

# ECDC NEWS

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(July 30, 2004)

## **ECDC Awarded CDC Grant to Provide HIV Prevention and Education Among African Refugees and Immigrants**

Under a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. (ECDC) will conduct a HIV prevention and education project targeting high-risk African refugees and immigrants in the metropolitan Washington, D.C.-area over the next five years beginning July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2009.

Using targeted outreach efforts, group education, counseling, case management and referrals for testing, the project will seek to decrease high-risk behaviors by promoting safe sex practices, focusing on African refugee and immigrant women and their male sexual partners and youth, said ECDC President Tsehaye Teferra.

The project will significantly expand ECDC's long-established health promotion efforts in such areas as diabetes, cancer, HIV/AIDS, tobacco-use prevention and improving access to healthcare in the African newcomer community, Teferra said. Since 1990 those efforts have included a focus on improving the health status of African refugees and immigrants.

ECDC is a community-based organization established in 1983 to promote cultural, educational and socio-economic development programs to assist refugees and immigrants in become productive members of their new homeland.

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(draft letter to award advocates)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

With gratitude for your valued endorsement of our grant proposal to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, I am enclosing a copy of a press release announcing the award for the HIV/AIDS education and prevention project.

Anticipating a cooperative effort among health care providers, counselors and educators involved with the African refugee and immigrant community in the metropolitan area, we are confident that the project will make a significant contribution toward reducing high-risk behaviors among the target population.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Tsehay Teferra, Ph.D.  
President