

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS PROGRAM

Program Description:

- The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program provides housing assistance designed to alleviate or prevent homelessness for persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH/A). HOPWA is administered by the California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS (CDPH/OA), HIV Care Branch, and is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). CDPH/OA allocates HOPWA funds annually through a formula process to eligible counties to be used for short-term emergency rent, mortgage, and utility payments to prevent homelessness. Additionally, HOPWA funds can be used for facility operating costs, housing information and support services, and tenant-based or project-based rental assistance. A portion of the funds have been used for the development of housing units.
- Funds are allocated annually by CDPH/OA to eligible local health departments (LHDs), housing agencies, and nonprofit organizations in the 42 counties located outside HUD'S designated Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
- Clients receiving housing and supportive service assistance through HOPWA must meet the following criteria:
 - Low-income per HUD requirements;
 - Diagnosed with HIV or AIDS; and
 - Homeless or at risk of being homeless.

Background:

- HOPWA is authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act of 1992, regulated under the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 24, Part 574 and administered by HUD's Office of HIV/AIDS Housing.
- HOPWA Formula Grants are awarded annually to cities and states upon submission and HUD approval of a Consolidated Plan: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/conplan/> pursuant to CFR (24 CFR Part 91): http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_03/24cfr91_03.html, which is published by the Office of the Federal Register. CDPH/OA assumes responsibility as the HOPWA State of California Grantee.



- CDPH/OA allocates funds through an annual non-competitive formula process. CDPH/OA determines the formula allocation based on the number of PLWA “case index” as reported by LHDs to CDPH/OA’s HIV/AIDS Case Registry Section. Counties reporting 100 or more AIDS cases and receiving an allocation of \$100,000 or more should use at least 15 percent of their allocation for permanent housing assistance such as tenant-based or facility-based rental housing (including project-based rental assistance or master leasing) assistance.

HOPWA Program Goals:

- Meet HUD’s national goal of increasing the availability of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income PLWH/A. HUD’s overall outcome goal for 2011 is for 80 percent of HOPWA clients to maintain housing stability, access to care, and avoid homelessness.
- Create and support affordable housing units for PLWH/As by matching HOPWA funds with other resources through community planning for comprehensive housing strategies.
- Create partnerships and innovative strategies among state and local governments and community-based nonprofit organizations to identify and serve the housing and supportive service needs of PLWH/As.

Data:

For 2006-07, HOPWA assisted 1,668 households consisting of 3,094 clients and family members. Of the 1,668 assisted households, 1,554 individuals and families received short-term emergency housing payments to prevent homelessness, while 28 households received tenant-based rental assistance to maintain stable housing. HOPWA provided operating costs to housing facilities consisting of 47 units (five units were group homes occupied by more than one household/client) and served a total of 86 households.

Helpful Resources:

- National HOPWA Program - www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/aidshousing/programs/index.cfm.
- AIDS Housing Washington - www.aidshousing.org.
- California Department of Housing and Community Development - www.hcd.ca.gov.
- CDPH/OA - www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/AIDS.