

Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Corrections



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**Mayor Fenty, Department of Corrections Accept Prestigious Award for
Automatic Inmate HIV/AIDS Testing and Counseling Program**

WASHINGTON DC—Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and Director of the Department of Corrections Devon Brown announced today that the Department of Corrections' (DOC) Automatic Inmate HIV Testing and Counseling Program has received a 2010 Exemplary Offender Program Award from the American Correctional Association (ACA).

“The Automatic Inmate HIV Testing and Counseling Program is a critical part of my administration’s work to stop the spread of HIV in the District,” said Mayor Fenty. “We are extremely pleased to receive this recognition, and will maintain our strong commitment to preventing and treating HIV throughout the District.”

Through its Exemplary Offender Program, the ACA annually recognizes a correctional system that implements an innovative, successful program for adjudicated persons. Selected programs must demonstrate evidence of sustained success, must effectively and creatively meet a need specific to offenders, and must be replicable in other communities.

The Automatic Inmate HIV Testing and Counseling Program, implemented in 2006, provides HIV testing when detainees enter a correctional facility, gives treatment and counseling about HIV throughout detainment, and continues case management upon each HIV positive inmate’s release. As of June 10th, the program has screened 27,000 inmates for HIV upon entry into the District’s Central Detention Facility. Discharged inmates receive HIV screening before returning to their communities.

The Automatic HIV Testing and Counseling program is nationally recognized as a model for HIV treatment and prevention in correctional facilities and surrounding communities. In late August, the Automatic HIV Testing and Counseling program received an “A” rating for the third consecutive year from the Appleseed Foundation, a nonprofit that evaluates District HIV/AIDS programs. Also in August, the program was featured in presentations at the annual conference of the American Bar Association in Chicago and at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta.

“We are tremendously proud of the stellar appraisals that our Automatic Inmate HIV Testing and Counseling Program has received for this initiative, said DOC Director Devon Brown. “It is a striking example of the contribution our correctional system is continuously making to the safekeeping, welfare, and health of our communities.”

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