

**HRSA HAB All Grant Recipient Call  
April 30, 2020**

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. For the duration of today's conference participants will be in a listen-only mode. I'd like to inform all parties that today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn the conference over to Dr. Laura Cheever. Thank you. You may begin.

Dr. Laura Cheever: I thank you. Good afternoon and welcome to the Health Resources and Services Administration's HIV/AIDS Bureau All Grant Recipient Call. I'm Laura Cheever the Associated Administrative HIV/AIDS Bureau and I'm joined today by Heather Hauck, the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Bureau and CAPT Mahyar Mofidi, the Director of the Division of Community HIV/AIDS Programs in HAB.

We're so glad that you could join us for today's call. We have, once again, a full agenda for you today including sharing some important Health Resources and Services Administration's updates. The new announcements around the FY 2020 CARES Act funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients and a discussion of frequently asked question and key resources.

A full audio file and transcript after this call will be posted on our COVID-19 FAQ web page in the coming days.

First as we begin, Heather and I would like to thank each one of you on today's call for all that you do and continue to do during this trying time in response as unprecedented public health emergency of COVID-19,

particularly among people with HIV and the nation's most vulnerable population.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment as we work together to respond to COVID-19 and continue to move forward in the important work in advancing the HIV/AIDS Bureau's align with HIV's program and Mission. I'm extremely proud of the work that you are doing for people who need it the most.

I'm going to turn it over now to Heather to talk about an important COVID-related initiative that she's been leading it herself. Heather.

Heather Hauck: Alright, thank you Dr. Cheever. We wanted to have this opportunity to let you know that this week the US Department of Health and Human Services through HRSA, launched a new COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to healthcare providers and facilities for testing and treatment of the uninsured.

This program allows healthcare providers who have conducted COVID-19 testing and/or provided treatment for uninsured COVID-19 individuals on or after February 4, 2020, to submit claims for reimbursement.

The part of the Family's First Corona Virus Response Act, the Paycheck Protection Program, and Healthcare Enhancement Act, and the Corona Virus Aid Relief and Economic Securities Act - or fact. Healthcare providers can request claims, claims reimbursements electronically through the COVID-19 uninsured program portal and receive reimbursement - generally at Medicare rates - for testing uninsured individuals for COVID-19 and treating uninsured individuals with the COVID-19 diagnosis.

For more information you can visit [www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim](http://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim) - with no s on it. And to access the portal to start the process you can go to [coviduninsuredclaim.linkhealth.com](http://coviduninsuredclaim.linkhealth.com). Now I'll turn it back over to Dr. Cheever for our next item.

Dr. Laura Cheever: Thanks, Heather. I want to turn back now to the Ryan White specific COVID funding.

Early this month we were excited to share with you that we were just awarded \$90 million for Ryan White HIV Program recipients across the country to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Corona Virus disease 2019.

This funding supports 581 Ryan White HIV Program recipients like you across the country. City and County Health Departments, Health Clinics, Community-Based Organizations, State Health Department, AIDS Vaccination and Training Centers Programs and Aid-Up Training and Technical Systems.

In your efforts to prevent or minimize the impact of this pandemic on people with HIV. We've already heard from many of you about how you are utilizing these funds. The HIV/AIDS Bureau knows that the safety and well-being of our Ryan White HIV Program recipients, patients, clients, and people with HIV is paramount. The HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau is here to support your efforts.

This new funding is an important step in the effort to insure you have maximum flexibility to manage your Ryan White work during this time. We initially stated that the 75% core medical services requirement of Ryan White's part A, B, and C does not apply to this funding but that all other Ryan White HIV's Program provisions and funding limitations remain applicable to this 2020 CARES Act funding.

However, (unintelligible)'s been able to obtain greater flexibility for the FY 2020 Cares Act funding as it pertains to the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program's provisions and funding limitations.

This afternoon you'll receive additional information from your Ryan White HIV's Program parts specific lister with the specific details about the Ryan White requirements made under the FY 2020 CARES Act. So please be on the lookout for these instructions that will pertain to that COVID funding you've received.

It is our hope that these greater flexibilities will allow all our recipients to implement the FY 2020 CARES Act funding in a timely manner to meet the emergent needs of your jurisdiction.

Mahyar, can you give us some more information on additional technical assistance that'll be going out today?

Captain Mofidi: Thank you Dr. Cheever. Yes, we want to take this opportunity to let our stakeholder and our recipient community to know that the HIV/AIDS Bureau has developed a technical assistance document to help recipients link Ryan White Service categories to CARES Act funded activities.

The document has a long name. It is titled Examples of Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act Supplemental Funding Uses and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Service Categories. This document provides examples of COVID-19 related activities that can be provided for each Ryan White Service Category.

We created this resource to support recipients in developing their budgets and plans for CARES Act funding. It is a guide to help recipients understand the types of activities that could fall under specific service categories.

That said, the document is not intended to be an exhaustive list of allowable activities and this document will be sent out later this afternoon and will be posted to the HAB technical assistance information for CARES Act Ryan White recipients web page.

Now if you have specific questions about the document or what service category CARES Act funded activity could be included on there, please have that conversation and talk to your Project Officer.

I'm going to turn it back to Heather.

Heather Hauck: Great, thank you. So I'm next going to talk about the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program CARES Act reporting requirement updates.

So HAB wanted to make sure - we wanted to make sure that we give you an update on data collection activities for the 2020 CARES Act funding. HAB has developed a data reporting plan that accounts for the 2020 CARES Act funds were used while minimizing recipient reporting burden.

So these changes were applied to Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients and some recipients when you have received FY 2020 CARES Act funding.

We have requested approval from OMB to create a new monthly aggregate data report to collect information on CARES Act funded activities. The data collection changes are - and I'm going to talk about two of them. There will

be a new monthly COVID-19 data report or what we will call CDR. This will be a new aggregate monthly data report.

It will be due in June of 2020 OMB approval pending. All providers - recipient providers, sub-recipient providers, and second level providers - who used FY 2020 CARES Act funding will be required to report on this new monthly COVID-19 data report or CDR.

The second new reporting requirement is the COVID-19 Allocation and Expenditures Report. There will be a new Allocations and Expenditure Reports - OMB approval pending - for all of Ryan White 2020 CARES Act funded recipients. Additional information about the allocations and expenditures reports will be made available soon.

In addition, this afternoon the HIV/AIDS Bureau will send out an email to all Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients to provide additional details on the reporting changes. This information will also be made available on the technical systems web page to the FY 2020 CARES Act funding for Ryan White recipients.

As a reminder, your CARES Act notice of award includes multiple reporting requirements. Your reply to the COVID-19 initial response reporting requirement is due on May 15, which is 30 days from the issuance of the Notice of Award. These requirements will be submitted through the HRSA electronic handbooks or EHB.

Recipients are reminded that you are able to begin expending your funds immediately upon acceptance of the award. You are not required to wait until this report is submitted. And I'm going to turn it back over to Dr. Cheever for our next update.

Dr. Laura Cheever: Well, thank you. We did want to share next an update on the 2020 National Ryan White Conference on HIV care treatment. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, (unintelligible) HIV/AIDS Bureau is making arrangements to host the 2020 National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care and Treatment virtually.

This conference is currently scheduled for August 11th to 14th in Washington, DC. Your health, well-being, and safety are top priority for the HIV/AIDS Bureau. While there's not yet sufficient data on whether people with HIV are more susceptible or more likely to develop severe disease, we must take every precaution to reduce any potential risk to the vulnerable population the Ryan White Program serves.

Additionally, the HIV/AIDS Bureau understands that many of the registered attendees and speakers are working on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response around the world. This virtual format of our meeting will allow those on the frontline to still have an opportunity to attend the conference and not to take them away from the communities they are working so hard to serve.

Since the conference is hosted virtually all Marriott Marquis, Washington, DC hotel reservations will be cancelled on behalf of registered attendees. Recipients and stakeholders will not need to request the hotel reservations cancellation at the Marriott Marquis.

Stay tuned for more information. Heather.

Heather Hauck: And next we're going to give an update on site visits. So given the importance of HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients in the local, state, and

national response efforts as well as CDC guidance, (CHAB) will postpone all site visits planned through July 31, 2020.

We made this decision in consideration of the potential impact to Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Service Providers Operations during the COVID-19 outbreak. HAB's staff and consultant safety as well as the need for staff to be available for immediate mission-critical assignments.

Site visits are a critically important part of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program monitoring and oversight process, therefore, HAB will re-schedule the postponed comprehensive and other site visits as soon as it is practical. I'm now I'm to turn it over to CAPT Mofidi to give an update on a Part C specific notification.

CAPT Mofidi: Thank you, Heather. So the HIV/AIDS Bureau has received numerous communications from current recipients expressing concern that they will be unable to submit applications for competition due to extreme interruptions and barriers to normal business operations.

We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic is having a profound impact on recipient staffing resources and their ability to conduct business functions and effectively address the emergency needs of clients.

So in consideration of these ongoing issues and challenges, HRSA has determined that the Fiscal Year 2021 Part C Notice of Funding Opportunity that includes announcement numbers HRSA-21060, 061, and 062 will be postponed.

HRSA plans to host the competition for Part C - for the entire Part C Program in fiscal year 2022 when recipients' business operations are anticipated to be

stabilized and the appropriate staff and resources are available to develop quality applications for the competition.

Now, to support our Part C - existing Part C recipients for next year, HAB has decided - HRSA has decided to extend a one-year extension with funds for all current recipients across the multiple budget periods. That includes a January cohort...

Coordinator: It's Operator. (Unintelligible)'s line has dropped from the conference call-in line.

Dr. Laura Cheever: Okay I will carry on then, thank you. This is why we work in a team here.

So for the Part C we have a January cohort, an April cohort, and a May cohort. All three of those cohorts will receive a one-year extension pending the availability of funds for FY 2021.

The FY 2021 award will be based on the Part C funding methodology utilized in the 2018 competition.

So thank you all for engaging us in this discussion around the competition of Part C and were able to get a one-year extension.

Staying along the lines of medical funding opportunities, we do have some funds that are 2020 funds that we will need to award this year and we are very excited to announce that we have five Notice of Funding Opportunity awards - Funding Opportunity announcements that will be going out.

One is around activity stigma reduction, one around implementing rapid ART initiations and another initiative around improving care treatment for black

women with HIV. In all we have five NOFOs and they all really support our broader goals of ending the HIV epidemic and are funded by the Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund. Our pre-application of webinars began this week.

So I'm just going to go through all of them quickly to give you a sense of what they are in case you are interested in applying.

First, is HRSA 20-112 Reducing Stigma at Systems, Organizational, and Individual Client Levels within the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program. This NOFO seeks applications for a training and technical assistance program to reduce stigma for people with HIV on multiple levels throughout the healthcare delivery system including at the individual client level.

Applications are due on June 8.

Next, I'll discuss HRSA 20-114 Building Capacity to Implement Rapid Anti-Retroviral Treatment Initiation from proved engagement at care engagement - at the implementation site. This NOFO seeks applicants for awards to implement and evaluate rapid start or accelerated entry into HIV care and rapid initiation of anti-retro viral therapy for people with HIV who are newly diagnosed, need care, or out of care with applications due on June 15.

Accompanying that is HRSA 20-113 Building Capacity to Implement Rapid ART Initiation from Group Care. The evaluation and technical assistance provider. As this NOFO seeks application to support a single organization to conduct a vigorous multi-site evaluation on the implementation of rapid ARC interventions and to facilitate CA to a cohort of implementation sites to promote rapid start. That application is due on June 15.

The fourth NOFO is HRSA 20-116 Improving Care and Treatment Coordination Focusing on Black from the HIV Demonstration Site. This NOFO seeks applications for awards to design, implement, and evaluate bundled interventions that will address sociocultural health determinants, expand healthcare delivery and utilization of comprehensive HIV care and treatment services. Support includes engagement and care and improves health outcomes for black women of HIV in culturally sensitive and responsive manners. Those applications are due June 15.

There is an accompanying evaluation and technical assistance provider for this that's HRSA 20-115. That NOFO seeks applications for a single organization that will lead a multi-site evaluation and provide technical assistance to cohort a demonstration site.

And it's really to provide those technical assistance and capacity building to fund the demonstration site working collaboratively with the sites to implement the comprehensive multi-site evaluations, disseminate successful models, findings and best practices, and lessons learned. These applications are also due on June 15.

For more information or supply, visit [www.hrsa.gov/grants](http://www.hrsa.gov/grants). Heather do you want to talk about FAQs?

Heather Hauck: Yeah, great, Thank you. So we'll start on answering some frequently asked questions. Since our last call two weeks ago when HHHF announced the awarding of the FY 2020 CARES Act funding for Ryan White HIV/AIDS recipients, we've heard from many of you with questions around the CARES Act funding awards and what it means for you all as you continue to move forward with providing care for people with HIV during the COVID-19

pandemic. So this afternoon we're going to give you responses to several frequently asked topics on the CARES Act awards.

For the first topic - and we talked about this two weeks ago as well - is the funding methodology for the awards. Since the funding was awarded, several recipients have asked for additional clarification about how the amount of COVID-19 funding was determined for each Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Award recipient.

And just as a reminder, the answer is that for (unintelligible) HIV/AIDS Program Parts A, B, and C 2018 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Service Report, or RSR data, were used to develop the funding methodology focusing on the numbers of clients served. For Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part D the funding methodology was based on the 2019 funding amounts.

Please note that for Ryan White Parts A and B using the RSR data, the number of clients as reported as receiving a service in each jurisdiction for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program are different from using our usual Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for CDC surveillance data, the number of people living with HIV and AIDS in that jurisdiction of which Part A H-89 and Part B access seven awards are based.

The second topic area in the frequently asked questions is - is CARES Act funding to assist with telehealth visit costs. And the question commonly is, can awarded Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients use funds from the FY 2020 CARES Act to assist with telehealth visit costs?

And the answer that FY 2020 CARES Act provides one-time funding for eligible healthcare providers including Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

So HRSA encourages the use of telehealth to promote access to and continuity of care in a safe way during social distancing and we strongly encourage Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program service providers that provide or are planning to provide health services via telehealth to consult with your professional organizations, your regulatory bodies and perhaps private council to help assess, develop, and maintain written telehealth policies that are compliant with federal, state, and local requirements and applicable standards of practice.

Likewise, HRSA encourages Ryan White HIV/AIDS program service providers to consider the range of issues that would support successful implementation of telehealth. And as a reminder, our PCN-1602 encourages service providers to consider all methods of providing services including the use of technology.

And I'll turn it over to Dr. Cheever to do some more of our frequently asked questions.

Dr. Laura Cheever: Another question that comes up repeatedly is around the purchase of PPE. Our questioner asked, is it an allowable cost under the CARES Act Award for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients to use emergency financial assistance to purchase face masks and other PPE so clients can receive essential services in instances where masks are required due to the County ordinance requiring face masks to be used in public?

The answer is funding has been appropriated under the CARES Act to help Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients prepare for, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. And is it appropriated to support recipients as they respond to COVID-19 related healthcare needs.

All activities and purchase supported with Ryan White CARES funding must be used for services, activities, and supplies needed to prepare for, prevent, and respond to COVID-19 with respect to Ryan White clients.

From the allowable use of funds documents, allowable costs include but are not limited to, purchased supplies for respiratory hygiene and cost etiquette including alcohol-based hand sanitizers that contain between 60 and 95% alcohol, tissues, and non-toxic receptacles for disposal.

Additionally, purchase of personal protective equipment PPE for Ryan White recipient personnel and Ryan White clients including the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Approved N95 respirators for Ryan White recipient personnel.

Similar question we got is around the use of care that's funding for household and family members of Ryan White clients. The question is, are Ryan White Program Part A recipients allowed to use CARES Act funds for household and family members of Ryan White consumers? This would be for COVID testing and personal protective distribution.

The answer is yes. CARES Act funding may be used to pay for PPE for household family members living in the same home as Ryan White clients because it's an essential item necessary to preserve the health and well-being of the Ryan White client receiving HIV- related care and treatment services. See PCN-1602 Emergency Financial Assistance.

It is important to note that Emergency Financial Assistance must occur as a direct payment to an agency which provides your program. CARE Acts funding may also be used for COVID-19 testing of household family

members that present with COVID symptoms still living in the same household as the Ryan White client. Heather.

Heather Hauck: Thanks. The next question has to do with ADAP Supplemental CARES Act funding to purchase health insurance for clients. So the question is, can CARES Act Part B ADAP Supplemental funds be used to purchase health insurance for eligible clients, specifically do they have the authority to do so with these supplemental funds - the CARES Act Supplemental funds?

And the answer is that ADAP services are included in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, Part B Program. And the Part B authority includes the purchase of health insurance as an allowable cost. The CARES Act funding should not support costs or activities already covered by fiscal year appropriations.

In addition, medical services allowable under the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program are also allowable under the CARES Act Supplemental award to Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipient. And for information related to the payment of health insurance premiums and co-pays under Ryan White Part A, B - ADAP Part C and D. Please refer to PCM 18-01.

Our next question is around providing care to populations of clients currently misplaced due to COVID-19. So we've had this question from several recipients who have asked about a population of clients who are misplaced and are stranded due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

What is the allowability of providing medication to these clients using Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program funds in the event that the medications will not be covered under a patient assistance program? In addition, the recipient is concerned with the provision of out-patient ambulatory visits, food bank, and

other supportive services to these stranded clients during this time. Can CARES Act funds be used to cover these emergency costs?

The answer is HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau requires that people with HIV are deemed eligible to receive Ryan White HIV Program services. And the statute, the Ryan White legislation and HRSA have policy outline eligibility requirements. However, where not defined within these requirements, Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients have flexibility as to how they define eligibility requirements for their services including residency where applicable and what documentation they require.

HRSA HAB requires Ryan White's HIV/AIDS Program recipients to have emergency response plans that include temporary eligibility rules but would apply in specific situations like this. This would allow a recipient to provide services that meet those HRSA HAB requirements and recipient-level policy.

For example, in the situation described in the question, an ADAT could have - as a component of their emergency preparedness plan but in a public health emergency - it will accept a lower level of documentation for residency that it would normally. And I'll turn it over to Dr. Cheever for some more frequently asked questions.

Dr. Laura Cheever: Another question we've received is about paying for cancellation fees should conferences and travel be cancelled. And as we shared earlier in the call, we are now making arrangements to host the 2020 National Ryan White Conference virtually. As we shared, if the conference is hosted virtually, all hotel reservations will be cancelled on behalf of the registered attendees at the Marriott Marques. You will not need to request a cancellation of your hotel reservation at that hotel.

However, several recipients have asked whether Ryan White recipients can charge cancellation fees due to COVID-19 to the grant such as airline tickets, hotels, and conference expenses. The answer is yes. For guidance issued by OMD Memo M-2717, HRSA recipients may charge full costs of cancellations when the event, travel, or other activities are conducted under the auspices of the grant.

Recipients should not assume that additional funds will be available should the charging of cancellation and other fees result in the shortage of funds to eventually carry out the event or travel.

Recipients must maintain appropriate records and cost documentation as required for financial management and standards for financial management systems and retention requirements for record to substantiate the charges of any cancellation or other fees are related to the interruption of operations or services.

Heather do you want to start on the key resources?

Heather Hauck: Sure. So we wanted to remind folks and encourage you to continue to visit the HIV/AIDS Bureau's website. The COVID-19 FAQ website in particular. We are updating this page almost daily with new FAQs and information as it becomes available.

As a reminder the website URL is [hab.hrsa.gov/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions](http://hab.hrsa.gov/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions). Another reminder, there on that web page you can find the link to our previous all-grant recipient calls and webinars and in the coming days we will also post the recording for today's webinar there as well.

We also encourage you to visit HAB's web page for medical assistance for the FY 2020 CARES Act funding for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients. We would encourage you to visit other web pages for critical information as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve.

First and foremost, please visit [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov) which is the primary portal of information for the public regarding COVID-19. You can also find a compendium of resources COVID-19 for people with HIV on [hiv.gov](https://www.hiv.gov) and, in addition, HRSA has also put together a list of Program COVID-19 resources available at [hrsa.gov\coronavirus](https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus).

Dr. Cheever I'll send it back over to you for the next section.

Dr. Laura Cheever: Thank you. Before we conclude this afternoon's call, I want to take a moment to acknowledge something very important to all of us at HRSA and to me in particular as a provider. We understand that for many of our Ryan White Program recipients and providers who are serving on the frontline in providing care to some of the nation's most vulnerable population, that the COVID-19 pandemic is at times both unsettling and difficult. We also realize that for many of you, the work you do is taxing to your own mental health and I am well aware that this new normal is challenging to a personal sense of well-being.

As many of you continue to care for your families, patients, and communities we also want to encourage you to take care of your own well-being. For that there are several resources that we'd like to share and we hope that they might be helpful to you.

For managing mental health during COVID-19 you can visit the American Medical Association website at [www.ama-assn.org](https://www.ama-assn.org). There's also a national

help line that provides confidential, free, 24-hour a day information services in English and Spanish for individuals and family members facing mental health and substance abuse disorders.

You can get that by dialing 1-800-662-help. There's also a crisis text line for healthcare professionals and essential workers working at the front lines during the Corona pandemic. Counseling is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Tech Frontline to be (unintelligible) support 741-741 and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides 24-hours a day, seven days a week help for you or your loved ones. In Best Practices for professionals you can visit <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org> or call 1-800-273-8255.

Heather and I hope that you and your families are staying safe and well during this difficult time. Thank you again for the important and vital work that you do in your communities and for your participation on today's call.

And please, do look for several incoming emails via the listeners today with some critical important information about your new flexibilities and some technical assistance around these awards.

Thank you so much and we look forward to talking to you again in the future.

Coordinator: That does conclude today's conference. Thank you again for your participation. You may disconnect at this time.

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