

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

**Proclamation No. 18-0241
In Support of National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day & National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**

WHEREAS, more than 1.2 million Americans are living with HIV and more than 50,000 become infected with HIV every year; 1 in 4 are between the ages of 13 and 24; female youth accounted for nearly 2,000 of all youth living with HIV; and

WHEREAS, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, at the end of 2015, more than 13,000 people were reported to be living with HIV in the State of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, HIV and AIDS has affected the City and County of Denver more than any other area in the State of Colorado, reporting the most persons living with the disease, most HIV or AIDS-related deaths, and 36% of new HIV infections in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the continued spread of HIV in the American Indian and Alaska Native communities poses a significant risk to the public health and well-being of these communities; they had the 3rd highest rate of new HIV infections in Colorado from 2011 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, when compared to other ethnic groups, American Indians and Alaska Natives are ranked 5th in estimated rates of HIV diagnoses and have poorer survival rates after an HIV diagnosis; HIV infection was the 9th leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native youth aged 25 to 34 in 2014; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Natives also have one of the lowest awareness rates, with 1 in 5 who live with HIV unaware of their status, causing them to go without treatment and may unknowingly pass on the disease to others; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1 in 4 people living with HIV in the U.S. are women; cases disproportionately affect African American and Latina women, who represent 29% of all women in the U.S., but account for 78% of HIV cases among women; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver recognizes the continued work to bring HIV and AIDS awareness by groups such as: Café Cultura, Children's Hospital Immunodeficiency Program, Servicios de La Raza, Sisters of Color United for Education, Orgullosamente PrEParedo, Mariposa at the Althea Center: Embracing Wholeness, and ARTS: Addictions Research and Treatment Services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That Denver City Council proclaims March 10, 2018 to be known as National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and March 20, 2018 as National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to Café Cultura, Denver Indian Family and Resource Center, and Sisters of Color United for Education.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 5, 2018

PRESIDENT