

**DECEMBER 19, 2001**

**SCHAKOWSKY ANNOUNCES \$500,000 FOR AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) announced today that the AIDS Foundation of Chicago will receive \$500,000 to assist in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in minority and disadvantaged communities. At Schakowsky's request, the funds were included in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.**

□

**"Thousands of people rely on the invaluable services of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. I am very pleased that Congress has agreed to provide much needed funding so that the Foundation can expand even further its community outreach initiatives," Schakowsky said.**

**"The AIDS epidemic is still very much with us and the cost of treating people living with HIV/AIDS is escalating. The federal government must ensure that adequate resources are available to combat this epidemic and provide medical, housing and other support for individuals living with the virus in the Midwest and throughout the nation. I will work to help make that goal a reality," Schakowsky added.**

**More than 28,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in Illinois, and Chicago ranks sixth amongst U.S. cities in its number of diagnosed AIDS cases. Nationwide, more than 40,000 people are infected each year, with around 1,500 of them occurring in Illinois.**

**The final version of the bill has been approved by the House and the Senate is expected to pass it this week. The President has indicated that he will sign it.**