The Health Resources and Services Administration’s Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) provides a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medications, and essential support services for low-income people with HIV. More than half the people with diagnosed HIV in the United States—approximately 535,000 people in 2017—receive services through RWHAP each year. The RWHAP funds grants to states, cities/counties, and local community-based organizations to provide care and treatment services to people with HIV to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission among hard-to-reach populations.

Transgender individuals are a critical population served by RWHAP. Of the more than half a million clients served, 1.8 percent are transgender, representing approximately 9,500 clients. Below are more details about this RWHAP client population:

- The majority of transgender clients served by RWHAP are from racial and ethnic minority populations. Among the transgender clients served, 87.2 percent are from racial and ethnic minority populations. Approximately 54.3 percent of transgender clients served by RWHAP identify as black/African American, which is higher than the national RWHAP average (47.1 percent).

- The majority of transgender clients served by RWHAP are low income. Among transgender RWHAP clients served, 76.2 percent live at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is higher than the national RWHAP average (62.8 percent).

- Data show that 10.8 percent of transgender RWHAP clients have unstable housing. This percentage is substantially higher than the national RWHAP average (5.1 percent).

- The RWHAP transgender client population is aging. Approximately 24.5 percent of RWHAP transgender clients are aged 50 years and older.

Medical care and treatment improve health outcomes and decrease the risk of HIV transmission. People with HIV who take HIV medication daily as prescribed and reach and maintain an undetectable viral load have effectively no risk of sexually transmitting the virus to an HIV-negative partner. Among the transgender clients receiving RWHAP HIV medical care in 2017, 80.9 percent are virally suppressed,* which is lower than the national RWHAP average (85.9 percent).

* Viral suppression is defined as a viral load result of less than 200 copies/mL at most recent test, among people with HIV who had at least one outpatient ambulatory health services visit and one viral load test during the measurement year.

For more information on HRSA’s Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, please visit: hab.hrsa.gov.