



June 19, 2007

THE GAY AND LESBIAN
LATINO AIDS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Mayor Michael Nutter
City of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Mayor Nutter:

I am writing this letter to express GALAEI's (Gay and Lesbian Latino AIDS Education Initiative) concern in regards to the Critical Path Project. GALAEI is a non-profit organization devoted to creating an awareness of the issues that affect Philadelphia's Latino and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities. Founded in 1989, GALAEI's work focuses on improving the quality of life for all systems that serve through education, representation, and advocacy.

I recently heard of the funding cut Critical Path Project is now experiencing and I am very concerned. The Critical Path Project organization is a long-standing partner and resource for GALAEI. We at GALAEI have had the pleasure of working in tandem with Critical Path Project. They not only have hosted GALAEI's website for 11 years, they have also provided us with exceptional e-mail. At GALAEI we have a staff of 23 individuals who work with a great diversity of clients and patrons. Communication with other agencies, case managers, shelters, doctors, and lawyers etc are vital to the work that we have accomplished

As a Latino HIV/AIDS organization, it would be detrimental to our mission if we could not communicate within our own network and with the people we serve This communication is especially important to the non-English speaking individuals we continue to see. Funding for any non-profit organizations is already a difficult and tedious process. It would be difficult for our organization to begin proper budgeting methods to cover such a huge gap in such short notice. Critical Path Project offers its services to organizations for free therefore making it a key resource for non-profit organizations such as ourselves.

To lose such a great resource in this community is to lose our first line of communication! We here at GALAEI humbly request that you reinstate funds to Critical Path Project so that we, as well as all members in this community, may continue the important work that we do.

Sincerely,

Robert Rivera-Amezola, MSW
Board President
Gay and Lesbian Latino AIDS Education Initiative

1207 chestnut street
fifth floor
philadelphia, pa 19107
phone: 215.851.1882
fax: 215.851.1775
toll-free: 866.222.3871
www.galaei.org

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