

Program Overview

HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program



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The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) 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. Over half the people with diagnosed HIV in the United States—more than 576,000 people in 2021—receive services through RWHAP each year. First authorized in 1990, 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. In 2021, 89.7 percent of RWHAP clients receiving HIV medical care were virally suppressed. For more than three decades, RWHAP has worked to stop HIV stigma and reduce health disparities by caring for the whole person and addressing their social determinants of health.



More than four decades ago, in June 1981, the first cases of HIV were reported in the United States.¹ In 2021, more than 36,100 people were diagnosed with HIV in the United States. Approximately 1.2 million people in the United States had HIV in 2021, and approximately 13 percent of them did not know they had it.²

Today, people with HIV who take HIV medication as prescribed and reach viral suppression cannot sexually transmit HIV to their partners and can live longer and healthier lives. In 1990, Congress enacted the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act—the legislation that created the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP)—to improve the quality and availability of HIV care and treatment for low-income people with HIV. The CARE Act was amended and reauthorized in 1996, 2000, and 2006; in 2009, it was reauthorized as the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–87).

The RWHAP is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HIV/AIDS Bureau.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Clients

HRSA's RWHAP provided services to over 576,000 people in 2021—over half of all people diagnosed with HIV in the United States. In 2021, 89.7 percent of RWHAP clients were virally suppressed, which means they cannot sexually transmit HIV to their partners and can live longer and healthier lives. This is a significant increase from 69.5 percent virally suppressed in 2010. People aged 50 years and older accounted for 48.3 percent of all RWHAP clients in 2021.

Nearly three-quarters of RWHAP clients in 2021 were from racial and ethnic minorities. Data in 2021 show 45.8 percent of clients were Black/African American people, and 24.1 percent were Hispanic/Latino people. In 2021, 59.2 percent of RWHAP clients were people living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts

There are five statutorily defined Parts of RWHAP. Each has a different purpose, including providing medical and support services, medications, workforce development, technical assistance, and clinical training, as well as developing and

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 1981. "Pneumocystis Pneumonia—Los Angeles." *MMWR*, 30(21). www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/june_5.htm.

² CDC. 2021. "HIV in the United States and Dependent Areas." www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/overview/ataglance.html. Accessed August 1, 2023.

disseminating innovative HIV care and treatment strategies. The RWHAP is the payor of last resort. The program eliminates duplication with other federal programs because RWHAP funds may not be used for services if another state or federal payor is available.

Part A funds Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs) and Transitional Grant Areas (TGAs) to provide medical and support services. EMAs and TGAs are cities and counties most severely affected by the HIV epidemic. Approximately 72 percent of all people with diagnosed HIV in the United States live in EMAs and TGAs. Congress appropriated approximately \$680.8 million for RWHAP Part A in fiscal year (FY) 2023.

Part B funds states and territories to improve the quality, availability, and organization of HIV health care and support services. Recipients include all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau, and Federated States of Micronesia. In addition, Part B funds AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) grants. Congress appropriated approximately \$464.6 million for RWHAP Part B base in FY 2023 and approximately \$900.3 million for Part B ADAP in FY 2023.

Part C funds local community-based organizations to provide comprehensive primary HIV medical care and support services in an outpatient setting for people with HIV through Early Intervention Services program grants. Part C also funds Capacity Development grants, which help organizations more effectively deliver HIV care and services. Congress appropriated approximately \$209 million for RWHAP Part C in FY 2023.

Part D funds local community-based organizations to provide outpatient, ambulatory, family-centered primary and specialty medical care for women, infants, children, and youth with HIV. Part D funding may be used to provide support services to people with HIV and their affected family members. Congress appropriated approximately \$78 million for RWHAP Part D in FY 2023.

Part F funds support clinician training, technical assistance, and the development of innovative HIV care and treatment strategies to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission. These programs include the following:

- The **AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC) Program**, which is a network of HIV experts who provide education, training, and technical assistance on HIV care and prevention to health care team members and health care organizations serving people with or at risk of HIV. Congress appropriated approximately \$34.9 million for RWHAP Part F AETC in FY 2023.
- The **Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program**, which supports the development of innovative models of HIV care and treatment to quickly respond to emerging needs of RWHAP clients. SPNS uses implementation science to evaluate the design, implementation, utilization, and health-related outcomes of treatment strategies while promoting the dissemination and replication of successful interventions. Congress appropriated approximately \$25 million for RWHAP Part F SPNS in FY 2023.
- The **Minority AIDS Initiative**, which Congress established in 1999, helps RWHAP recipients improve access to HIV care and health outcomes for minorities. Funding is appropriated by RWHAP Parts A, B, C, and D, with the purpose defined in each part of the legislation.

All RWHAP Parts may provide oral health services. However, two Part F programs focus on funding oral health care for people with HIV:

- The **HIV/AIDS Dental Reimbursement Program (DRP)** expands access to oral health care for people with HIV while training additional dental and dental hygiene providers. DRP provides reimbursements to accredited dental schools, schools of dental hygiene, and postdoctoral dental education programs.
- The **Community-Based Dental Partnership Program** increases access to oral health care services for people with HIV and administers education and clinical training for dental care providers, especially those practicing in community-based settings. Congress appropriated approximately \$13.6 million for the Part F Dental Programs in FY 2023.

Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.

The federal *Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.* (EHE) initiative is an ongoing effort to reduce new HIV infections to fewer than 3,000 per year. Through RWHAP and the Health Center Program, HRSA has a leading role in helping diagnose, treat, prevent, and respond to end the HIV epidemic. Congress appropriated approximately \$165 million for HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau EHE activities in FY 2023.

