



December 6, 2022

Dear Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A Colleagues:

The community input process is a requirement in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program legislation and is implemented in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Part A as Planning Councils (PC) or Planning Bodies (PB). The Health Resources and Services Administration's HIV/AIDS Bureau (HRSA HAB) recognizes and understands the value of clients who receive RWHAP Part A services actively participating and being involved in the planning process for HIV service delivery, as this drives services that are tailored to the needs of clients in the jurisdiction.

Nonetheless, the RWHAP statute prohibits RWHAP Part A recipients from making cash payments to intended recipients (i.e., clients) of RWHAP Part A services. See Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) § 2604(i); see also [HAB Policy Clarification Notice \(PCN\) 16-02](#). This prohibition is not limited to service-related costs, and thus applies to administrative costs like PC and PB expenses as well. Therefore, RWHAP Part A recipients may not reimburse PC or PB members who are clients via a cash payment with RWHAP funds.

However, per HAB PCN 16-02, RWHAP Part A recipients can support the participation and meaningful engagement of people with lived experience in PC or PB meetings by providing gift cards, vouchers, coupons, or tickets that can be exchanged for a specific service or commodity. RWHAP recipients are advised to administer voucher and store gift card programs in a manner that assures vouchers and store gift cards cannot be exchanged for cash or used for anything other than the allowable goods or services, and that systems are in place to account for disbursed vouchers and store gift cards.

Alternatively, RWHAP Part A PCs or PBs may provide clients with meals during in-person meetings scheduled around meal times (only if needed for health reasons), transportation to and from meetings, and/or child care services for the children of clients who participate in meetings.

Additional considerations can include adjusting PC or PB meeting times to occur after business hours or on weekends to reduce conflict with client work schedules. Lastly, non-RWHAP funding sources (e.g., general revenue funds) are not similarly restricted, and thus can be utilized for a variety of purposes, including to compensate clients for attending PC or PB meetings.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that clients are meaningfully involved in the planning process for service delivery in RWHAP Part A jurisdictions.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Chrissy Abrahms Woodland, MBA

Chrissy Abrahms Woodland, MBA  
Director  
Division of Metropolitan HIV/AIDS Programs