



# **COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Activities in the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program**

April 6, 2021



# Presenters/Facilitators

## Office of HIV/AIDS Housing Staff:

Rita Harcrow – Director

Amy Palilonis – Senior Program Specialist

## HRSA/HIV/AIDS Bureau Staff:

Cyntrice Bellamy - Senior Advisor, HRSA HAB Office of the Associate Administrator

April Stubbs - Senior Public Health Advisor

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## Collaborative Solutions Staff:

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# Grantee Presenters

## Grantee Participants:

Travis Barnhart, BSW

Manager, Quality & Housing Services

City of Kansas City, MO

Erika Sugimori, MPH

HIV Services Manager

Louisiana Department of Health

Office of Public Health, STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program



# Opening Remarks

Rita Harcrow – Director, Office of HIV/AIDS Housing, HUD

Cyntrice Bellamy - Senior Advisor, HRSA HAB Office of the Associate Administrator



# Overview of FY 2020 CARES Act Funding for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Eligible Service Categories

**Wendy Briscoe**, Project Officer  
Division of State HIV/AIDS Programs

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



# Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding of 2020

- The Health Resources and Services Administration HIV/AIDS Bureau awarded \$90 million for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients across the country to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- This funding is provided by the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and was distributed across Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A – F.
- The funding cycle began on April 1, 2020 and ended on March 31, 2021.
- HRSA HAB announced in February 2021 that FY 2020 CARES Act funded RWHAP recipients are eligible to request a no-cost extension.



# Services Covered Under FY 2020 CARES Act

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- All services under Policy Clarification Notice (PCN) 16-02 were identified as an allowable expense.
- Most popular services included the following:
  - Rental assistance
  - Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA)
  - Telehealth support
  - Medication
- For more information about FY 2020 CARES Act funding for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients, visits <https://hab.hrsa.gov/coronavirus>.



# Contact Information

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# HOPWA Program COVID-19 Response

Amy Palilonis, Senior Program Specialist  
Office of HIV/AIDS Housing



# CARES Act Award Information

- CARES Act provides \$65M in supplemental funding for HOPWA
  - \$53.7M for formula grantees using the same data elements to determine their FY2020 HOPWA formula allocations
  - \$10M in one-time, non-renewable funding for competitive grantees that is proportionate to their existing grants
  - \$1.3M to TA providers as an increase to prior award
- This is a “one-time” award and must be directly related to the COVID-19 crisis.



# General Use of Funds

- CARES Act funds are to be used to “maintain operations and for rental assistance, supportive services, and other necessary actions in order to **prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.**”
- Funds may be used to provide eligible HOPWA activities in a manner that addresses the needs of each grantee community related to COVID-19 preparedness and response.
- CARES Act funds may be used to cover or reimburse allowable costs incurred by a grantee or project sponsor for allowable activities **regardless of the date on which such costs were incurred.**



# Types of Eligible Activities

- Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility (STRMU) assistance to prevent homelessness;
- Stays at hotels or motels to quarantine HOPWA-eligible individuals or their family members;
- Transportation services for access to medical care, supplies, and food or to commute to places of employment;
- Assisting HOPWA eligible households in accessing essential services and supplies;
- Nutrition services in the form of food banks, groceries, and meal deliveries;
- Education on preventing the spread of COVID-19; and
- Infection control measures such as cleaning supplies, PPE, and gloves for staff and assisted households.



# CARES Act Flexibilities

- Increased caps on administrative expenses for both grantees (6%) and project sponsors (10%);
- Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility (STRMU) assistance payments to prevent homelessness can be provided for up to 24 months; and
- Relocation services including lodging at hotels, motels, or other locations can be provided for eligible persons living with HIV as well as household members who are not living with HIV/AIDS.



# Duplication of Benefits

- Section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155), prohibits the duplication of benefits (DOB) for programs that provide financial assistance to people or entities suffering losses as a result of a Federally-declared disaster or emergency.
- DOB occurs when Federal assistance is provided to a person or entity that has received (or would receive, by acting reasonably to obtain available assistance) assistance for the same costs from another source (including insurance), and the total amount received exceeds the total need for those costs.
- HOPWA grantees and project sponsors are required to establish and maintain policies and procedures to prevent DOB with CARES Act funds.



# Waivers

- HUD issued memorandums providing regulatory waivers of certain CoC, ESG, HOPWA, and Consolidated Plan requirements to help:
  - Prevent the spread of COVID-19
  - Provide additional supports to individuals and families eligible for CoC, ESG, and HOPWA assistance who are economically impacted by COVID-19
- HOPWA-specific waivers:
  - **Self-Certification of Income and Credible Information on HIV Status**
  - **FMR Rent Standard**
  - **Property Standards**
  - **Space and Security**
  - **Time Limits for Short-Term Supported Housing (STRMU & Short-Term Facilities)**
  - **APR/CAPER Submission Requirements**
- **New!** <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6297/cpd-memo-additional-waivers-for-cpd-grant-programs-to-prevent-the-spread-of-covid19-and-mitigate-economic-impacts-march-31-2021/>



# Resources

**HOPWA Guidance for COVID- 19 Webpage on HUD.gov:**

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/hopwa\\_covid-19](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/hopwa_covid-19)

**HOPWA Guidance for COVID-19 on the HUD Exchange:**

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hopwa/covid-19/#resources-and-guidance>

**CPD Program Formula Allocations and CARES Act Supplemental Funding for FY2020**

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/budget/fy20/](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/budget/fy20/)

**HOPWA Notice CPD-20-05: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Implementation Instructions and Related Flexibilities for the HOPWA program**

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/2020-05cpdn.pdf>

**HOPWA Program Desk Officers:**

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/HOPWA-Staff-Contacts.pdf>





**HIV PROGRAMS**  
Care & Prevention



**Public Health**

**Coordination of HOPWA & RWHAP  
CARES Act Activities**

April 6, 2021

CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
**Health Department**



# Kansas City Transitional Grant Area

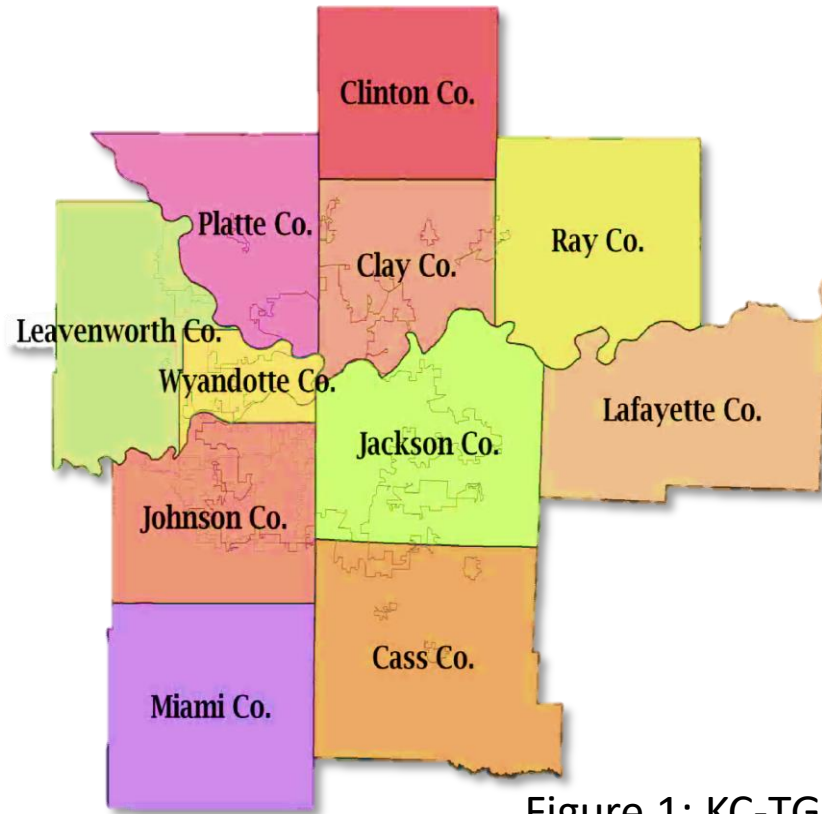


Figure 1: KC-TGA

- Bi-state (KS & MO), 11 counties
- KCMO Health Dept is both the RWA Recipient and the HOPWA Formula Grantee
- Approximately 2,700 RW clients annually
- Around 600 served in HIV-funded housing programs annually

# KC-TGA Housing Program Growth

## Pre-2017

- HOPWA Formula
- CoC-Funded Shelter Plus Care
- One Staff Member – Quality & Housing Manager

## KC Life 360 (2017-2020)

- HIV, Housing, & Employment
- More staff!
- New partnerships with employment agencies

## Data/Service Integration (2017-2019)

- Housing Providers Integration
- Housing Task Force
- More staff - Housing Support Specialist

## HOPWA VAWA (2017-2020)

- HIV, Housing, & IPV Support Services
- New partnerships with DV/IPV/Sexual Assault service providers

## Ryan White Part A (2018-Present)

- Transitional Housing
- Emergency Financial Assistance

# Data & Service Integration

## Database Integration

- Housing Providers in client-level database (SCOUT)
- Send and receive service referrals
- Shared case notes

## Service Integration

- Housing Providers at bi-monthly service coordination meetings
- Networking, case conferencing

## Housing Task Force

- Opportunity to get involved at systems level
- Projects around getting to know services, staff, and functionality of MCM and Housing agencies
- Improved service delivery – Non-Voucher Packet

# Connection to CoC

## Coordinated Entry

KCHD Housing Support Staff:

- Trained to provide assessments and enter data into CoC system
- Pulls data about PWH from CoC system to better coordinate services
- Attends Housing Solutions meetings

## At-Large Participation

KCHD Housing Staff:

- Participate in committees and work groups – provide HIV system perspective, help form policies
- Stay informed on bigger picture issues around homeless services, advocacy, funding, etc.

# How Does All of That Relate to CARES Act Coordination?

We can coordinate services well because of the journey we've been on to build up our programs and relationships over the last several years.

**“Rome wasn't built in a day.”**

## **Key helpers:**

- Communication and coordination
  - Medical Case Management and Housing Agencies
  - Ryan White Recipient and HOPWA Grantee
  - HIV System and Local HUD Continuum of Care System(s)
- Think outside the box
  - Explore demonstration projects and other atypical funding
  - Get involved in local CoC even if you aren't a Recipient or Subrecipient

# CoC and COVID-19 Response

## Greater KC Coalition to End Homelessness

- Serves as a central hub for gathering information on what services are/were available
- Coordination of services across much of KC-TGA
- Advocacy efforts helped with hotels, quarantining locations, warming centers, etc.

**KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Community Resources**

816.701.3767 • <http://kclibrary.org/outreach>  
 communityresources@kclibrary.org

**Coronavirus (COVID-19)**  
**Street Sheet**  
**3/17/2021**

Updated Semimonthly  
 Send updates/corrections to [streetsheet@kclibrary.org](mailto:streetsheet@kclibrary.org)

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES @ CENTRAL LIBRARY**  
 Appointments are available by phone or in-person at Central Library, 14 W. 10th St.; **Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri 10:00am - 3:00pm**. Call 816.701.3767 or sign up at <http://kcpl.libnet.info/v/assets/263>.

**HOTLINES**

General Info	2-1-1
Domestic Violence	816.361.5900
KC Anti-Violence LGBTQ	816.348.3665
Mental Health Crisis Line	888.279.8188
National Runaway Safeline	1.800.786.2929
Rape/Sexual Abuse	816.531.0233
Safe Place (Ages 12-18)	Text 4HELP
Suicide	1.800.784.2433
Transgender Helpline	877.565.8860

**COLD WEATHER SHELTER OPTIONS – KCMO DAYTIME**

**TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS**  
 -Cover your mouth and nose  
 -Wash your hands  
 -Keep 6 feet of distance between you and others

**SHOW ME HOPE MISSOURI**  
 Crisis counseling for anyone affected by COVID-19 is available for free.  
 ReDiscover Crisis Counseling Line: 816.988.2739  
 ReDiscover CommCare Crisis Line: 888.279.8188  
 Swope Health Services Crisis Line: 816.321.3613

**FREE COVID-19 TESTING**  
 ► **Swope Park Band Pavilion (Circle Drive)**  
 3999 Swope Pkwy & E. Meyer Blvd. Fri., 3/19 & Fri., 3/26 11:00am-4:00pm  
 Testing provided by KC Parks & Rec in collaboration with KC Care Health Center  
 ► **Hope Faith Homeless Assistance Campus**  
 705 Virginia Avenue Tues | Thurs | Fri 9:30am-12:30pm

**FREE MEDICAL HELP & COVID-19 TESTING**  
 ► **Care Beyond the Boulevard @ Independence Boulevard Christian Church** 606 Gladstone Blvd. **Mon** | 5:30pm-7:00pm **Sat** | 9:30am-1:00pm  
 Food, clothing, & hygiene items  
 ► **Care Beyond the Boulevard @ Christine's Place** 5108 Independence Ave. **Sat** | 1:00pm-3:00pm *women only*  
 ► **Care Beyond the Boulevard @ Cherith Brook Catholic Worker** 3308 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St. **Thurs** | 5:30pm-6:30pm  
 ► **Street Medicine KC** 1444 E. 8th St. 816.434.0581  
 Medical, behavioral, mental and dental health services, prescriptions, case management, and showers

**HOPE FAITH HOMELESS ASSISTANCE CAMPUS**  
 705 Virginia Avenue 816.471.4673  
**Hours: Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs** | 6:30am-1:00pm  
**Meals:**  
 Breakfast: 8:30am-10:00am  
**Guest Client Services**  
 Mail Pick-Up: 9:00am-1:00pm  
 Showers: 8:00am-1:00pm  
 Clothing available for request

**Drop-In Case Management**  
**Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri** appointment only

**Care Beyond the Boulevard**  
 Outreach Coordinator

**SAVE, Inc @ Hope Faith Homeless Assistance Campus**  
 Outreach Coordinator

**Heart to Heart International**  
 Free medical services  
**Tues | Thurs | Fri** 9:00am-12:00pm

**HIV Testing @ Hope Faith Homeless Assistance Campus**  
**Tues | Thurs | Fri** 9:00am-12:00pm

**Truman Behavioral Health**  
 Hope Faith Homeless Assistance Campus  
**Wed** 11:00am-12:00pm

Figure 2: KCMO COVID “Street Sheet”

# CARES Act Funded Activities - Rationale

**Keep funding in service categories already provided and with subrecipients already providing services**

- Quick turnaround from when funding was announced before contracts had to be in place and activities were supposed to start
- Easiest to make amendments to current contracts
- Mindful of what services were most likely going to be needed in the “new normal”
- Not so much about new services, but implementing policies and procedures to make current services accessible virtually, implementing waivers, etc.



# CARES Act Funded Activities - Beginning

## Ryan White Part A

- Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Care
  - Contracts
  - Fee for Service – 3 providers
- Medical Case Management
- Early Intervention Services
- Mental Health & Other Professional Services
- Substance Abuse Services

## HOPWA

- STRMU
- Essential Services – PHP, Cleaning Supplies, Groceries
- Hotel Gap Lodging – clients and/or members of household needing to quarantine

# CARES Act Funded Activities - Changes

## Ryan White Part A

- Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Care
  - Contract
  - **Fee for Service – 1 provider**
- Medical Case Management
- Early Intervention Services
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse Services
- Other Professional Services

## **Newly-Funded Service Category:**

- **Technology and Communications Services**

## HOPWA

- STRMU – Homelessness Prevention
- Essential Services – PHP, Cleaning Supplies, Groceries
- ~~Hotel Gap Lodging – clients and/or members of household needing to quarantine~~

# CARES Act Funded Activities - Changes

**Moved funding from services that weren't being utilized – LOTS of funding came in from different sources**

- RW: Some providers reported feeling overwhelmed with trying to figure out how to apply funding appropriately and were able to serve clients/patients without using RW CARES Act funds
- HOPWA: Local CoC and City coordinated larger system hotel and quarantine programs that PWH could access as needed
- **Recognized a big gap: Clients needed increased capability to access services virtually**

# Technology & Communications Support (TACS) Program

- Smart phones and tablets for RW-eligible clients
- Acquisition, payment, and distribution managed through one MCM agency
  - Referrals can come from MCM and/or Housing Providers
- Devices have 1 year plan with unlimited data; clients get to keep device and phone number
- Devices come pre-loaded with apps to help connect with HIV care and support services – Doxy.me, Zoom, etc.
- Research component to assess how the program is helping clients, issues to be addressed, etc.

# Sustainability

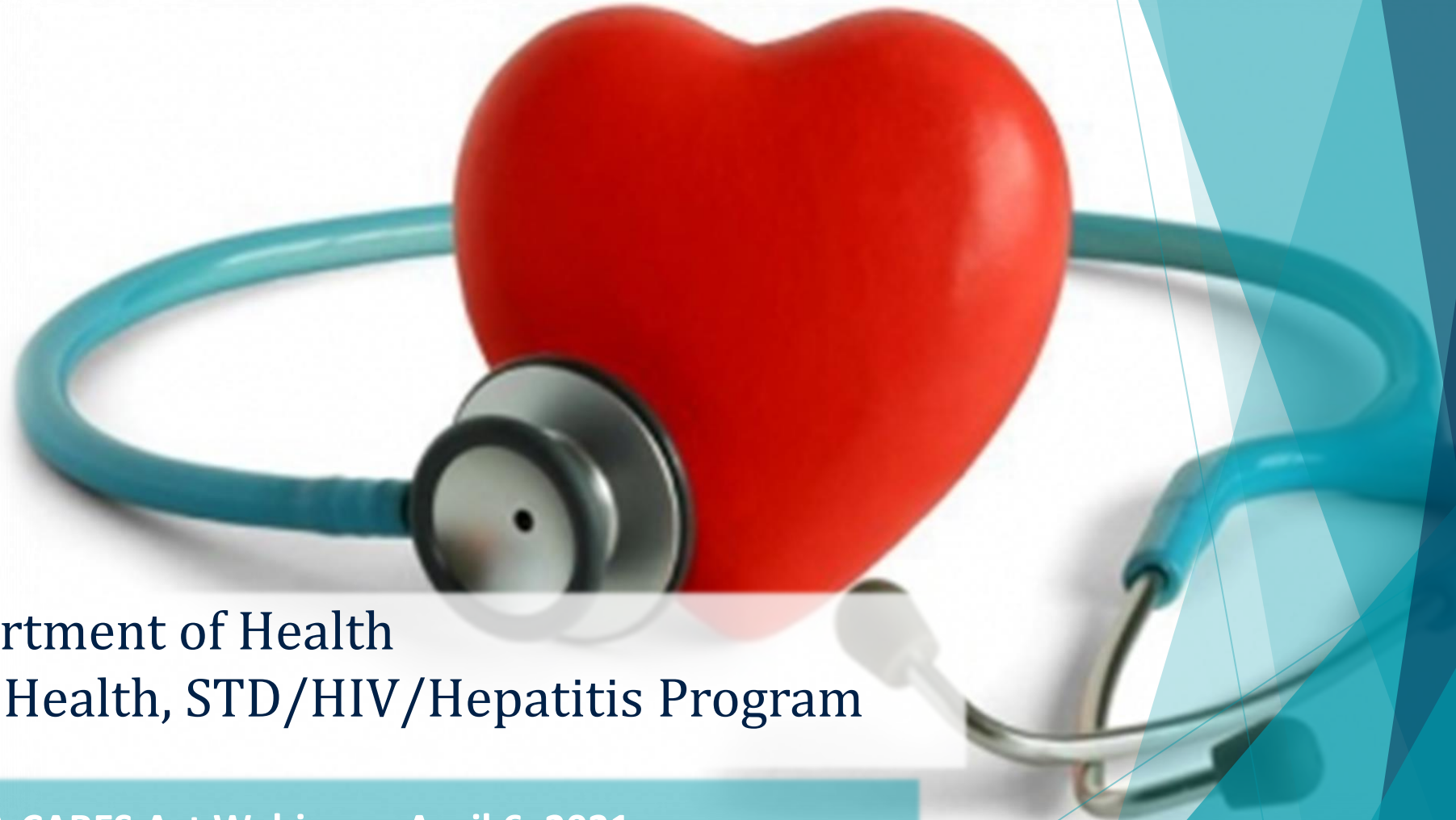
- **TACS Program** – Big interest to continue to support post-CARES Act funding by Missouri Part B, potentially other sources
  - Data from research component will help justify continued funding
- **COVID and Housing Policies Work Group** – working on COVID-related policies for now, but will continue beyond that scope to ensure housing policies are informed by Housing, MCM, and Recipient
- **Continuing to grow** both RW and Housing Programs through various means – CoC involvement, CQII Learning Collaborative, EHE, future demonstration projects

# Question and Answer Session Available at End of Full Presentation

## Thank You!

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816-513-6098





Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health, STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program

Ryan White-HOPWA CARES Act Webinar – April 6, 2021

Erika Sugimori, HIV Services Manager

# Louisiana HIV Surveillance Data

- ▶ In 2018, CDC ranked:
  - **4th** in the nation for HIV case rates (20.9 per 100,000 population).
  - The Baton Rouge MSA ranked **3rd** in HIV case rates (27.3 per 100,000) and the New Orleans MSA ranked **7th** (24.2 per 100,000) among the large metropolitan areas in the nation.
  - **4th** in the nation for AIDS case rates (9.1 per 100,000).
  - The Baton Rouge MSA ranked **10th** in AIDS case rates (9.4 per 100,000) and the New Orleans MSA ranked **5th** in AIDS case rates (12.9 per 100,000) among large metropolitan areas in the nation.
- ▶ As of December 31, 2020, a total of 22,285 people were living with HIV in Louisiana, 11,070 (50%) of whom have an AIDS diagnosis.
- ▶ 25% of PLWH live in the Baton Rouge MSA, 39% in New Orleans MSA, and 36% in the rest of the state.



# STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program (SHHP)

SHHP strives to support a comprehensive, coordinated, continuum of person-centered core medical and support services so People Living with HIV (PLWH) may enjoy overall wellness and positive health outcomes.

## Statewide

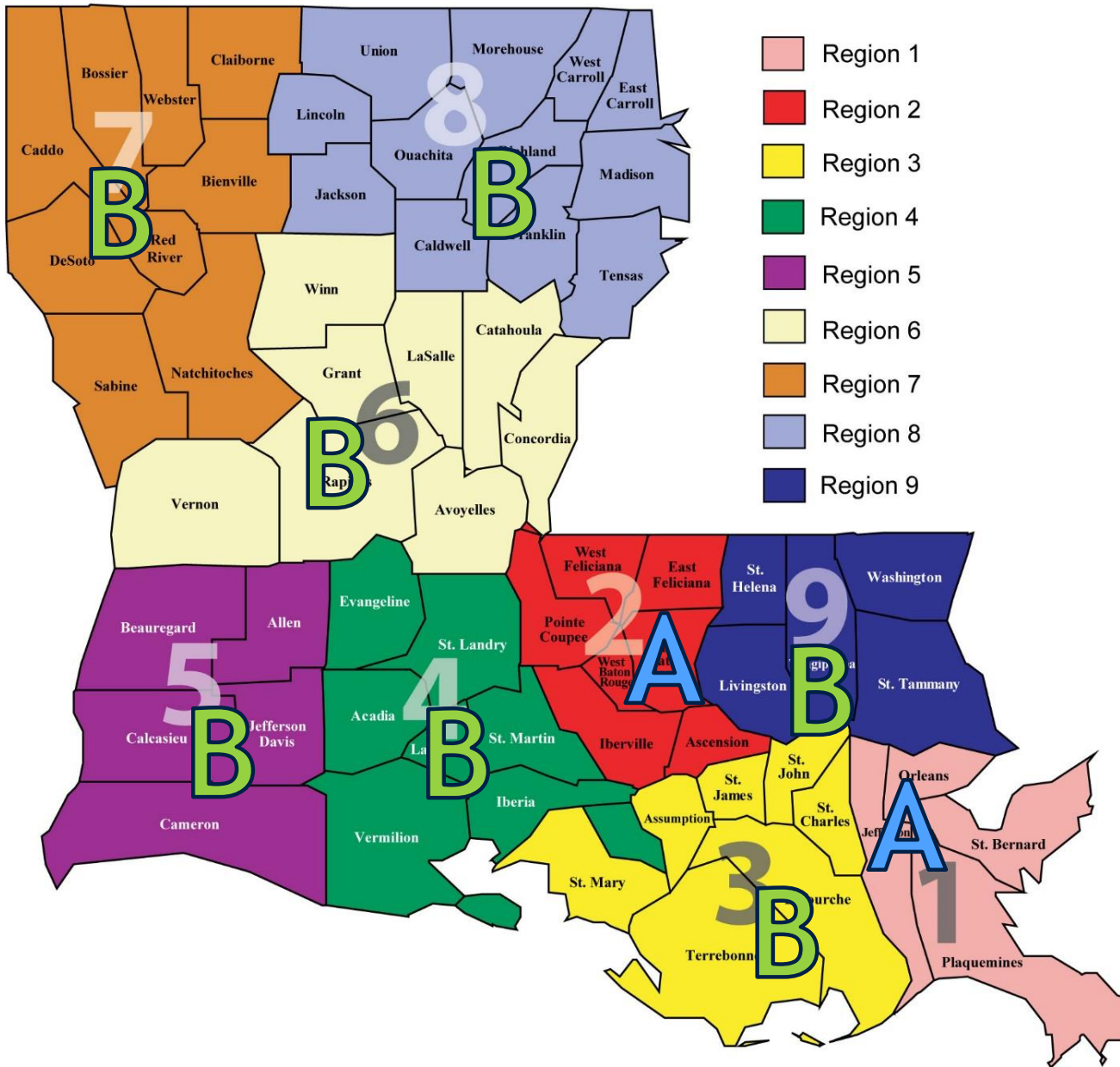
### Louisiana Health Access Program (LA HAP)

- ▶ Health Insurance Assistance Program – covers insurance plan premiums as well as non-drug copays, coinsurance, and deductibles for insured individuals.
- ▶ Louisiana Drug Assistance Program – covers drug costs for uninsured individuals as well as drug copays, coinsurance, and deductibles for insured individuals.

## Public Health Regions 3-9

- ▶ Case Management
- ▶ Referral to Services
- ▶ Medical Transportation
- ▶ Housing Assistance
- ▶ Food bank/Food voucher
- ▶ Mental Health Services
- ▶ Oral Health Care Services
- ▶ And more...

# The Louisiana Public Health Regions



- Region 1 - New Orleans area
- Region 2 - Baton Rouge area
- Region 3 - Houma area
- Region 4 - Lafayette/Acadiana area
- Region 5 - Lake Charles area
- Region 6 - Alexandria area
- Region 7 - Shreveport area
- Region 8 - Monroe area
- Region 9 - Northshore/Covington area

# *How does SHHP use federal funds to support direct services for people living with HIV?*

Ryan White Part B Program  
& ADAP

--To purchase medications and provide insurance assistance;

--To contract with 7 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) across the state to provide case management and support services;

Housing Opportunities for  
People with AIDS (HOPWA)  
Program

--To contract with the same 7 CBOs across the state to support housing needs.

# COVID-19 Response & CARES Act Dollars

## Three Aims

- ▶ Get the dollars out fast
- ▶ Prioritize services based on emerging needs
- ▶ Properly track the funds

## SHHP Response

- ▶ Virtual meetings with 7 sub-recipients
- ▶ Identification of emerging client needs across Ryan White and HOPWA service categories
- ▶ Services already built into sub-recipients' combined RW/HOPWA contracts
- ▶ Issued guidance related to invoicing and tracking

# Prioritized Services

## Ryan White

- ▶ Emergency Financial Assistance
- ▶ Food Vouchers/Food Bank
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Medical Transportation
- ▶ Technology
- ▶ PPE with grantee admin dollars

## HOPWA

- ▶ STRMU
- ▶ PHP
- ▶ PPE with grantee admin dollars

# Relationship & Good Faith

- ▶ Sub-recipient contract amendments were initiated the first week of May 2020
- ▶ Amendments were approved in August 2020
- ▶ Services delivered before amendments approved

# Data Integration

- ▶ Ryan White and HOPWA services already tracked in CAREWare
- ▶ CARES Act services added to CAREWare
- ▶ Invoicing guidance provided along with CAREWare report cheat sheet

# Successes & Challenges

## SUCSESSES

- ▶ Combined RW and HOPWA contracts enabling quick pivot
- ▶ No work plan required
- ▶ Longstanding relationships with contractors
- ▶ CAREWare already tracked RW & HOPWA
- ▶ Approval of no-cost extension for RW
- ▶ Multiple years to expend funds for HOPWA
- ▶ Resilience

## CHALLENGES

- ▶ Pandemic strain on bandwidth
- ▶ Quick changes required to fully operationalize
- ▶ Hurricanes



# Questions?

Erika Sugimori, MPH

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HIV Services Manager

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# QUESTIONS

