



October 19, 2021

Dear Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Colleagues,

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) is pleased to issue Policy Clarification Notice (PCN) 21-02, *Determining Client Eligibility and Ensuring Payor of Last Resort in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program*. Effective today, PCN 21-01 replaces PCN 13-02, *Clarifications on Ryan White Program Client Eligibility Determinations and Recertification Requirements*.¹ The purpose of this new PCN is to respond to recipient requests to reduce administrative and client burden while enhancing continuity of care to ensure that clients have access to medical and support services in order to achieve viral suppression.

There are two major changes incorporated in PCN 21-02. It eliminates the six month recertification requirement, and replaces it with allowing RWHAP recipients and subrecipients the flexibility to conduct timely eligibility confirmation in accordance with their policies and procedures to assess if there are changes in a client's income and/or residency status. The PCN also states affirmatively that immigration status is irrelevant for the purposes of eligibility for RWHAP services.

HRSA HAB regularly assesses program policies and guidance to ensure compliance and identify ways to reduce recipient and client burden, and has received feedback on recipients' challenges with implementing PCN 13-02. Recipients and subrecipients sought more streamlined and flexible policies to ensure people with HIV obtain access to and are retained in care. PCN 21-02 achieves this by retaining many of the important aspects of PCN 13-02, but provides additional clarity, particularly around complying with the payor of last resort requirement.

HRSA HAB would like to thank the RWHAP stakeholder community for their ongoing feedback and input which helped to inform efforts to reassess the requirements for RWHAP eligibility determinations. HRSA HAB anticipates that the successful implementation of these critical changes with additional clarity will better position RWHAP recipients and subrecipients to update their policies and procedures to enable clients to obtain and maintain access to RWHAP care and treatment services and reduce unnecessary disenrollment, without compromising the integrity, scope, and implementation of the RWHAP.

Sincerely,

/Laura W. Cheever/

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¹ HRSA HAB Policy Clarification Notice 13-02 Clarifications on Ryan White Program Client Eligibility Determinations and Recertification Requirements <https://hab.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hab/Global/pcn1302clienteligibility.pdf>