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Pathways to Wellness Announces that State Funding for its AIDS Care Project will be Renewed for Next Year

BOSTON – Holistic therapies provider, Pathways to Wellness, has learned that the funding it receives from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Office of HIV/AIDS for its AIDS Care Project (ACP) will be renewed at the same level as last year.

According to Demie Stathoplos, Executive Director of Pathways to Wellness, the award letter she received indicated that the process was very competitive with 83 proposals received by MDPH requesting nearly twice the amount of funding available. “Given the cuts that are being made in so many areas, we were very relieved to receive the news that our AIDS Care Project will be level funded and feel that it is a ringing endorsement of the significance and importance of our program,” says Stathoplos.

Pathways’ AIDS Care Project relieves pain and suffering experienced by people with HIV/AIDS by providing free acupuncture treatments for them. ACP clients can receive free treatments twice per week. Acupuncture is effective for relieving digestive side effects and pain caused by HIV medications thus enabling clients to remain on their medication. It also relieves depression, insomnia and the stress associated with living with a serious illness. Most ACP clients have been coming to Pathways for many years and rely on receiving their treatments to remain healthy and to improve their quality of life. Since 1990 Pathways has provided over 80,000 free acupuncture treatments for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Pathways’ AIDS Care Project was also recently recognized as an innovation by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for providing enhanced access to acupuncture and herbal treatments for low-income

individuals with HIV/AIDS, reducing side effects from antiretroviral therapy, and working in conjunction with health care providers to increase patients' compliance with medication regimens. ACP was included as a featured innovation in the April 13 issue of AHRQ's Health Care Innovation Exchange, a Web-based program designed to support health care professionals in sharing and adopting innovations that improve health care quality.

About Pathways to Wellness

For over 20 years Pathways to Wellness, a nonprofit public health organization, has provided affordable, high-quality holistic therapies including acupuncture, shiatsu, and Chinese herbs. Open to all people needing care, Pathways practitioners work collaboratively in a team environment and in conjunction with Western medical professionals to offer an integrated approach to care. Pathways to Wellness is one of the largest public health holistic therapies clinics in the country and is the largest U.S. provider of free acupuncture care to people living with HIV/AIDS. For more information on Pathways to Wellness and its services visit www.pathwaysboston.org or call 617-859-3036.

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