awarded HUD Funding for Program to Improve Housing and Employment Options for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

Rochester, NY – On Wednesday, September 21, 2011, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded nearly \$9 million to projects in seven cities and states including \$454,750 to Catholic Charities Community Services of Rochester for its AIDS Services program proposal called *Foundations for Living*. Catholic Charities Community Services (CCCS) developed a proposal along with two Albany, NY, agencies – the Corporation for AIDS Research, Education and Services (CARES) and Albany Damien Center. This was a highly competitive national grant opportunity with only seven of 46 applicants being funded.

Over a three-year period beginning in early 2012, *Foundations for Living* will utilize HUD's Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) funding for clients (who are living with HIV/AIDS) who want to work, advance their education or volunteer full or part time. *Foundations for Living* will provide housing support while these clients work toward obtaining employment, the end result being self-sufficiency and access to permanent housing options. CCCS plans to enroll and graduate 100 clients through the three-year program. *Foundations for Living* is expected to have the potential to be shared as a "best practices" model of delivery for future HIV/AIDS services.

Once viewed as a debilitating disease, HIV/AIDS is now considered to be a chronic illness. It has been found that persons living with HIV/AIDS who are healthy enough to work maintain better physical and mental health by doing so.

CCCS, a not-for-profit human services agency, provides supportive services to individuals with disabilities. The offices of the agency are located in Rochester, NY with satellite offices in surrounding Finger Lakes Counties. CCCS started providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities in 1980. The AIDS Services Department started in 1990 with the first Comprehensive Medicaid Case Management Program in New York State. Since then, the agency has expanded to include services to adults who have sustained a traumatic brain injury and individuals qualifying for the Department of Health's Nursing Home Diversion Waiver.

Foundations for Living will create at least one additional staffing position in Rochester. CCCS expects to begin enrolling clients by January, 2012.

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