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Free & Confidential HIV Testing
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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APICHA NOW A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER LOOK-ALIKE

New York, NY – APICHA Community Health Center has earned a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike (FQHC-LA) designation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. APICHA was notified of the designation by the Health Resources and Services Administration in September. The designation marks an important milestone in the organization’s transformation into a community health center, after more than two decades since its founding as a grassroots, HIV-prevention organization.

“This designation ushers APICHA into a new era in its history,” exclaims Teresita R. Rodriguez, APICHA’s Chief Executive Officer. “It ensures access to high quality and culturally competent medical services for the marginalized populations we have always served, particularly: people living with HIV/AIDS, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, and Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants with Limited English Proficiency. It also allows us to better serve the poor in our surrounding neighborhood.”

Congress grants FQHC-LA designations to health care providers that serve low-income and medically underserved communities, and entitles them to financial benefits such as enhanced Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. APICHA plans to apply for a New Access Point (NAP) grant in the coming months with the hope of receiving a full Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) designation.

“We thank those who have supported us in achieving this pivotal milestone, and we hope to have their continued support as we apply for a NAP grant. Although we are overjoyed with our FQHC-LA designation, the fight to become a full FQHC must continue!”

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ABOUT APICHA

Founded in 1989, APICHA provides comprehensive primary care and other medical services including mental health, STD, Hepatitis, and enabling services targeted to Asian & Pacific Islanders, the LGBT community, and individuals living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Over the last twenty two years, APICHA has grown from a grassroots HIV prevention-focused organization into a patient-centered medical home which has been recognized with the highest level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home qualification by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Last year, APICHA has served over 2,600 patients, mostly people of color, LGBTQ and low income individuals in New York City.



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APICHA is staffed with a multi-lingual, multi-cultural staff fluent in 21 languages including various Asian languages, Spanish, Romanian, Italian and American Sign Language. It has recently opened its doors to a Trans Health clinic, which addresses the specific medical needs of people of the trans experience, including individuals who identify as transgender, gender variant, gender queer, or gender non-conforming.

For more information, please visit www.apicha.org