



AUG 18 2016

Dear Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Colleagues:

This letter addresses the use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) funds to support housing services under RWHAP Parts A, B, C, and D of Title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act, as amended by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009.

The HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) recognizes the critical importance of housing services to support improved HIV health outcomes; therefore, HAB is revising this service category to extend to RWHAP Part C recipients. This policy revision is reflected in *Policy Clarification Notice (PCN) #16-02 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Services: Eligible Individuals and Allowable Uses of Funds*. HAB further revised the housing service category in PCN #16-02 to incorporate certain guidance in PCN #11-01, *The Use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Funds for Housing Referral Services and Short-Term or Emergency Housing Needs*. The housing service category in PCN #16-02 replaces PCN #11-01 for awards issued on or after October 1, 2016.

Research and practice have demonstrated that safe, stable housing provides the essential foundation for successful management of HIV and other chronic diseases.¹ In the RWHAP, clients who were unstably housed had lower percentages of viral suppression than clients with stable or temporary housing.² Effective systems to treat HIV must take into account the social determinants of health—conditions of peoples' lives that directly or indirectly affect their vulnerability to accessing care and their ability to benefit from HIV treatment.³ HAB understands that housing is a vital component in overcoming social determinants of health and is a proven, cost-effective way to improve HIV health outcomes.

The primary change to the updated PCN #16-02 is that RWHAP Part C recipients may now use RWHAP funds (and program income generated by or earned as a result of RWHAP funding) for housing services. The PCN also clarifies that when funding housing services for a client, recipients must, at least annually, update the client's individualized housing plan. PCN #16-02 will go into effect on October 1, 2016.

Please contact your HAB Project Officer for questions about using RWHAP funds for housing services.

Sincerely,

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¹ HIV Care Continuum: The Connection Between Housing and Improved Outcomes Along The HIV Care Continuum retrieved from <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/The-Connection-Between-Housing-and-Improved-Outcomes-Along-the-HIV-Care-Continuum.pdf>. Accessed June 26, 2016

² Health Resources and Services Administration. *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Annual Client-Level Data Report 2014*. <http://hab.hrsa.gov/data/servicesdelivered/2014RWHAPDataReport.pdf>. Published December 2015. Accessed June 13, 2016.

³ Dean, H.D. & Fenton, K.A. (2010). Addressing Social Determinants of Health in the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Tuberculosis. *Public Health Rep.* 125/Supp 4:1-5