

## Introducing the ACCESS Certificate Program

The New York/New Jersey AIDS Education and Training Center is sponsoring an innovative education initiative. Better known as ACCESS, the AETC Community Clinical Education & Sustaining Support Certificate program is the first scholarship program of its type for the NY/NJ AETC.

ACCESS is a multiple-day individualized training for minority providers working in communities highly impacted by HIV. It provides training to oral health clinicians poised to make a difference. The Certificate Program is a unique integration of didactic and experiential training, providing participants with access to the diverse conferences, workshops, preceptorships and consultation services offered by the NY/NJ AETC.

The ACCESS Program offers two training tracks: HIV screening, testing, and diagnosis and HIV clinical management. In the clinical management track, major topics in HIV medicine such as antiretroviral therapies, co-morbidities, metabolic disorders will be covered as well as contemporary issues in patient management such as adherence, prevention with positives and mental health issues. The screening and diagnosing track enables providers to earlier link HIV infected patients to lifesaving medical care. The provision of culturally and linguistically competent care will be emphasized in both tracks. Within the two-track framework, the learning experience will be tailored to the participant's specific educational needs and the community context in which he or she is practicing.

The certificate program speaks to a larger mission within the NY/NJ AETC Minority AIDS Initiative to address growing HIV- health disparities in communities of color by building community level capacity for HIV treatment, collaborating with minority-serving organizations and by promoting culturally competent care. Each year since 1999, Congress has appropriated funds to various Federal agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to support expanded HIV service delivery; community based organizational infrastructure and other efforts in communities of color. Organizations receiving MAI funds under the CARE Act have expanded their services and increased their capacity in an effort to reduce racial and ethnic disparities and expand access to care for low-income, uninsured people of color living with HIV/AIDS.

If you think that you might benefit from the ACCESS Certificate Program or know someone who would, please contact Howard E. Lavigne, Deputy Director of HIV Clinical Education for the NYS Department of Health-AIDS Institute and the NY/NJ AETC Oral Health Regional Resource Center at (315) 477-8479.