

GRS Begins New Testing and Linkage to Care Project

To address the disproportionate rates of HIV infection African American and Hispanic/Latino men who love men (MSM), Golden Rule Services has begun a multi-session HIV case management program, Testing and Linkage to Care Project (GRS-TLC).

The project will provide assistance to local HIV-negative African American and Hispanic/Latino MSM and newly HIV diagnosed African American and Hispanic/Latino MSM. The goals of the GRS-TLC project are simple: reduce new HIV and STD infections, increase access to HIV care and improve health outcomes, and reduce HIV-related disparities and health inequities.

To achieve these goals, participants of the project will obtain free rapid HIV and HCV antibody testing, free STD screening, access to partner services, access to unlimited condoms and lubricants, culturally sensitive case management, linkage to HIV care services and incentive gift cards.

HIV-negative participants will be offered one-on-one HIV risk reduction counseling sessions on how to reduce the risk for HIV and STD infection, information on how to remain HIV-negative when dating HIV-positive partners, information and access to non-occupational Post Exposure Prophylaxis (n-PEP), information and access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP),

information about ways to get PrEP co-pays paid; access to free rapid HIV testing and STD screening, access to a variety of free condoms and lubricants, and free sterile syringes.

To be eligible for GRS-TLC services participants must be at least 18 years of age; a same-gender-loving man; a person of African and/or Latin descent; engaging in unprotected anal sex or intravenous drug use and/or newly diagnosed with HIV or living with HIV but have not seen a doctor or had labs completed for some time.

You can get to know the folks of GRS at a special event as they partner with Kennedy Gallery for *A Night of Elegance* featuring Master Violinist Kippy Marks on December 14. Tickets will be \$25.

Founded in 2000 by Executive Director Clarmundo Sullivan, GRS has moved to a larger, more welcoming space – right across the hall. The new office is located in the same building at 4433 Florin Rd., Ste. 860, in Sacramento.

To find out more about the GRS-TLC project, HIV/STD call 916-427-4653 or visit GoldenRuleServiceSacramento.org.