

**California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS
Housing Plus Project**

The Housing Plus Project is a five-year housing demonstration project to stabilize housing as a targeted intervention to engage and retain clients in HIV care and treatment, and achieve and maintain viral suppression.

Background

Funding

- In July 2015, the California Legislature redirected \$1.5 million in Ryan White Part B Base Funds from the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) to the Ryan White Part B HIV Care Program (HCP) for the purpose of improving the health outcomes of people of color.

Why Housing?

- Existing research shows that addressing housing needs of people living with HIV will increase their retention in care and viral load suppression.
- Addressing housing needs of people living with HIV will help us meet the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) goals.
- Housing needs exceed available housing resources for people living with HIV.
- Housing has been an underutilized service category in the HCP.

Housing Plus Project Overview

Description

- The Housing Plus Project is a partial rent subsidy program, also known as a shallow rent subsidy program. Eligible Ryan White clients will receive monthly rental assistance for up to 24-months, based on their need.

Contractor Selection

- HCP contractors were selected to participate in the demonstration project based on their HCP allocation spending record, the number and percent of Ryan White clients of color in temporary/unstable housing situations, and capacity to implement the program.
- Four HCP contractors (i.e., Kern County, Orange County, San Joaquin County, and Tulare County) that met the criteria and who were also willing to participate in the demonstration project were selected. It is anticipated they will reach 335 clients in years 1 and 2; and 291 clients in years 3 through 5.

Client Eligibility

In order for Ryan White clients to participate in this subsidy program, they have to:

- Be HIV-positive.
- Have a current/at-risk of a temporary or unstable housing status.
- Not receiving other housing assistance.
- Apply for comprehensive healthcare coverage, as eligible.

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- Provide a copy of the most recent viral load test results to their case manager at enrollment and then at least annually thereafter.
- Sign individualized written housing plan agreement.

Evaluation

- Office of AIDS (OA) will conduct process evaluation that will examine (a) the number of clients served, (b) the duration of housing assistance, and (c) the client's demographics and household characteristics.
- OA will conduct outcome evaluation that will analyze the degree to which clients who received housing assistance (a) are stably housed, (b) are retained in HIV care, and (c) achieve and maintain viral load suppression.

Important Components

- Jurisdictions
- Case Managers
- Housing Coordinators
- ARIES data entry
- Housing Plans
- OA technical assistance

Progress-to-Date

- Amended contracts have been fully or are in the process of being fully executed.
- Four clients receiving rental subsidy assistance.
- OA staff developed program documents.
- Positive response from funder about the demonstration project.
- Increased utilization of Housing Services category.

Lessons-to-Date

- Time needed to execute amended contracts.
- Although Health Resources Services and Administration (HRSA) has minimal requirements for their Housing Services, additional program parameters had to be established to ensure there is equity, parity, and appropriate use of funds.

Next Steps

- Continue to provide technical assistance to the participating contractors.
- Monitor progress and data collection of the participating contractors.
- Submit an abstract to HRSA for the 2016 National Ryan White Conference.
- Continue to explore the possibilities of the Housing Services category.