

# AIDS Foundation OF CHICAGO

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Juliet Fink, Director of Education  
Philadelphia FIGHT  
1233 Locust Street, 2nd Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Ms. Fink,

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) is alarmed to learn of potential funding cuts for the Critical Path Project and wishes to show support for the continued funding of this important project. The communication infrastructure and conscientious customer service provided by Critical Path has grown to play a vital in the work of our organization. As you know, AFC manages a large number of listservs that enable the rapid dissemination of relevant information to specific groups, provide a forum for professional debate and discussion, and allow for coordination of activities across Chicago, the nation, and the globe. Without them, the organization would simply not be as effective.

As a convener of coalitions and groups working together in the fight against HIV/AIDS, AFC uses Critical Path listservs on a wide variety of projects. Locally, the Chicago Women and Girls HIV Prevention Coalition, Project CRYSP – a gay men’s health project, and the Chicago LGBT Substance Use and Abuse Task Force all rely on Critical Path to aid in coordinating activities. Regionally and nationally, the Midwest AIDS Policy Alliance, Midwest AIDS Advocates, and the Sexual Health Exchange utilize listservs to share timely information on HIV/AIDS policy and programming. Globally, the International Rectal Microbicides Advocates use a listserv as the primary means of communication. This group has over 600 members from 50 countries and serves as the preeminent, and indeed *only*, forum for rectal microbicides research advocacy and discussion.

In the age of information, Critical Path has allowed groups to leverage the power of knowledge and communication in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Its loss would be a great detriment to this effort.

Sincerely,



Jim Pickett  
Director of Advocacy  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago

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