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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Centers in Cleveland, receives \$6.5M from SAMHSA

CLEVELAND, OH— October 7, 2022, The Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has awarded The Centers two multi-year grants totaling \$6.5M.

The Centers' Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) received a four-year grant of \$4M to improve access to, and the quality of, behavioral health services for three groups experiencing severe health disparities: underrepresented minority adults, low-income families with young children, and youth. "The funding will allow The Centers to continue to address each population's unique needs through improved, targeted treatment and recovery services in alignment with CCBHC criteria requirements that aim to organize its intake process and staffing model to ensure clients are assessed, referred, and linked to services in a timely manner; receive appropriate supportive services to reduce barriers to care; and improve their health outcomes through consistent and coordinated care," said Eric Morse, Centers President and CEO.

The Centers received a five-year \$2.5M grant to Expand Peer Support and Harm Reduction Efforts through SAMHSA's Minority AIDS Initiative: Substance Use Disorder Treatment for Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations at High Risk for HIV/AIDS opportunity. Through this initiative, The Centers will increase access to HIV/AIDS services and treatment; recovery support services for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and/or Co-Occurring Mental Disorders (COD); and other harm reduction services for two groups at risk for or living with HIV/AIDS in Cleveland: African American and LGBTQ+ populations. The program aims to further the reach of our HIV and harm reduction services via mobile outreach; targeting people who use drugs (PWUD) and have not been tested for HIV or viral Hepatitis, and/or have not sought treatment.

Cuyahoga County has been identified as one of the hardest hit communities by the HIV epidemic. While the AIDS landscape has changed drastically over the last 30 years, it remains a significant health issue in Cleveland, especially our clients. "This funding will enable The Centers to build a Peer Support Services Mobile Outreach Team that will facilitate HIV and Hepatitis testing, distribute naloxone, and provide overdose and harm reduction education in partnership with The Centers' own primary health care services and local emergency departments," said Eric Morse. Peer Support Specialists will provide psychosocial rehabilitation services to clients, teaching emotional, cognitive, and social skills that help those at-risk of HIV infection due to SUD and/or COD diagnosis live and work in their communities as independently and safely as possible.

About The Centers

The Centers fights for equity by healing, teaching, and inspiring individuals and families to reach their full potential. Our integrated model coordinates health and wellness services, including primary care, behavioral health care, addiction services, HIV treatment, in-house pharmacies, and dental, along with family support programs, including early childhood development, career training, and job placement. The organization is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit organizations in Northeast Ohio, serving more than 20,000 people annually in our community. Visit TheCentersOhio.org to learn more.

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