

June 26, 2024

Dear Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Colleagues,

Access to safe, quality, affordable housing and the support necessary to maintain it constitutes one of the most basic and powerful social determinants of health. The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) is committed to addressing barriers to housing instability that can help improve health outcomes for people with HIV.¹ The [2022-2025 National HIV/AIDS Strategy \(NHAS\)](#)² identified social and structural determinants of health that impede access to HIV services and exacerbate HIV-related disparities, which included inadequate housing, housing instability and homelessness.

HRSA Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) funds can be used for a variety of support services to help people with HIV remain in HIV care, including housing, as described in [HRSA HAB Policy Clarification Notice #16-02 \(PCN 16-02\) Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Services: Eligible Individual and Allowable Uses of Funds](#).³ RWHAP recipients and subrecipients have reported that the prohibition on payment of housing security deposits continues to be a barrier to getting clients into stable and permanent housing. A cash security deposit that is returned to a client violates the RWHAP statutory prohibition on providing cash payments to clients.⁴

To address this barrier, HRSA HAB is providing clarifying guidance regarding the use of RWHAP funds to cover housing security deposits for eligible clients. **RWHAP funding may be used to pay for a RWHAP client's security deposit if a RWHAP recipient or subrecipient has policies and procedures in place to ensure that the security deposit is returned to the RWHAP recipient or subrecipient and not to the RWHAP client.**

HRSA HAB presents this guidance as an optional opportunity for recipients to offer this support within allowable legislative and programmatic parameters. It is not HRSA's intention to compel RWHAP recipients and subrecipients to provide this service. While HRSA HAB is providing guidance regarding the use of RWHAP funds to cover housing security deposits for eligible clients, please note that RWHAP recipients and subrecipients may use a variety of funding sources to pay for a RWHAP client's security deposits.⁵

¹ See Optimizing HUD-Assisted Housing Among People in Need of HIV Care and Prevention Services 2022 Technical Expert Panel Executive Summary at

<https://ryanwhite.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/ryanwhite/resources/hrsa-housing-tep-exec-summary.pdf>.

² <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/national-hiv-aids-strategy/national-hiv-aids-strategy-2022-2025>.

³ <https://ryanwhite.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/ryanwhite/grants/service-category-pcn-16-02-final.pdf>.

⁴ Allowable uses of program funds are described in [HRSA HAB PCN 16-02](#).

⁵ Examples include: Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) funds; program income generated through the 340B program; braided funding; and non-RWHAP grant awards.

RWHAP recipients and subrecipients interested in using RWHAP funds to pay for a RWHAP client's security deposit must maintain policies and procedures that demonstrate programmatic and legislative compliance, including that there is no violation of RWHAP's prohibition on cash payment to the RWHAP client. The procedures should also include how return of less than the full security deposit will be addressed between the recipient and the client. RWHAP recipients and subrecipients must also track returned security deposits as a refund, to be used for program purposes, and to be expended prior to grant funds.

Please contact your HRSA HAB Project Officer if you have questions about using RWHAP funds for security deposit housing services.

HRSA HAB appreciates the tireless efforts of HIV community stakeholders working to improve health outcomes for people with HIV who are at risk for or are experiencing housing instability and homelessness.

Sincerely,

/Laura W. Cheever/

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