



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Murray Penner

202-434-8090

mpenner@NASTAD.org

**ADAP Crisis Task Force Announces Enhanced Support
from Gilead Sciences for ADAPs in the United States;
Additional Federal and State Funding Critical**

November 30, 2011, Washington, DC – Adding to an already enhanced agreement, the ADAP Crisis Task Force (ACTF) has reached new terms with Gilead Sciences that extend additional voluntary discounts and rebates for most Gilead products purchased by state AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs). These discounts and rebates, available to all state ADAPs, are in addition to those mandated by current law and health reform and to those included in previous agreements between the ACTF and Gilead Sciences. This enhanced agreement also continues a price freeze on Gilead's HIV medications purchased by ADAPs through 2013.

The agreement with Gilead comes at a time when a combination of the nation's current economic situation, state budget challenges, and increased HIV testing and earlier treatment efforts have produced an unprecedented increase in the number of ADAP enrollees, resulting in severe cost-containment measures in many ADAPs.

"The fiscal crisis many ADAPs are experiencing requires new commitments on the part of federal and state governments, as well as pharmaceutical companies," stated Dwayne Haught, a founding member of the ACTF and Manager of the Texas ADAP. "We commend Gilead for responding to the unprecedented need faced by state ADAPs. By enhancing our existing agreement and providing additional support, ADAPs will be able to provide access to HIV medicines to thousands of new clients. Our long working relationship with Gilead made this agreement possible," added Haught.

The ACTF, convened by the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), previously had secured significant multi-year, voluntary discounts and rebates from all eight manufacturers of HIV antiretroviral (ARV) medications, with many of them providing price freezes for ADAPs through 2013. Earlier this year, the ACTF also reached an enhanced agreement with Boehringer Ingelheim for additional voluntary discounts and rebates on its products. Given the escalating ADAP crisis, the ACTF recently met again with all eight companies to discuss solutions to eliminating waiting lists, providing medications to new clients, and maintaining formularies.

"We are hopeful that agreements similar to this one with Gilead can be reached soon with other manufacturers of ARVs," remarked Chris Hanson, a member of the

ACTF and Coordinator of Michigan's ADAP. "These voluntary agreements are a critical component of our nation's collective response to help meet the medication needs of more than 200,000 HIV-positive Americans," he added.

ADAPs yield savings from these agreements with pharmaceutical companies, however, the ongoing state budget crises coupled with the increased numbers of clients seeking ADAP services continues to require a significant increase in state and federal funding in addition to these cost savings. While the need for ADAP funding is much greater and a higher funding level is necessary, NASTAD and community partners are advocating for an increase of \$55 million in FY2012 ADAP funds from the federal government, commensurate with President Obama's FY2012 budget request.

"With this voluntary agreement with Gilead now in place and other companies at the table demonstrating their commitment to finding solutions to the ADAP crisis, we again call upon Congress and the Obama Administration to provide sufficient funding to ease access restrictions in ADAPs nationwide," noted Julie Scofield, NASTAD's Executive Director. "We also urge state legislatures to maintain and increase their support of ADAPs during this critical period," concluded Scofield.

As of November 17, there were 6,595 individuals in 12 states on waiting lists to receive ADAP medications. Eighteen ADAPs, including nine with current waiting lists, have instituted additional cost-containment measures since April 1, 2009 (reported as of November 9, 2011) and, 10 ADAPs, including two with current waiting lists, are considering implementing new or additional cost-containment measures by the end of ADAP's current fiscal year (March 31, 2012). To view a list of current ADAP access restrictions, please visit www.NASTAD.org.

About the ACTF and NASTAD

The ACTF was formed in December 2002 by NASTAD and a group of state AIDS/ADAP directors concerned about the fiscal crisis facing ADAPs nationwide. The ACTF works in partnership with manufacturers of ARV and other HIV-related medications to reduce drug costs and improve access to medications for clients in the nation's ADAPs. It is estimated that ACTF agreements with companies have saved ADAPs approximately \$1.2 billion since 2003. NASTAD provides logistical support to the ACTF.

Founded in 1992, NASTAD is a nonprofit national association of state and territorial health department HIV/AIDS program directors who have programmatic responsibility for administering HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis health care, prevention, education, and supportive services programs funded by state and federal governments. For more information, visit www.NASTAD.org.

###