



# Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

PROGRAM FACT SHEET | OCTOBER 2014



## PART F: SPECIAL PROJECTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE PROGRAM

**T**he Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program supports the development of innovative models of HIV care to quickly respond to the emerging needs of clients served by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. SPNS evaluates the effectiveness of the models' design, implementation, utilization, cost, and health-related outcomes, while promoting the dissemination and replication of successful models. The SPNS Program also supports special programs to develop standard electronic client information data systems to improve the ability of grantees to report grantee- and client-level data to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

THE MISSION OF THE SPNS PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE HIV SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS AND EVALUATION FOCUSED ON PRIMARILY UNDERSERVED, UNDERINSURED, AND UNINSURED POPULATIONS.

The mission of the SPNS Program is to provide HIV service delivery through demonstration projects and evaluation focused on primarily underserved, underinsured, and uninsured populations. As a payer of last resort, SPNS funding may be used only after other available public sources, including Medicaid and Medicare, as well as the other Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A through Part D programs, have been exhausted.

### GRANTEES

Grantees are public and private nonprofit organizations that serve people living with HIV.

THE RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM WORKS WITH CITIES, STATES, AND LOCAL COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO AN ESTIMATED 536,000 PEOPLE EACH YEAR WHO DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT HEALTH CARE COVERAGE OR FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO COPE WITH HIV DISEASE. THE MAJORITY OF RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM FUNDS SUPPORT PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE AND ESSENTIAL SUPPORT SERVICES. A SMALLER BUT EQUALLY CRITICAL PORTION IS USED TO FUND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CLINICAL TRAINING, AND RESEARCH ON INNOVATIVE MODELS OF CARE. THE RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM, FIRST AUTHORIZED IN 1990, IS CURRENTLY FUNDED AT \$2.32 BILLION.

Of the 61 current SPNS sites: 13% are community-based organizations, 28% are state or county departments of health, 21% are community health centers, including 330 clinics or dually-funded with the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, 25% are academic-based clinics and evaluation and technical assistance centers, and 13% are AIDS service organizations.

### ELIGIBILITY

Funded projects must contain a strong evaluation component, and grantees must disseminate their findings with a goal of potential replication by other Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grantees.

**\$25 million** appropriation for the SPNS Program in fiscal year 2014

**61 current SPNS sites**

**13%** community-based organizations

**28%** state or county departments of health

**21%** community health centers

**25%** academic-based clinics and evaluation and technical assistance centers

**13%** AIDS service organizations

**IMPLEMENTATION** //

The original SPNS effort began in 1991 with some of the first federal grants to target adolescents and women living with HIV. Today, a portfolio of more than 100 grants addresses emerging needs through the provision of innovative HIV primary care and ancillary services.

The SPNS Program provides mechanisms to do the following:

- ▶ Advance knowledge and skills in the delivery of health care and support services to improve the quality of life of underserved populations diagnosed with HIV infection.
- ▶ Respond quickly to emerging needs of people receiving assistance through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program by supporting and assessing the effectiveness of innovative models of HIV care.

- ▶ Assist Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program-funded grantees with building and improving information technology capacity to meet client-level data reporting requirements.
- ▶ Promote the dissemination and replication of effective models of HIV care at local and national levels.

**FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS** //

Legislation directs a total of \$25 million be set aside for the SPNS Program each year.

SPNS Program continuing initiatives seek to achieve the following:

- ▶ Improve timely entry, access to, and retention into quality HIV care for women of color.
- ▶ Develop innovative systemic models of linkage to improve access to and retention in quality HIV care among hard-to-reach populations.
- ▶ Enhance engagement and retention in quality HIV care for transgender women of color.
- ▶ Build a medical home for multiply-diagnosed HIV positive homeless populations.
- ▶ Enhance health information technology systems to fully integrate and utilize relevant measures of HIV treatment, surveillance, and laboratory data to allow for a more efficient collection, monitoring, and tracking of health outcomes of people living with HIV along the HIV care continuum.
- ▶ Enhance the capacity and readiness of funded organizations to adapt and re-align their workforce systems to improve the provision of quality care to people living with HIV.
- ▶ Develop innovative interventions that identify Latinos/Latinas at high risk for or living with HIV and improve their access to timely entry, and retention in quality HIV primary care with a transnational approach.

