



# NAMI

National Alliance on Mental Illness

## The 2008 Presidential Primaries *Bringing Mental Healthcare to the Ballot*

### NAMI Multicultural Action Center Questions for Candidates

- Mental illness affects one in four Americans regardless of racial or ethnic group. Yet, communities of color are much more likely to be uninsured. ***What steps will you take to ensure that all Americans have the coverage for mental healthcare that they need to take care of themselves and their family?***
- Racial and ethnic communities are less likely to receive mental health care and, when they do receive treatment, more likely to receive poorer quality of care. ***What will you do to eliminate disparities in mental healthcare?***
- Public awareness of mental illness and its impact on health is growing, but research budgets for the National Institute of Mental Health are not. ***What will you do to accelerate investment in mental health research—particularly research specific to minority populations experiencing mental illness?***
- Lack of appropriate and affordable housing is one of the most significant barriers to living in the community for people with serious mental illness. ***What will you do to ensure adequate housing and supports for people with mental illness?***
- Only one in three adults with serious mental illness is employed, even though seven out of ten want to work and contribute to their independence. ***What will you do to help people with mental illness return to work?***
- Over five times as many people with mental illness are in jails and prisons than in hospitals—and people of color are overrepresented. ***What will you do to prevent people with mental illness from ending up in our criminal justice system?***
- About one-third of homeless adults have served in the Armed Services—and over 55 percent are African American or Hispanic. Further, nearly half are living with a mental illness. ***What will you do to provide excellent mental healthcare for our country's service men and women?***