



Improving
the Sexual Health of
East & Southeast Asians

May 03, 2017

Dear ACAS members, supporters, and allies,

I am writing this letter to inform you that the 2017-2021 funding allocations of the Toronto Urban Health Fund (TUHF) has led to funding cuts of ACAS' three main HIV/STIs prevention programs that serve gay and bisexual men, newcomer heterosexual women and men, and trans women.

The total loss of funding is over \$140,000 or 25% of our annual budget. The funding cut will vastly reduce our services to the East and Southeast Asian communities including sexual health educational workshops, peer educators' training and capacity building, outreach at community events, bathhouses, bars and online, the S.L.A.M. community forum, and the Bathhouse Night events, to name a few. These will affect over 400-500 individuals, a loss of 100 outreach opportunities, 30 sexual health workshops, and the opportunity to distribute 10,000 condoms to high-risk individuals per year.

We understand that funding allocations will fluctuate year by year. However, we have seen the ongoing trend in the reduction of HIV grants and a lack of foresight to invest in grassroots, community-based HIV/STIs prevention work. In 2013, the City of Toronto allocated \$1,677,530 to the AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program (ACPIP). In 2017, the allocation to the HIV Prevention in the TUHF is \$741,087 or 44% in reduction.

As we enter this period of uncertainty, we will work together with our Board of Directors, volunteers, and those who will be affected by the funding cuts to assess how we can best respond to mitigate the impact. In the next 3 weeks, ACAS and 14 other non-profit organizations will go through a very competitive appeal process set up by TUHF in order to request a fraction of the \$210,380 appeal budget.

We will monitor the funding cut situation and update you from time to time. If you need further information regarding the funding cuts and its impact on ACAS programs, or wish to support ACAS to save these programs, feel free to contact me or one of the program staff any time.

Yours sincerely,

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