

President-elect Barack Obama's HIV priorities

The Obama/Biden presidential campaign created a six-page list of HIV/AIDS priorities prior to the election.

Here is a summary of the domestic priority list, which can be viewed in full at www.barackobama.com/pdf/issues/FactSheetAIDS.pdf:

- **National HIV/AIDS Strategy:** Obama pledged that in his first year of presidency he would develop and begin to implement a comprehensive national HIV/AIDS strategy encompassing all federal agencies. It would be designed to do the following:
 - reduce HIV infections;
 - increase access to care and reduce HIV-related health disparities;
 - provide measurable goals;
 - list timelines and accountability mechanisms.
- **Fix the nation's health care system:** Obama said his goal is to sign universal health care legislation

by the end of his first term in office. This program would ensure that people living with HIV have access to lifesaving treatment and care.

- **Bring Medicaid to low-income, HIV-positive Americans:** Obama is a co-sponsor of the Early Treatment for HIV Act, which would help provide Medicaid coverage to more low-income Americans living with the disease.
- **Fight HIV health disparities:** Obama stated a desire to fight homelessness and poverty, which he calls a key driver of the epidemic, and to address health insurance access disparities.
- **Promote AIDS prevention:** Obama said he'd focus on preventing new infections with a strategy that relies on sound science and includes comprehensive sex education that is age-appropriate. He also said he'd support increasing federal money for science-based HIV programs, and he'd lift the ban on federal funding for needle exchange as a strategy to reduce HIV transmission among injection drug users and their partners.
- **Expand research funding:** Obama stated a desire to expand research funding, especially for prevention options, such as a vaccine and microbicides.