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Cascade AIDS Project



Ninety-Nine Girlfriends Awards CAP/Prism Health Start-up Funds for LGBTQ+ Mental Health Program

Portland, OR (December 11th, 2018) – Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) is very pleased to announce it is a recipient of the \$20,000 Finalist Award from Ninety-Nine Girlfriends.

The award will fund operational start-up of an LGBTQ+ Mental Health Program at Prism Health. Prism Health is an LGBTQ+ primary healthcare center that opened spring 2017 in southeast Portland. The new LGBTQ+ Mental Health Program aims to dismantle mental health inequities in the community by delivering culturally responsive mental health care that addresses issues of depression, isolation, anxiety and stress. All these issues are seen at alarmingly high and disproportionate rates in the LGBTQ+ community.

Through the LGBTQ+ Mental Health Program we will create a much needed resource for the local community that provides culturally specific and responsive care. The Program's ultimate aim is to mitigate LGBTQ+ mental health disparities around depression, isolation, anxiety, and stress through a health care delivery model that provides culturally tailored care by providers with LGBTQ+ mental health experience all in an environment that feels safe and affirming. The LGBTQ+ Mental Health Program will provide individual and couples mental health therapy focused on the issues distinct to the LGBTQ+ community: coming out, relationships, gender and sexual identity, transitioning, stigma and bullying, just to name a few.

CAP's Director of Healthcare Operations, Caitlin Wells, says, "this funding is the critical component we need to launch the LGBTQ+ Mental Health Program. We know the time for this program is now. The community is asking for it; we hear their call and have a responsibility to answer it."

The LGBTQ+ Mental Health Program will kick off in January 2019. Keep an eye on Prism Health's website (www.prismhealth.org) for updates. The full list of Ninety-Nine Girlfriends Awardees appears [here](#).

About Cascade AIDS Project Cascade AIDS Project is the oldest and largest AIDS Service Organization in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Prism Health, a primary care health center, is an integral part of CAP's expanding mission to serve the broader LGBTQ+ community. More information can be found at www.cascadeaids.org.

About Ninety-Nine Girlfriends Ninety-Nine Girlfriends is an all volunteer project and uses a collective giving grantmaking model styled after the Impact100 programs. It is a member of the Women's Collective Giving Grantmakers Network, a group of 55 national independent giving circles. GRANTMAKERS of Oregon and SW Washington is the 2018 fiscal sponsor for Ninety-Nine Girlfriends affording the project 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, as well as additional support and educational resources.

PRESS RELEASE

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