

Technical Assistance Collaborative | Reset, Renew, Recharge

VALENCIA All right. Hello, everyone. Happy Wednesday, and welcome to the HOPWA 3R Strategy, Reset, Renew, Recharge.

MOSS: Today is Wednesday, June 8, 2022. My name is Valencia Moss, and I will be your producer for today. If you encounter any technical issues, please email me at valencia@collaborativesolutions.net. You can also shoot me a chat message that you're having tech issues, and I will be able to assist you.

Also, today's webinar is being recorded. And the recording will be made available in the upcoming weeks on the HUD Exchange. Also, you receive a copy of today's PowerPoint presentations emailed to you directly at the conclusion of today's webinar. I would like to introduce to you your speakers for today, Crystal Pope and Marie. Crystal?

MARIE HERB: Hi, actually this is Marie Herb. And I'm with the Technical Assistance Collaborative. I'm going to kick it off, Valencia. Thank you so much. I am so happy to be able to welcome you all to this information packed webinar on the HOPWA program. As you may know, HOPWA is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. And so today, is a chance for HUD's office of HIV/AIDS housing to share with you some information on how to reset, renew, and recharge the HOPWA program.

Today, you're going to hear from five staff from the Office of HIV/AIDS housing, including OHH's Director, Rita Hacrow, Deputy Director, Amy Palilonis, Senior Program Specialist, Lisa Steinhauer, the HOPWA Desk Officer, Eric Hyska, and Management Analyst, Shalonda Kelly. In addition they'll be joined either in presentation, or behind the scenes by some TA providers from collaborative solutions, and from my agency, the Technical Assistance Collaborative. That includes Emily Fischbein, Christine Campbell, Crystal Pope, Rusty Bennett, Ashley Kerr. And I just want to give a shout out again to our producer, Valencia Moss.

So you know who you're hearing from here. So I want to just launch our first poll so we know who you are. And as Valencia launches it, I'm just going to get us started. If you can tell us if you are an experienced staff person at a grantee agency, or an experienced member of a sponsored team. Or are you relatively new to HOPWA at either a grantee agency or a sponsor agency. If those four options don't apply, you can just check other. And if you want to share in the chat what that other is, we would love to get to know you a little bit better.

And as we're doing that, we'll just wait a few seconds, because we do have a lot of information we want to be able to get to you. And just in looking at the early results, it looks like we have a really great mix of people, some experienced, and some relatively new. So that is great. Valencia, I think we could probably stop the poll and post it.

VALENCIA All right. The participants can see the results.

MOSS:

MARIE HERB: Great, and again, it is a really good mix. So for those who are new, if we're going through things a little fast, please make sure you put questions in the Q&A. And any of the experienced grantee or sponsor staff, you may have questions as well. With that, I'm going to pass it over I think to you, Crystal.

CRYSTAL POPE: Thank you, Marie. And welcome to all of you who are joining us today. This webinar is an opportunity to introduce HOPWA Reset, Renew, Recharge as a program strategy, also known as 3R. HUD's Office of HIV/AIDS Housing will provide a framework for this new planning strategy, which will include an overview of the topics that are listed here.

I'm not sure how we get rid of this poll, Valencia. So the topics that we're covering include, HOPWA formula modernization, and the new FY22 levels, also, information related to the HOPWA pandemic response, and overview of equity related activities currently underway. And a move toward increased use of client-centered, low-barrier methods, as well as coming program updates to help ensure compliance.

While we have a lot of information that's going to be presented today, we know that people will have questions. We will try to keep some time at the end of the presentation for questions. But we invite you to put your questions in throughout please, in the Q&A box located at the bottom of your screen. And with that, I am going to turn the presentation over to Rita Hacrow.

RITA HACROW: Thank you, Crystal. And hi, welcome everyone. Thanks for joining today. Great to see you all here. We are so excited about kicking off the HOPWA 3R Strategy. But before we get started, I wanted to mention that we in the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing are celebrating LGBTQ plus Pride Month with some internal events and training, and around the history of Pride.

And we're happy to share the HOPWA pride logo with you. It's here behind me. You can see it as a background. And it's there on the slide. It's available to you as a HOPWA grantee provider during the month of June for use for your HOPWA programs. And I believe someone just posted it into the chat box, a link to how you can get that.

So let's get started. What is 3R, and what does it mean to you? It's Reset, Renew, Recharge. It's an overarching strategy designed to move the HOPWA program forward in new ways as HOPWA's 30 year anniversary approaches. HUD's Office of HIV/AIDS Housing is launching this strategy as a forward-looking blueprint for advancing program design and core values that will positively impact the lives and housing stability of people.

Reset, Renew, Recharge, is intended to help communities achieve program excellence and positive community impact, ensure that programs are designed to meet changing needs of the modern HIV epidemic, promote equity for all people with HIV, and to underscore the importance of client-centered, low-barrier housing and services. The past five years have brought many challenges for our HOPWA grantees, project sponsors, and the thousands of low income households impacted by HIV throughout the country.

Allocation level changes, both gaining and losing that occurred as part of the HOPWA formula modernization, along with skyrocketing rents, rising poverty, shrinking affordable housing stock, they've all had a significant impact on our lives and work in the last few years. And the global COVID-19 pandemic stopped us in our tracks for many months, and it still impacts us today. That other virus caused us to rethink everything about the way we interact, the way we work, and even the places we live.

So why Reset? The 3R strategy is a chance to restart HOPWA modernisation work. The five year phase-in period is over. We should reset our planning based on the newest budget projections, and lessons learned. Modernization was a key focus for us for many years before the pandemic. And it's time to restart and reset some of our attention to that important planning and implementation.

Technical assistance will support the rollout of new or increased activities in your community that support permanent housing. That's things like TBRA and master leasing. We'll all be reviewing the lessons learned through the early formula modernization efforts and COVID related activities. TA, our resource development, will be tied to the new HOPWA regulations that we're anticipating in the coming months.

Why Renew? The 3R strategy is also a chance to refresh the way that our programs operate. You can expect an introduction and inclusion of an equity conversation throughout the spectrum of HOPWA program planning, implementation, and operations. We'll focus on ways to adapt program activities based on lessons learned. And of course, we'll deploy our TA to support the proper implementation of new and increased activities, as well as revisiting all of HOPWA basics as a refresh and for folks new to the HOPWA work.

And finally, it's time to Recharge. This includes things like grantee and project sponsor capacity building, managing transitions, and program changes in a post-COVID time, rolling out trainings, resources, and resource updates, and guidance that incorporates basic program knowledge, specialized program operations, financial management, improved coordination between health and housing, and even new ideas like incorporating status neutral housing, and other approaches. Expect TA and training to address client-centered, low-barrier methods across all HOPWA housing and support services. And of course, we're looking forward to celebrating 30 years of HOPWA with you.

When OHH and the HOPWA TA team discussed HOPWA's 30th anniversary, the end of the HOPWA formula phase-in period, the impacts of COVID-19, the new equity, and other initiatives of the administration, we decided on the 3R strategy. And we established a vision for this work that we should take this opportunity to learn from our experiences, and begin to look forward, embracing the importance of a sound HOPWA program, an equitable HOPWA program, and a needs-based HOPWA program. Beyond having a vision, the work of the 3R initiative will move us toward outcomes that will make a difference in the lives of people assisted by the program.

This includes things like HOPWA communities intentionally integrating people with lived experience in all aspects of the work in a meaningful way. And that HOPWA communities will embrace an expanded vision for the HOPWA program, one that shows understanding of the intents of the program, and its connections to health outcomes, and ending the HIV epidemic. So the big picture, we anticipate that HOPWA communities will collaboratively design and implement HOPWA programs that follow the regulations and understand the flexibilities, while also providing permanent housing and services in an equitable fashion, and will be able to accurately report on all these efforts.

So again, thank you. Thank you for joining today. And thanks for being part of the 3R vision. And now, I'm going to turn it back over to Marie.

MARIE HERB: Hi. Yes, so we're going to launch our second poll just to make sure you were kind of paying attention to Rita. So Crystal, the next slide, two. But the three R's, what do they stand for? Rabbit, rabbit, rabbit? Reset, renew, recharge? Or reset, renovate, review?

And we didn't really trick anyone I don't think on this one. So great job, everyone. It's reset, renew, recharge. So Crystal, back to you.

CRYSTAL POPE: Thank you, Marie. So now, we'll move on to our 3R topics for today. Amy Palilonis will start us off by providing information on HOPWA formula modernization and the FY22 HOPWA allocations.

VALENCIA Amy, we don't see you or hear you.

MOSS:

AMY Sorry. So I'm starting on the next slide, correct?

PALILONIS:

VALENCIA OK.

MOSS:

AMY Sorry, that was what I had had in my notes. I can go back, and I can read through that slide if that works. Sorry.

PALILONIS:

VALENCIA No, you're fine.

MOSS:

AMY OK. So I am going to give an update on HOPWA formula modernization and discuss the FY22 formula allocations that were just announced last month. So I'll start with a recap of formula modernization, and the impact of full modernization implementation for FY22.

PALILONIS:

As formula modernization was fully implemented with this year's allocations, grantees experienced larger increases or decreases to their FY22 allocations than they received during the five year modernization phase-in. Grantees will need to work to effectively implement these changes, and address them in their program designs. In case anyone missed it, the link to all FY22 CPD allocations, including HOPWA is provided on this slide for your reference.

So for those of you who are new, or just may not be familiar with HOPWA formula modernization, there were a few reasons why our old funding formula needed to be modernized. The prior formula, which was in effect from when the program was created in the early '90s, until the statute was modernized by the Housing Opportunity through Modernization Act in 2016, gave funding to each eligible jurisdiction based on cumulative AIDS cases, which was the only data set available when the program was first created.

The cumulative AIDS data included all reported AIDS cases since the beginning of the epidemic, including people who had passed away. And the previous formula also did not account for people living with HIV that had never received an AIDS diagnosis. For many years, HUD and HIV/AIDS service providers and advocates identified this disconnect between the original formula, and the need to have resources available to communities based on the number of people with HIV in their communities.

Allocating funding based on cumulative cases reported since the beginning of the epidemic resulted in disproportionately less funding for areas with more recent caseload increases as compared to the major urban epicenters with the longest histories of combating the epidemic. Using the number of people living with HIV, which includes people with AIDS, better targets the distribution of HOPWA funding to communities based on a more relevant data set reflecting present need.

So this slide highlights the key points of HOPWA formula modernization. But the Housing Opportunity through Modernization Act, or HOTMA, updated the HOPWA statute to base eligibility for formula funding and grant amounts on HIV case data instead of cumulative AIDS data, starting with 2017 allocations. HOTMA also removed the previous requirement, that 25% of formula funds be distributed to metropolitan areas based on above average per capita incidence of AIDS. This pot 25, or bonus funding under the prior formula was only for metro areas. States could not receive any funds from the 25% pot under the old formula.

HOTMA updated the HOPWA formula to remove this bonus funding for metro areas, and replaced it with the requirement that 25% of formula funds be distributed based on fair market rent and poverty rates. So under the new formula, all grantees received funds under the 25% pot, not just metro areas. The law also provided that the modernized formula would be phased in over five years to avoid highly volatile shifts in either direction from any one jurisdiction.

HOTMA included provisions that said that during the five year phase in from 2017 to 2021 grantees would not gain more than 10% or lose more than 5% of the share of the total available formula funds that the grantee received in the previous fiscal year. Those caps were included in the law to give communities time to adjust and plan for new allocation amounts, as we originally projected several areas to receive substantial losses or gains to funding. However, the phase in hasn't exactly happened in the way that it was originally intended or projected to.

Over the last several years, Congress has been providing enough funding for the program to keep all grantees relatively whole. So over the course of the phase in of the new formula, most grantees experienced increases, and the rest either stayed the same or received relatively minor cuts to funding. When the new formula was fully implemented with the FY22 allocations, without the stop loss provision, many grantees experienced greater gains or losses this year than they had experienced during the five year phase in.

So when Congress first passed a law to modernize the HOPWA formula, the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing developed a few core values to guide decisions and actions regarding modernization. Those values are that no person should become homeless as a result of HOPWA modernization. All funds should be used to meet the needs of eligible households with no funds recaptured or returned from the grants. And grantees should ensure their program designs meet the changing needs of the modern HIV epidemic with the goal of positive health outcomes for HOPWA assisted households.

So these values were developed when we projected major shifts in funding throughout the formula phase in. As I mentioned, the phase in of the formula did not go exactly as projected, as Congress continued to increase the HOPWA programs overall appropriations each year. Most grantees gained funding, or remained relatively flat funded with minimal losses. But with the full implementation of the modernized formula in 2022, some grantees experience larger increases or decreases this year. We still think the values on this slide should guide decision-making around fully implementing modernization at all levels from HUD, down to grantees, and project sponsors.

So as I mentioned a few times already, and this slide just sort of demonstrates what I've been saying, every year since 2016 Congress has increased HOPWA appropriations. This slide shows the actual appropriation year over year. The increases have been based on the level of funding required to ensure that no HOPWA grantee would lose funding in a given year due to modernization. For the most part from 2017 to 2021, all grantees gained funding with a handful of grantees either staying at the same level, or losing a relatively minor amount compared to the original modernization projections.

But with full implementation in 2022 with allocations that were just announced last month, grantees are seeing greater increases or decreases to their allocations than they experienced during the phase in period. This is due to a combination of the stop loss provision no longer applying to newly eligible formula grantees for FY22 and OMB updates to metropolitan statistical area jurisdictions being implemented this year. Again, the majority of grantees are seeing increases for FY22, but a few grantees are experiencing decreases this year mainly due to the factors that I just mentioned.

So how should these funding changes impact grantee planning and program design? So we recommend that all formula grantees undertake systems planning efforts to determine effectiveness of program designs, and update programs and priorities as needed. For example, grantees who have gained funding should not just add the additional funding to the same activities that they have always implemented without thoughtful planning. All grantees, whether gaining or losing funds should also determine what housing and supportive services are most needed at this time.

Data and information on community needs should guide the use of funds whether implementing an increased or decreased allocation amount. We encourage you to revisit the numerous modernization fact sheets, products, and webinars that HOPWA TA providers developed to assist communities in planning for modernization and implementing funding changes. And a link to those resources is on this slide.

So this is just a reminder that all grantees, whether you received a funding increase or decrease for FY22, should engage in planning to realign funding priorities based on funds available, and on local data and client needs. Assistance through the AAQ and TA providers is still available to help grantees implement any funding changes. And we encourage you to take advantage of it as needed. Links to the HOPWA AAQ portal and to request technical assistance are on this slide for your reference. And I am now going to turn things back over to Marie for another poll.

MARIE HERB: Yeah, thanks, Amy. Thanks for all the information on modernization. So again, this is just a check in for who's on here today. Has your jurisdiction seen an increase in your FY22 budget, or decrease? Or do you not know what that budget is? And we'll just wait a second. Thank you. You guys are so quick with the answers.

So kind of similar to what Amy said, we have a lot more people saying-- and Valencia will post these in a second-- have increased, have seen an increase in their formula grant. A few have said there have seen a decrease. And then a number of you don't know. And that totally makes sense, because that information is just getting out now. So that makes sense. So Valencia, I think we can end this poll. And Crystal, I'll just send it back to you then as well.

CRYSTAL POPE: Thank you, Marie. And I am going to turn this back to Amy to cover information on the HOPWA pandemic response.

**AMY
PALILONIS:**

Sure. Thanks, Crystal. I am going to talk a little bit about COVID response in the HOPWA program, as well as some CV best practices that we've identified over the last two years. We've learned a lot from all of your tireless work over the last two plus years to implement HOPWA CARES Act funding, and COVID-19 response activities. These lessons learned through the local and national pandemic response can provide both us and you all with valuable ideas for future HOPWA planning and program design efforts.

Just some emerging practices that we have seen that we think that you all should consider include, adopting sustainable urgency into your program design by streamlining the intake and assistance approval processes as much as is feasible. Increasing client outreach and engagement, more frequent ongoing assessments and client check-ins to assess changing needs, including virtual check-ins. Continue using HOPWA program flexibilities that have come about over the last two years where allowed.

Streamline program operational procedures, such as eliminating local requirements for wet signatures and other activities that require in-person meetings and hard copies of paperwork. More flexible intake procedures with a focus on housing first, so screening people in rather than screening them out whenever possible. Some examples of how people get screened out that are not HUD or HOPWA programmatic requirements include, screening out clients with criminal histories, mental health concerns, or active substance use, requiring certain types of identification in order to receive services, and requiring drug testing or participation in supportive services in order to receive housing assistance.

So some recommendations to consider moving forward is to review the lessons we've identified as best practices in this webinar, as well as the lessons you've learned through your COVID-19 response efforts, review your current policies and procedures to determine where the program could, or should be streamlined, for example, procedures for signatures, hard copies of documents, and things like that. Seeing if people are being screened out of your local HOPWA program when that's not actually required by HOPWA eligibility requirements. Determining if virtual meetings with clients could improve client outcomes.

And determining what else can be done to reach and engage with HOPWA eligible clients throughout your service area. We provided a link to the numerous HOPWA CV factsheets, products, and webinars for you to reference as you continue to implement your CARES Act grants, and engage in COVID-19 activities, as well as to use as a reference as you are implementing changes to program design based on lessons learned over the last two years. And I will now turn things back over to Marie for another--

MARIE HERB:

Thanks, Amy. And I'm going to definitely take a little more time on this poll, because there's not a multiple choice. So we're asking you in the chat if you could just put some of the changes you made during COVID-19 that you intend to keep in your program. We're really curious. We'd love to know things you did that addressed the pandemic, but that you now say, huh, we're going to keep this here.

Thanks. So we're seeing a lot about the signatures, so DocuSign, or verbal signatures, virtual meetings, awesome. It's going so fast. Virtual inspections, more electronic, more virtual meetings, no paper charts, Zoom meetings. We're all really good at that now. Great. These are all wonderful things.

And we're very excited to see that you intend to keep those going. Let's keep those ideas in the chat, because we're going to be copying the chat at the end, and we really want to document what people are doing. But I'm going to move on and let Crystal introduce the next topic area.

CRYSTAL POPE: Great. Thank you very much, Marie. Very interesting. So our next topic is Advancing Equity in Community Planning, HOPWA System Design and Program Delivery. And I would like to introduce and turn this over to the Shalonda, Christine, and Eric.

SHALONDA
KELLY: Good afternoon, everyone. Good morning for some of you. The HOPWA program Race, Gender, and LGBTQ Initiative, the desired outcome of this initiative is to have HOPWA programs that provide services using an equity lens ensuring that Black, Indigenous, and people of color, women, and LGBTQ plus have unfettered access to housing and services. First, let's get into a little bit of background of how this started.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing in alignment with the Biden administration's priority of racial equity, is instituting the HOPWA Race, Gender, and LGBTQ plus Initiative. The Biden administration policy is that the federal government shall work with communities to end housing discrimination, to provide redress to those who have experienced housing discrimination, to eliminate racial bias and other forms of discrimination in all stages of home buying and renting, to lift barriers that restrict housing and neighborhood choice, to promote diverse and inclusive communities. To ensure sufficient, physically accessible housing, and to secure equal access to housing opportunity for all.

But what does that mean for HOPWA? Under this TA initiative, TA providers will work with communities to assess their HOPWA programs ability to address equity and provide tools for communities to improve their systems, such that people living with HIV and AIDS have equitable access to housing and services. This initiative's desired outcome again, is to have HOPWA programs that provide services using an equity lens, ensuring that Black, Indigenous, and people of color, women, and LGBTQ plus have unfettered access to housing and services. Can we go to-- OK.

Communities serving persons living with HIV and AIDS know that disparities exist in how BIPOC, women, and LGBTQ plus access HIV services, including, but not limited to testing, prevention, prevention, and access to safe, affordable, decent housing. Data has shown that these parts of our community have been disenfranchised from receiving unfettered access to housing and services. This initiative will begin to address this inequity, and dismantle the structural barriers.

There are six goals. Goal one is about setting the expectation in the current environment for communities to adopt equity as a core value. Expectations are set through open, honest dialogue about the current environment of the grantee, and the grantee's general community. The second goal, utilize current data and establish a baseline of how HOPWA programs currently address equity.

Christine and Eric will discuss data later. However, it is important to note that the establishment of a baseline is the only way HOPWA grantees and OHH can move forward into creating a truly equitable HOPWA program. The current data can begin to paint a picture of where HOPWA has been, where it is, and help identify a strong path to move forward.

The third goal, developing tools and resources for communities to build their systems to increase equity in their communities. Number one and number two are the building blocks for a successful goal three. Established expectations and data analysis will aid in developing and reassessing tools and resources for HOPWA communities.

For goal four, providing guidance on how communities can address equity as a part of their program designs. Each goal sets a foundation for the next goal. Guidance can only be provided once a true understanding of existing data is created. Identifying synergies between HOPWA, CPD programs, and HHS around equity efforts. There are multiple equity initiatives taking place simultaneously within CPD programs. There is open and overlapping communication between the CPD programs about the equity engagements in the hopes that ideas for equity that may work for one CPD program could become the standard across all CPD programs.

The final goal, allocating resources to ensure successful movement in the direction of improved equity. The allocation of resources to ensure successful movement in the direction of improved equity does not necessarily mean additional funds. It could be the reallocation of existing funds, the leveraging of existing relationships, or the creation of new relationships. Most important, it is the allocation of human capital. This work can only be achieved when people are invested and determined to make equity a norm.

Can we go to the-- thank you. The HOPWA Equity Initiative Roadmap is an illustration of the twists and turns that are anticipated when building a program rooted in equity. Each of the six exits on the roadmap represents a milestone in the initiative, launching, building a foundation, analyzing what we've learned, creating tools and resources based on what we know, and implementing the tools and resources, and then sharing those results. These are the six ways that we can begin to build a truly equitable HOPWA program. Now, Christine and Eric will discuss equity highlights, data points, and resources. Thank you.

**CHRISTINE
CAMPBELL:**

Thanks, Shalonda. So as we move forward with the Equity Initiative, what we did is we are establishing first a pilot where seven communities will be taking deep dive into this work, where one of the key elements of it is that our work is grounded in ensuring that people with lived experience are centered in the work. One of the things that we have identified as a gap in how we proceed is that there is not an easily accessible, equitable way to pay people with lived experience to do the work that we want them to do.

The emotional labor that is involved in participating in some of the work is challenging. To be able to be at those tables, and share power with people with lived experience to ensure that people with lived experience are at the tables where decisions are being made, we need to invest time and resources in making sure that happens. We'll provide some strategies, and some tools, and supports on how that might be done, but really looking at where our funding is, how are we using resource ID, have we identified resource ID, how are we partnering with other community entities, including our project sponsors to ensure that we are able to pay people for the work that we would like them to do, and being able to participate in changing our systems is a key element of this initiative.

Another key element is co-creating strategies. We, as HUD and as TA providers know we don't have all of the answers for all communities. So what we'd want to do, and what we are doing is creating these strategies together, identifying where there are gaps, pulling on the strength, the knowledge base of our communities providing services, and being able to uplift those into tools and resources that can be generalized throughout the HOPWA program. We want to build on work that's already being done in communities. We know that there are equity efforts being done at local levels in cities and communities, and they may even be applied to the HOPWA program.

So we want to build on that work that is already being done to be able to enhance the overall system, and see how some of those strategies can be generalized and codified in the larger HOPWA program. And we know that our work needs to be data-driven, both qualitative and quantitative data. Oftentimes, we rely heavily on the quantitative data, which is extremely important, and don't necessarily show an appreciation for the qualitative data, the stories that really bring to life the conditions that are happening on the ground for people living with HIV. So those are some of the key highlights of this initiative. And then from here, we'll talk about what are some of our data goals.

ERIC HYSKA: Hi, everyone. I'm going to go over some of the data goals that the Equity Initiative is working towards accomplishing. The first is examining how current HOPWA client demographics intersect with HOPWA services. We know that there is a disconnect between the data collected on the client side, and how HOPWA grantees report activities on the performance side.

Bridging the gap between demographics and HOPWA activities has been a focal point for the Equity Initiative. Part of the initiative also includes evaluating current data practices, and strategizing ways to improve data collection at intake, and reporting to ensure representation is accurately reflected in the data. And we're also exploring ways, like Christine mentioned, to develop qualitative research to better understand client experiences throughout the HOPWA program.

CHRISTINE CAMPBELL: So what can you do while the HOPWA Equity pilot is moving forward? We are truly honored and humbled to have the seven communities serve as pilots for this initiative. However, that doesn't mean that those of you who are not participating directly in the pilot cannot start moving forward with equity in our HOPWA programs.

So one of the things we can do is we can review our core values, and ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion are codified in the work that we do, that are codified as part of our core values. We can develop strategies where we center the voice of people with lived experience, including pay equity, in our decision-making, program design, and implementation of our HOPWA program. One of the first things that we have noted is that developing these strategies for ensuring equity in this area is challenging, and we need to be able to look at our systems, see where the resources are, and develop strategies where we can integrate the voice of people with lived experience in all the work that we're doing.

We can review our program activities through an equity lens, including planning, operations, client outreach, and again, inclusion of people with lived experience. How are we ensuring that our program activities reflect the needs, and are located in the areas where they are needed most, especially when we look at some of the structural barriers in place? So we'd have to look at things like rent and availability of units. We have to look at how we're doing outreach. We have to look at how we're conducting our services.

And then educating our teams on building equity organizational and systems culture. One of the things that we talk about is that equity is not just an outcome. It is a process. So how we go about the work is as important as the outcomes of the work. Are we treating each other in an equitable manner?

And then of course, watch for webinar updates on the HOPWA Equity Initiative. As we move through the pilot, we will be doing webinars, giving you updates as to some of the lessons learned that we have had during the process, share some of the tools that have been developed, or in the process of being developed, share some of the data collection, data research strategies that we've developed along the way. And here, we have a series of resources that might help you as you move forward.

One is the HOPWA Equity Initiative, the theoretical framework. We're using three frameworks that kind of combined to be able to move the work forward. So we're looking at how do you build a Race Equity Culture? We're looking at Targeted Universalism. And we're also using the Life Course Approach. The three of these theories combined are the foundation for the work that we're using moving forward.

The next is a sample compensation plan for people with lived experience, looking at how do you pay people for attending meetings, participating in focus groups, participating in committees, participating in boards, and things of that nature? So you can start getting a sense of what it might look like to really pay people in an equitable way. There's a resource on what's your pronoun, and the importance of pronouns, and respecting that in some of our work.

There's a tool on cross-cultural dialogue. Communication is key. So being able to really understand how do we work cross culturally, and move efforts forward. And then there's one on the gender unicorn that'll help us really understand the spectrum of gender in the work that we do. So we hope that you'll take an opportunity to use these resources. Even as we're moving forward, if you've got thoughts and ideas, feel free to reach out to us, and we're more than willing to continue and integrate some of your ideas and suggestions, even if you're not part of the official pilot. So thank you. So I'm going to toss this to Marie for our next poll.

MARIE HERB: Great. And before I even focus on the poll, I just want to say that the Equity Initiative has a lot of rich resources already available. I know you saw the links, but I couldn't put the links in the chat. So everyone's going to get access to these slides after today, and there'll be live links there. So don't worry. You will get them.

But in the chat, and some of you already have done this, tell us what you're already doing to advance equity in your HOPWA funded programs. I know someone said, hey, bring the Initiative to the South. And Christine's taking notes on that. I know that. But if you could share are there things you're doing already in your program, or in your agency that will help advance equity?

CHRISTINE CAMPBELL: Sure. The gender unicorn talks about the spectrum of gender, that gender is very fluid. So when we look at the whole spectrum of gender, you'll see in this piece on the gender unicorn that talks about the fluidity of gender, more than male, female. It helps you understand trans. It helps you understand how people identify around gender.

MARIE HERB: Great. And Christine, people are really doing some great things. Some have hired planners who focus on this area. Others are doing training, and really focusing on hiring and promoting diverse staff within their agencies, making sure their boards represent the diversity of the population they're working with. Lots of great ideas. So we will again, save these, pass them along, and continue to share all the great work from the pilot project. Crystal, I'm going to send it back to you.

CRYSTAL POPE: Great. Thank you. And thank you very much Christine, Eric, and Shalonda, very valuable information. Next, Ashley and Christine, Christine, you're still up, will talk about the use of client-centered and low-barrier program methods as an important concept for the HOPWA program moving forward.

ASHLEY KERR: Thanks so much, Crystal. We know from both experience in the field and through research that client-centered, low-barrier interventions promote individual empowerment, increase opportunities for long-term health and mental health improvements, and further equity efforts. Successful HOPWA programs reflect these important values. And several practical applications of this approach are listed on this slide. They include housing first and harm reduction methods, actively engaging and empowering clients in goal setting, and seeking out input and guidance from people's lived experience, and those who are most impacted by this virus in the HOPWA program.

There are three areas in which grantees and project sponsors are encouraged to implement client-centered and low-barrier practices. This is about being more deliberate in including such practices throughout the HOPWA program, from design, policies and procedures, to outreach, and communication, and all the way to client practice, engagement, housing, and supportive services.

HOPWA programs should be designed to support housing and services that can address the needs of HOPWA eligible households, such as continuous assessment and increased client contact to ensure housing stability. This is a practice that was encouraged especially during the pandemic, but it makes sense for everyday practice, especially because we know our client stability may be volatile and at risk. More frequent contact helps catch problems early.

Strategic use of remote methods, this was absolutely necessary during the pandemic. In the chat, many of the folks have shared that they would like to continue some of those remote methods and practices going forward. But this is really a flexible way of increasing client contact, and being more flexible in your approach. And sustainable urgency, this was mentioned by Amy earlier, but this provides a quick and responsive service which supports a client-centered and trauma-informed approach to our work. I'm going to turn it over to my colleague, Christine, for the next couple of slides.

CHRISTINE CAMPBELL: So another way that we can really focus on client and low-barrier practices is through our outreach and communication, where we need to tailor our services to the needs of the individual clients or households. A couple of suggestions are things like reviewing and updating current outreach to ensure your organization is reaching HOPWA eligible households throughout the EMSA and service areas, or working with partners to expand presence in both rural and urban settings. One thing you'll see throughout this initiative is that there are cross connections. So a lot of when we think about how we can increase some of our client-centered and low-barrier practices around outreach and communications, some of that is an equity issue as well.

How are we building relationships within our community? How are we respecting for instance, those people who live on reservations? How are we respecting the culture of people who live in both rural and urban areas and neighborhoods? And are we tailoring our outreach and communication strategies to meet those specific needs?

In addition, what we want to be able to do is really look at client practice, housing, and support services. Several ways we can do this is incorporating the housing first philosophy, and harm reduction principles in HOPWA program design and policies and procedures. This talks a little bit more about how we're screening people in rather than screening people out of our services. We're looking for ways that we can meet their needs without eliminating them, or moving away from being able to provide services because of conditions that we have. That we have a full understanding that housing first, getting someone in housing, and providing that support around them is a successful strategy.

The harm reduction principles of being able to serve people who are actively using is a successful way of being able to move forward, and really move towards ending the epidemic. Developing and utilizing client-centered case management methods, how are we ensuring that the goals of our clients are uppermost in our minds, and not necessarily what we believe their goals should be? Ensuring case managers receive training on new methods on being able to approach clients, and ensuring that they are the center, and they are the decision-makers, and the people in control of their lives.

Using status neutral approaches, status neutral is an evolution and expansion of how HIV agencies currently implement the HIV care continuum, including housing. Status neutral encompasses the delivery of HIV prevention and care services, while addressing the myriad of social and health needs of patients regardless of their HIV status.

Status neutral embodies the new national HIV/AIDS strategy call for an acceleration of the HIV response by embedding HIV prevention and care into routine care in advancing health equity. As we move forward with the 3R initiative, we're going to be talking about strategies on being able to include status neutral approaches within the program.

And then minimize terminations except as a last resort. Our goal is to keep people housed. Our goal is to get people housed, and being able to work with people where they are to ensure that that happens. Understanding that termination is a last resort for our programs.

CRYSTAL POPE: Thank you very much, Christine, and Ashley. And next, Lisa Steinhauer from OHH will talk about training and guidance updates that will be coming in the future related to program compliance and operations.

LISA STEINHAUER: Thanks, Crystal. And it's always important to ensure that HOPWA program activities are both compliant with regulations and effective in improving the lives of low income people living with HIV. The Office of HIV/AIDS Housing works alongside its team of TA providers, and in partnership with HUD field offices to provide information and guidance needed to make these things happen.

And so as we move forward with the 3R planning, new and updated guidance and training materials are going to be available for grantees and project sponsors that will help meet compliance requirements, train staff, and carry out program activities to positively impact people living with HIV. So I'm going to go through a few of the topics that we'll be focusing on moving forward. This is not an all inclusive list, but it does include HOPWA requirements versus local requirements or options, HOPWA program model examples for housing and services, key program basics and updates. And then the new updated HOPWA regulations, which are coming soon.

So I will walk through a few of these. OK. So HOPWA requirements versus local requirements or options. There are so many things that are considered to be HOPWA requirements that are actually local requirements, or options that a grantee may choose. And it is really important to know the difference. So there's just a few examples here on this slide. And these are things that are going to continue to be discussed through the 3R work.

And this includes income limits. So to be eligible for HOPWA assistance, you must have an HIV diagnosis and be low income, which means 80% of the area median income as determined by HUD. HOPWA grantees do have the option to choose a lower income threshold of 50 or even 30% of area median income, but that HUD requirement is at 80%. Another thing we see come up is caps on short-term rent mortgage and utilities, or STRMU for short. And this is an area where we see grantees further defining limits as well.

The HOPWA requirement is that STRMU payments to prevent homelessness may be provided for a maximum of 21 weeks in any 52 week period. And there are several ways to calculate that, but we do know that some grantees choose to set caps on STRMU assistance per HOPWA beneficiary to stretch the limited HOPWA funding available. But that is a local decision.

Another thing is signatures and other documentation requirements. So HOPWA requires that grantees and project sponsors maintain records to document compliance with regulations, but it's the grantee's responsibility to establish policies and procedures on how to maintain, well, obtain and maintain proper records. And as Amy mentioned earlier, we've seen a lot of best practices coming out through the COVID-19 pandemic. And that included eliminating local requirements, such as what signatures, and other activities that require in-person meetings and hard copies of paperwork.

And then the last point on this slide is the ability to serve clients with criminal backgrounds. So the HOPWA program actually has no restrictions on serving people who use controlled substances, or any persons subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program. So any restrictions on serving individuals meeting those criteria would be a local decision for the program.

And this next slide looks at the HOPWA program model examples for housing and services. Updated information on and examples of how housing activities can be structured are so important for grantees and project sponsors that are looking to implement some of these for the first time, or updating their current models. And so we're going to tell you to keep an eye out for some future TA products that are going to cover tenant based rental assistance, or TBRA best practices, that can help you plan and implement successful TBRA programs.

Master leasing models that highlight how to budget and structure for this housing activity, that may provide more flexibilities for HOPWA providers to house clients with numerous barriers, which could include criminal backgrounds. And how to use HOPWA funds for acquisition and rehab, which is not a commonly used HOPWA budget line item. But it can be useful when looking at developing affordable housing with multiple funding sources.

And so in addition to forthcoming TA products, there are some key program areas that play an important role in compliance where you are going to see some changes and updates in the near future. And this includes the APR and CAPER reporting, and new forms. And this is a big one. So all HOPWA grantees are required to submit an annual reporting form 90 days after the end of the operating year.

Currently competitive grantees complete an EPR. And formula grantees complete a CAPER. And so this is all being streamlined into one reporting form for all grantees with functionality for project sponsors to insert data directly into the form. Some grantees will be expected to start submitting reports with this new form on January 1st, 2023. So there's still plenty of time. And don't worry, because every grantee will receive information about these expectations at least 90 days beforehand. More information on this new reporting form will be pushed out through the HOPWA listserv sometime in July, so keep an eye out for that.

The next bullet here, HOPWA FMR and rent standard requirements and guidelines. I have seen a few questions come in through the question and answer during this presentation asking about release for rising rents, and limited affordable housing stock. And I am really happy to say that we do have something coming very soon to address this issue. So in the next month, OHH will be publishing a notice that provides clarification on the rent standard requirements for the HOPWA program.

This will provide grantees guidance on how to choose a rent standard outside of FMR with more flexibilities available to find a balance between an efficient use of HOPWA rental assistance dollars, and increasing affordable housing options available to low income people living with HIV in their families. This notice is going to cover how grantees can apply and get field office approval for HUD approved community wide exception rent. And hopefully, this can begin to alleviate some of these issues that we continually hear coming up with FMR.

The next bullet, unit inspection methods. So HUD is currently undertaking the rule-making process for Implementation of National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate proposed rule. And that's a mouthful. But we know this as INSPIRE for short. And this proposed rule will align expectations of housing quality, and consolidate housing inspection standards across HUD programs. And that's going to include the HOPWA program. So while the rule-making process can be very long, you can expect to see some updates on housing inspection standards in the next year.

Income and rent calculation has been a very popular technical assistance topic requested. And I am also happy to announce that the HOPWA income and rent calculation curriculum became available as a resource in March of this year, so just a few months ago. And this is a self-paced training module that covers how to calculate annual income and the resident rent payment. And if you haven't seen this resource already, there is a link at the bottom of the slide that you can use to go directly to the curriculum.

And then finally, budgeting and financial management. So OHH is in the process of finalizing several notices that will be providing guidance and clarification to grantees on a variety of budgeting and financial management topics, which are going to include grant closeout, and formula spending expectations through the grant period of performance and extensions.

So there is a lot of things coming. And as with all of the updates, more information on each of these is going to be coming out through the HOPWA listserv. So if you are not currently receiving lists or messages from HOPWA@hud.gov, and the HUD Exchange, I highly recommend signing up for both of these listservs to stay up to date on all things HOPWA.

CRYSTAL POPE: Great. Thank you very much, Lisa. And I'm going to briefly send this back to Amy for some brief information on the HOPWA regulations.

AMY
PALILONIS: Sure. So a few of you have asked some questions in the chat about this. And some of you just from previous presentations might be familiar with the fact that we've been working on a proposed rule to update the HOPWA regulations. We've been working on it for the last few years. The HOPWA regulations haven't been substantially changed since they were first issued in the early '90s. And the purpose of the proposed rule would be to codify formula modernization in our regulations, as well as to update the regs to further flesh out and define HOPWA programmatic requirements.

So in order to update the regulations, HUD must publish a proposed rule outlining the proposed changes, and providing stakeholders with the opportunity to comment. Once the comment period is over, HUD reviews and considers each of the comments, and either makes changes to the rule based on the comments, or doesn't. Either way, when publishing the final rule, HUD has to respond to all of the comments received and discussed why they were or were not implemented into the rule.

Once the final rule is published, the regulations will be updated to reflect the new rule, and grantees will have a period of time to phase in the changes, and implement any changes to program design, policies, and procedures based on the rule. Unfortunately, we can't give specifics about exactly when the proposed rule will be published, but it is forthcoming. As Lisa just mentioned, please make sure you are signed up for the HUD Exchange, and the hud.gov HOPWA listservs in order to receive any announcements regarding the proposed rule. All information will be sent out on those listservs. And I'm now going to turn things back to Marie for another poll.

MARIE HERB: Thanks. And just as people get to read the poll for a second, I just want to tell Lisa that I could see everyone in the audience, and you actually got a standing ovation when you talked about FMR rent standard notice that's coming. So yay, woo-hoo was one comment in the chat too.

So we just again, want to know-- and some people have put this in the chat for us already-- but what are some other topics that you would like covered in future webinars, or in future HOPWA office hours? We've listed a few here, maybe how to modernize services, how to bring in new sponsors. That's kind of really important, particularly when we think about equity. How to operate TBRA with your annual formula awards.

What are some best practices for STRMU? What should we do about setting and managing the HOPWA rent standard as we get that new notice coming out in the chat? Someone already said they would love a training on master leasing. So don't just restrict yourself to these five topics. Please add in the chat other trainings, or other topics you'd like covered in office hours.

And we'll just kind of keep going with that. But I'm going to ask in the interest of time for us to go on to the next poll, Valencia, which is also one that we're just going to be picking your brain. So many of you may have attended a few summers ago a HOPWA Training Institute that was in Florida. And HUD is really interested in holding another in-person potentially, but to hold another HOPWA Training Institute sometime in '23, 2023.

So if that comes about, would you prefer it to be in-person, virtually, hybrid, meaning both maybe both in-person and virtually? Or do you not have a preference? Or do you have another idea that we didn't think of, and you could put that in the chat? So Valencia, if you could launch that poll, that would be great. And I see some people are already answering in the chat. And if the poll doesn't pop up, that's totally OK too.

VALENCIA We have the results coming in on the poll.

MOSS:

MARIE HERB: Oh, OK. Great, thanks. So whenever you want, Valencia, you can post those results.

VALENCIA I'll share the results now. You have 43% that prefer in person, and 19% virtual, and 33% prefer a hybrid method.

MOSS:

MARIE HERB: Great. And even in the chat, people are putting specific places where to do the in-person, so I love that. Thank you, everyone. And Crystal, I think I'm sending it over to you to kind of finish the formal part of our presentation.

CRYSTAL POPE: Yes, thank you. Everybody wants to get back to in-person trainings and things. I think we would all love to do that very much. Coming up to the end, and to our Q&A period, I want to remind everybody that there are two places, two different listservs that you can sign up for to get HOPWA timely information with the notices coming out and other things, both on hud.gov, and on the HUD Exchange. So we encourage you to do that, and make sure that you know and are aware of important program activities that are happening.

And as always, encourage the use of the HOPWA Ask a Question Desk, as well as requesting technical assistance when needed. We try to turn those questions around very quickly. It's kind of a first stop for any kind of detailed questions. And with that, we are going to go to questions. And I'm going to refer back mostly to Christine, you, and Emily who have been monitoring the questions as they've come in.

CHRISTINE Emily, do you want to go first?

CAMPBELL:

EMILY Yes, sure. Thank you. We have a couple of questions. And I think, Rita, would you like to take this one? If your
FISCHBEIN: grantee received an increase due to modernization, will this occur each year? Or will 2022 be the base funding?

RITA HACROW: Sure. I'll talk about that one. So what's happening in FY22 is really the end of that phase, or stop-loss period that was five years long. And we're starting to see now the full implementation of the formula. And the HOPWA formula really just takes the amount of money that's appropriated, and applies the formula math, and that's what determines your local allocation.

So what's received this year in a particular jurisdiction doesn't mean it's going to be exactly the same, or like a baseline going forward. It means that the formula will be used going forward. So it should be that the money that comes in is distributed based on what's determined as the local need.

So I would also suggest that you continue to work with your TA providers for grantees looking at if you are receiving increases, and you have that three year spend period on your award how to maximize those new resources that are coming in. And if you're experiencing a decrease, same thing. There's TA available. But it's a good direction, or trend of how we anticipate allocations will go going forward. But there will be fluctuations based on the formula math every year. And remember, one of the biggest, or the biggest impact will continue to be the appropriation level itself.

EMILY Thanks, Rita. Christine, you want to take one?

FISCHBEIN:

CHRISTINE So we have a question regarding waivers. So I think, Amy, I'm going to kind of toss this to you. Will OHH provide
CAMPBELL: official written guidance on the changes that are available [INAUDIBLE] will pass CV waivers? Like, not requiring wet signatures, or things that differ from the grantee oversight booklet?

AMY That's a good question. I don't know that in any of our guidance what signatures are specifically required since
PALILONIS: it's not in the regulations. But we can take a look at that and see if it makes sense to provide written guidance on some of those flexibilities moving forward. Sorry, was there another piece of that question?

CHRISTINE They were referencing some of the other liabilities because of the waivers. But they were talking about some
CAMPBELL: things that I think that were more like you said, were not necessarily regulatory.

AMY PALILONIS: Sure. So as a bunch of folks were talking about in the chat, all of the regulatory waivers that we issued have expired already. But we are looking for additional ways that we can provide flexibilities to folks. I can't really say more about that at this time. But any information regarding additional flexibilities on any of the waivers that we had provided previously, that will be sent out via the HUD Exchange, and hud.gov mailing lists.

CHRISTINE CAMPBELL: Thank you.

EMILY FISCHBEIN: OK. We have a great one from someone who was listening very closely, which is great. And the question is, would status neutral programming mean that we could use HOPWA funds for prevention clients?

RITA HACROW: I'm going to try to answer that one. So currently, HOPWA statute requires HOPWA assistance to be used for people with HIV. So a diagnosis is required. And having been a HOPWA grantee, and worked in the field previously, I understand that there's often people who are sort of adjacent to that client that need assistance who are in networks. And that's what we're starting to look at.

The exciting thing that we're seeing, there's some pop up kind of pilots around the country where HOPWA is being partnered with local funds, or other non-HOPWA funds into one program that offers a status neutral approach. And those are ideas that we're studying very carefully. But just to be clear, we're not currently able to use HOPWA dollars in that way.

EMILY FISCHBEIN: Thanks, Rita.

CHRISTINE CAMPBELL: So we have one grantee that is talking about the 90-day advance for the APR reporting changes, and that if they require longer time to be able to train vendors and update systems, how might they be able to get at least that information like possibly six months in advance? Will the forms be available for instance, even though they may not need to use it in January of 2023?

AMY PALILONIS: I'm just going to say that there isn't an expectation that the first year all of the reports be perfect. We are phasing this in with a lot of training and TA support that will start to be rolled out this summer and into the fall. I don't know if that addresses the question. Even though we'll be starting to implement the new reporting forms, there's not an expectation that the first year of reporting will be perfect. We fully understand that it will take some time for grantees to implement the changes required in order to report utilizing new data elements.

EMILY FISCHBEIN: OK. Thanks, Amy. Here's a question. I'm not sure which of you would like to answer this one. There's a question, when will HOPWA be sending out renewal applications for the HOPWA competitive grants?

AMY PALILONIS: All I can say is they will be forthcoming. For grantees eligible for renewal this year, those will be coming soon.

EMILY FISCHBEIN: Thank you.

CHRISTINE CAMPBELL: So I don't see any others. Do you have--

EMILY FISCHEIN: I see a question about how does OHH or the Equity Initiative suggest framing housing first since wraparound support services cannot be mandated? Are there any suggestions for how supports can sort of really be highly encouraged? Will this be part of the equity framework?

CHRISTINE CAMPBELL: So I think this will be included as part of the case-- the training for supportive services, as well as part of the Equity Initiative in terms of strategies for engaging with clients such that they are able to make decisions for themselves in a way that makes sense for themselves.

And I think that's a lot of what the harm reduction principles and housing first strategies really are founded on, is how we engage with people such that they understand potential consequences of the decisions that they make, and that they are able to control and have the autonomy to make those decisions for themselves with real good information. So I think between both the Equity Initiative, as well as some of the enhanced case management training and tools that will be put forward, some of that will be included in there.

EMILY FISCHEIN: Awesome. Thanks, Christine. No, I don't see any new questions. I'm so glad there are people as Marie mentioned people, were thrilled about Lisa's announcement about the flexibilities around FMR that will be forthcoming. And there were a lot of questions about that. So hopefully, everybody felt that Lisa's discussion provided you the information you needed for now.

AMY PALILONIS: There are two questions in the chat that I wanted to address if I can.

CHRISTINE CAMPBELL: Sure.

AMY PALILONIS: One was if-- and I might need more clarity on this-- but if we're considering the use of HOPWA funding for security deposits. And I wanted to clarify that that's already a HOPWA eligible activity that you can use permanent housing placement funds under HOPWA to pay for security deposits, and all sorts of other costs related to getting clients into permanent housing. And you can do that using HOPWA permanent housing placement funds. And yes, thank you for everyone chiming into the chat. You can use PHP in combination with tenant based rental assistance.

And then the other one I wanted to address was about setting time limits for tenant based rental assistance. And so that is a common question that we get. And the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing does not recommend setting strict time limits for tenant based rental assistance. If you are interested in operating your tenant based rental assistance more transitional, we've seen models that work where basically once folks enter tenant based rental assistance, they are strongly encouraged to sign up for other sources of housing assistance that clients can transition off to, or focusing on increasing income to the point where clients can afford housing without the help of a tenant based rental assistance subsidy. Other than that, the Office of HIV/AIDS housing does not recommend implementing hard stops on tenant based rental assistance, two or three years that could just cause housing stability or homelessness for clients at the end of that hard stop time limit.

EMILY FISCHEIN: Thanks, Amy. We have a question that just came in. And I don't know if you want to take this one, or if this is more of a local issue, but questions says, many new HIV cases are among young people. How can we help young people with HOPWA resources?

AMY I don't know if anyone else in OHH wants to chime in, but I mean, my response to that is that I mean, you
PALILONIS: absolutely can help young people with HOPWA. Recently, with our new HFA grant projects, several of those grantees are specifically targeting youth with their programs, and utilizing that competitive funding for that. I don't know if anyone else from OHH or TA providers has specific strategies or things they want to highlight about that.

RITA HACROW: I was just going to chime in what you said, Amy, that we do have several grantees who have made that a specific focus of their work. So absolutely, a great thing that you can do to meet the local demand.

AMY Yeah, one thing that has come to mind is I know that some youth focused programs utilize shared housing
PALILONIS: arrangements for more roommate situations to serve youth. And yeah, I'm not sure if anyone else has any other best practices.

CRYSTAL POPE: Well, I think it fits very well with reevaluating what the needs are in your specific community. We've heard a lot about people serving youth, and also a lot about serving people who are aging. And so wrapping your program design around what the specific high needs are, HOPWA continues to be flexible in the kinds of responses that could be made, whether it's working with youth, older people, or just across the board.

And it sounds like we've come to the end of our presentation today, and the questions. Rita, did you want to make any closing remarks? And then I think we'll hear also from Valencia before closing it out.

RITA HACROW: And I just want to say again, thanks, everyone. I really love seeing all the chat comments. And if we didn't get to your question, or respond to your comments, we're definitely still going to be looking at these, and taking note of all of it. I think it's really going to help guide our direction.

So some of your questions are related to how HOPWA currently operates, and then questions about really, the things we're talking about for 3R for how to renew, how to recharge our programs and meet local needs. So please join us as we move forward in this journey together, and look at all the ways that we can refresh this HOPWA program. Thank you all.

VALENCIA Once again thank you all for joining us. You will receive a copy of the PowerPoint slides using today's
MOSS: presentation. Also, the recording will be uploaded on the HUD Exchange at a later date. So that's when you will be able to access the recording of the session. If nothing else, have a great day everyone. Thank you for joining us. Bye, bye.