

Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Supplemental Funding for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program recipients Examples of Allowable Uses of Funds

Funding has been appropriated under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116- 136) to help Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) recipients prepare for, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding has been appropriated to support recipients as they respond to COVID-19 related health service needs. With the exception of the 75 percent core medical services requirement, the requirements for all other RWHAP provisions and funding limitations still apply to these awards. All activities and purchases supported with RWHAP CARES funding must be used for services, activities, and supplies needed to prepare for, prevent, and respond to COVID-19 with respect to RWHAP clients.

This list of activities is not exhaustive, as there may be other allowable uses of funds consistent with the terms and conditions of the award. The list is organized into three categories that correspond to the purpose of the award, with a description of each to provide general guidance. Many CARES activities and uses of funds could fit within more than one category.

Testing, including temporary drive- or walk-up testing and laboratory services, is a paramount need in many communities. HRSA encourages RWHAP recipients to leverage this funding to expand COVID-19 screening and testing capacity, consistent with any applicable [CDC guidance](#).

All activities supported by CARES funding must align with the RWHAP and focus on COVID-19 prevention, preparedness, and/or response.

Prevent—Promote individual and community-wide prevention practices and/or administer countermeasures to reduce risk of COVID-19

- Perform outreach and provide RWHAP clients with information on [hand hygiene](#), [cough etiquette](#), and [COVID-19 transmission](#), using existing materials where available.
- Deliver culturally appropriate training and education on:
 - General COVID-19 preventive practices for people with HIV, such as [hand hygiene](#), [cough etiquette](#), and [transmission](#), using existing materials where available.
 - Infection control for health workers caring for people with HIV.
 - Behavioral health and [coping strategies](#) for people with HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Disseminate [educational materials](#) on precautions to [prevent](#), contain, or mitigate COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses for people with HIV.
- Convene, coordinate, and disseminate training and technical assistance resources developed for healthcare professionals on preventive practices and/or countermeasures to reduce risk of COVID-19 on RWHAP clients and organizations.

- Administer COVID-19 therapeutics and vaccines when available for people with HIV.
- Purchase cleaning supplies to disinfect patient contact areas and contract with cleaning services if needed.

Prepare—Enhance readiness, training, and services to respond to COVID-19

- Review, update, and/or implement your emergency operations plan, including plans to address surge capacity and potential provider and other staff absenteeism.
- Hire and/or contract with additional providers and/or other personnel to support increased service demand due to COVID-19.
- Provide training for all staff on [infection control procedures](#), including administrative rules and engineering controls, environmental hygiene, and appropriate use of personal protective equipment. RWHAP recipients may consider using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [pre-pandemic training](#)  for influenza, which is recommended for COVID-19.
- Strengthen partnerships with local and state public health authorities, and clinical and community-based organizations.
- Review your infection control plan and make necessary adjustments to align with [CDC Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities](#) (PDF - 1.1 MB).
- Create new and enhance existing preparedness and response workflows to embed [CDC guidelines](#) and [recommendations](#), which may require role/task reassignment.
- Train staff, establish workflows, and designate separate space to screen RWHAP clients prior to entering communal areas of facilities so that those who may have COVID-19 can be isolated.
- Train staff, establish workflows, and designate separate space for clinical and administrative services for RWHAP clients under investigation and those testing positive, including temporary and non-fixed barriers.
- Enhance partnerships with organizations delivering services to RWHAP clients without housing and/or prepare for expansion of or increased need for reliance on RWHAP-supported housing and related services.
- Embed [CDC guidance](#) into electronic health records (EHRs) clinical decision support tools.
- Enhance website and social media feeds to include patient self-assessment tools and facilitate access to telemedicine visits.
- Develop or enhance telemedicine infrastructure to optimize virtual care, including increased capacity to assess RWHAP clients with symptoms.

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- Enhance health information exchange capacity to support communications with public health partners, centralized assessment locations, and other health care providers, and/or to support transitions in care (e.g., to and from hospitals).
- Enhance technology to support tracking, sharing, and reporting capacity.
- Provide increased technical assistance to address changes in RWHAP client eligibility and recertification processes and formulary/medication management in response to the pandemic.
- Provide technical assistance, workforce development, training, consultation, and capacity development for RWHAP recipients and personnel.
- Strengthen partnerships with regional and national AETC recipients, RWHAP Part A and B recipients, local and state public health authorities, HRSA-funded health centers and community-based organizations.
- Provide clinical consultation on the management of occupational exposure to COVID-19 for healthcare workers treating people with HIV, including but not limited to:
 - [Infection Control](#). Note: RWHAP recipients may consider using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) [pre-pandemic training](#)  for influenza, which is recommended for COVID-19.
 - [Personal Protective Equipment](#) (PPE);
 - how to properly [don, use, and doff PPE](#);
 - Performing aerosol-generating procedures;
 - [Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions](#); and
 - When to contact Occupational Health Services.
- Promote resources for healthcare professionals preparing for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Purchase additional medical supplies (e.g., thermometers, pulse oximeter) needed for triage and testing areas.

Respond—Assess, test, diagnose, treat, and limit spread of COVID-19

- Support increased capacity for RWHAP client triage, testing (including drive- or walk-up testing) and laboratory services, and assessment of symptoms, including by telephone, text monitoring systems, or videoconference through extended operating hours, enhanced telephone triage capacity, digital applications, and additional providers and other personnel.
- Support the enhancement of telehealth infrastructure at clinical sites to perform triage, care, and follow-up via telehealth, including with RWHAP clients in community settings, with unstable or no housing, in homes, public housing, and other locations.

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- Enhance staffing and purchase equipment and supplies as necessary to deploy walk-up testing and laboratory services locations and in-scope mobile units to provide testing and/or to deliver care to RWHAP clients.
- Purchase a vehicle to transport RWHAP clients to assessment and testing locations, and/or to transport RWHAP recipient personnel to deliver COVID-19 assessment and treatment.
- Provide training and technical assistance for enhanced medical respite/recuperative care services.
- Purchase supplies for respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, including alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60-95% alcohol, tissues, and no-touch receptacles for disposal.
- Purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) for RWHAP recipient personnel and RWHAP clients, including National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)-approved N95 respirators for RWHAP recipient personnel.
- Support COVID-19 testing and laboratory costs, including purchasing [COVID-19 tests](#), specimen handling and collection, storage, and processing equipment, as appropriate.
- Purchase and administer medical countermeasures that may be identified to lessen severity of COVID-19 illness.
- Support social distancing by providing home-delivered meals and medications to RWHAP clients.
- Support increased demands for emergency housing for RWHAP clients.
- Make minor alterations and renovations such as safety barriers to support social distancing for RWHAP clients.
- Utilize partnerships, i.e., regional and national AETC recipients; RWHAP Part A and B recipients; local and state public health authorities, and clinical and community-based organizations to address evolving training and technical assistance needs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 within your regions.
- Promote behavioral health strategies to address well-being of healthcare workers caring for people with HIV in response to COVID-19.
- Provide clinical consultation on HIV care and treatment for people with HIV with COVID-19.
- Provide expert consultation on clinical care, including therapeutic options, disposition of hospitalized patients with COVID-19, and inpatient obstetric healthcare guidance for RWHAP clients.
- Provide expert consultation on home care for people with HIV not requiring hospitalization, preventing COVID-19 spread in homes and communities for people with HIV, and disposition of non-hospitalized RWHAP patients with COVID-19.

Date Last Reviewed: April 2020