



# FAITH WITHOUT WORK IS DEAD

## IRIS HOUSE LEADING LADIES PROGRAM

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# PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

- To provide an overview of the Leading Ladies Program at Iris House
- To present the findings of our SISTA, and HIV 101 Workshops
- To discuss strategies on how to work with Faith Based Organizations (FBO)
- To offer best practice and lessons learned
- To offer recommendations for effective program planning and implementation within FBOs



# Leading Ladies



A Program  
Of Iris House



**Women's**  
Health &  
HIV Awareness  
Train the Trainer Workshop



**17** Years Of Helping  
Women & Families

2348 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.  
New York, NY 10030  
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# IRIS HOUSE LEADING LADIES PROGRAM

The Iris House Leading Ladies program has adopted 3 main goals: *Educate*, *Eliminate and Embrace*. The program aims to *Educate* faith based organization members and the community about HIV/AIDS, *Eliminate* the stigma in our organizations that prevents people from getting tested or accessing services and *Embrace* people living with HIV/AIDS.



# LEADING LADIES PROGRAM GOALS

- **Eliminate** HIV/AIDS related stigma in FBOs.
- Develop and **demonstrate gender-responsive**, peer-led prevention education interventions.
- Establish and expand the **coalition of services** and community linkages for ensuring gender-responsive HIV/AIDS and STD services.
- Sponsored by the **U.S. Office on Women's Health**



# FAITH BASED ORGANIZATION (FBO) EXPECTATIONS

## Component #1 SISTA and SIHLE Interventions

- Each FBO agrees to conduct one cycle of the SISTA intervention for women 18 and older with at least 12 – 15 women. The goal is to graduate at least 10 women.
- FBOs can then implement SIHLE for teenage girls 14 – 18 or Family Talk for families with adolescent youth.



# FBO EXPECTATIONS

## Component # 2 – Empowering Leading Ladies:

- Two women from the FBO are required to participate in a two day train the trainers (TOT); once completed, they will facilitate a 2-hour, **Women’s Health & Wellness Workshop** at the FBO with a target of 25 or more participants.





# FBO EXPECTATIONS

## Component # 3 - Community Health and Wellness Fair

- FBOs host a health fair to include blood pressure, glucose, HIV testing and other screenings, etc. and reach a minimum of 50 persons and be open to the community. Iris House will provide on-site resources to conduct the education programs and assist with the Health and Wellness Fair. Participating organizations will also receive \$500 to support these activities upon graduation of a pre-determined amount of participants.





# HIV FACTS

- African American women continue to be disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS.
- Black women and girls account for over half of all women living with HIV/ AIDS in United States.
- HIV/AIDS is a leading cause for death for African American Women ages 25-44.
- Most common mode of transmission is unprotected sex with infected men.



# FBOS & HIV PREVENTION

## **CDC Data**

*The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that persons over 50 account for 15% of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses and 24% of persons living with HIV/AIDS<sup>1</sup>.*

## **Why is this Important?**

- Women over 50 are among the faces of HIV/AIDS
- There is no CDC intervention for women over 50
- Women over 50 play an important role in HIV prevention
- Our data indicates women over 50 benefit from the SISTA Workshops



# FBO IDENTIFICATION

- Initially Iris House targeted churches in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) District #1 and expanded outreach to FBOs in the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI) New York and New Jersey and Outreach expanded to FBOs in the network.
- Today 23 FBOs in NY and NJ collaborate with Leading Ladies
- Partner with Voces Latinas to reach the Latino FBO community.



# PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

## YEAR 1 OUTCOMES

- SISTA: 20 cycles, enrolled 332, graduated 280 women
- SIHLE: 2 cycles, enrolled 27, graduated 22 girls
- H.S. Teen Prevention Workshop: 2 cycles, 132 graduates
- Train the Trainer Workshop: 2 cycles, 28 graduates
- HIV Workshop: 8 cycles, 141 participants
- HIV Awareness Events: 214 participants



# PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

## YEAR 2 OUTCOMES

- SISTA: 4 cycles, enrolled 31, graduated 30 women
- Train the Trainer Workshop: 3 cycles, 15 graduates
- HIV Workshop: 4 cycles, 55 participants
- HIV Awareness Events: 346 participants
- HIV testing: 76



# STRATEGIES WHEN WORKING WITH FBOS

- Communities often rely on their FBOs for support, they to need include HIV within their work.
- HIV agencies need to partner with FBOs to increase HIV prevention messaging, access to services.
- Communities respect FBOs- if it comes from the church the information is accepted.
- Faith leaders need to get involved and educate their community on HIV.



# STRATEGIES WHEN WORKING WITH FBOs

- FBOs are asked to address other issues, how do we engage them making HIV a priority.
- Understand that stigma is alive and prevalent within FBOs, address stigma and ways to address HIV.
- Respect the FBO's beliefs, even when they are not your agencies.





# BEST PRACTICES

- **Leading Ladies is a model program** for other agencies interested in working with FBOs and HIV.
- Follow-up and on-going communication is essential when working with FBOs.
- **Establish trust** with Leading Ladies or those with strong leadership roles within the FBO.



# LESSONS LEARNED

- Practice the **ABC Approach** (Abstinence, Be Faithful and Use a Condom)
- Include HIV/AIDS topics in sermons and FBO dialogues
- Seek out creative ways to reduce **stigma about LGBTQ community**
- Encourage outreach to high risk populations
- Empower FBO members to know their status and get tested for HIV



# LESSONS LEARNED

- Offer on-site testing or anonymous referrals for HIV testing locations
- Talk to the YOUTH about HIV awareness and safe sex behavior
- Create an **HIV Prevention Committee** (HPC) at FBOs
- Partner with other FBOs and CBOs
- Keep the faith that we can collectively prevent HIV in our communities



## PARTICIPANT TESTIMONY

“HIV/AIDS is rampant with our people of color, religion and God plays an important part.”

“Thank you for bringing this information into our community. I hope that you will continue working with us. We need you in our schools.”



# OUR LEADING LADIES.....





# THANK YOU.....

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