

Part F: Special Projects of National Significance

HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program



Program Fact Sheet | August 2024

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) provides a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medications, and essential support services for low-income people with HIV. More than half the people with diagnosed HIV in the United States—nearly 567,000 people in 2022—receive services through RWHAP each year. First authorized in 1990, RWHAP funds grants to states, cities, counties, and local community-based organizations to provide care and treatment services to people with HIV to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission. In 2022, 89.6 percent of RWHAP clients receiving HIV medical care were virally suppressed, which means they cannot sexually transmit HIV to their partners and can live longer and healthier lives. For more than three decades, RWHAP has worked to stop HIV stigma and reduce health disparities by caring for the whole person and addressing their social determinants of health



The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Part F Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program supports the development of innovative models of HIV care and treatment to quickly respond to emerging needs of RWHAP clients. Through its demonstration, implementation, and health information technology projects, SPNS uses implementation science to evaluate the design, implementation, use, cost, and health-related outcomes of treatment strategies while promoting the dissemination and replication of successful interventions in the RWHAP. This unique program advances knowledge and skills in the delivery of health care, support services, and data integration to serve RWHAP priority populations. Through these special projects, RWHAP SPNS recipients implement a variety of interventions that advance public health knowledge and help to achieve the goal of ending the HIV epidemic in the United States.

Recipients

Of the 20 direct recipient organizations for fiscal year (FY) 2024, six are organizations that conduct public health evaluations, training, or capacity development and will provide subawards to 57 clinic-based organizations to conduct implementation site activities. Four of the directly funded RWHAP SPNS recipients are academic centers that will provide evaluation support for RWHAP SPNS initiatives. Additionally, six are academic-based clinics, two are community health centers, and two are community-based organizations. In FY 2025, the SPNS Program estimates that more than 6,000 clients with HIV will receive services across its many initiatives.

Current Initiatives

Linking Eligibility Across the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts—Dissemination Assistance Provider (FY 2024–FY 2025)

This initiative will (1) examine current eligibility determination and confirmation processes in place across all RWHAP Parts and identify administrative, technical, and legal barriers facing providers and clients; (2) identify best practices and facilitators that improve navigation for clients who seek services from multiple RWHAP recipients and subrecipients; (3) develop and disseminate materials about eligibility determination and confirmation processes, including cost analysis tools, examples, and lessons learned; and (4) facilitate peer-to-peer information exchange and dissemination of information. The initiative will promote efficiencies in the intake, navigation, and determination of RWHAP client eligibility across all RWHAP Parts. Additionally, it will improve the customer's experience when applying for and continuing RWHAP services; reduce administrative burden for RWHAP clients and providers; and increase the availability of tools to help RWHAP providers streamline eligibility processes across all RWHAP Parts.

Supporting Replication (SURE) of Housing Interventions in the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (FY 2022–FY 2025)

This initiative has two separate, coordinated recipients: the Implementation and Technical Assistance Provider and an Evaluation Provider. The Implementation and Technical Assistance Provider supports and provides technical assistance to 10 sites that are implementing and adapting housing-related evidence-based interventions, evidence-informed interventions, and emerging strategies—collectively known as “intervention strategies”—for three key populations of people with HIV experiencing unstable housing: LGBTQ+ people; youth and young adults (aged 13–24 years); and people who have been involved with the legal system (defined as any person who is engaged at any point along the continuum of the criminal justice system as a defendant, including arrest, incarceration, and community supervision). The Implementation and Technical Assistance Provider funds implementation sites under individual subawards, provides implementation-related technical assistance to the sites, and develops a communication strategy and replication tools for widespread adoption of these housing-related intervention strategies for the three key populations. The Evaluation Provider develops and implements a multisite evaluation of these intervention strategies and provides evaluation-related technical assistance using an implementation science framework.

Emerging Strategies to Improve Health Outcomes for People Aging With HIV (FY 2022–FY 2024)

This initiative funds three components: one capacity-building provider, 10 demonstration sites, and one evaluation provider. All three components of the initiative work together using the HRSA HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) implementation science framework to conduct the following activities simultaneously: implement emerging interventions that comprehensively screen for and manage comorbidities, geriatric conditions, behavioral health, and psychosocial needs of people with HIV aged 50 years and older; assess the uptake and integration of emerging strategies; understand and assess the implementation processes; recognize and document broader factors affecting implementation; evaluate the impact of the emerging strategies; and disseminate effective strategies.

Telehealth Strategies to Maximize HIV Care (FY 2022–FY 2024)

This initiative identifies and maximizes the use of telehealth strategies most effective in improving linkage to care, retention in care, and health outcomes—including viral suppression—for people with HIV who receive services through RWHAP. This initiative builds on existing programs, and HRSA HAB is coordinating the initiative activities in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The initiative is funding one recipient that is selecting promising telehealth strategies that can be used to maximize HIV care in RWHAP. The recipient is funding, coordinating, monitoring, and providing technical and capacity-building assistance to five RWHAP recipients and subrecipients; creating an inventory of project strategies and tools; evaluating the project using an implementation science framework; and disseminating the project’s products through various outlets, ultimately for uptake and replication by RWHAP recipients and subrecipients.

Using Innovative Intervention Strategies (2iS) to Improve Health Outcomes Among People With HIV (FY 2021–FY 2024)

This initiative uses an implementation science framework to identify and evaluate innovative intervention strategies in four focus areas to improve health outcomes among people with HIV. The initiative funds the Innovative Intervention Strategies (2iS) Coordinating Center for Technical Assistance, which solicited and issued subawards to 20 RWHAP-funded recipients to serve as sites for implementing and evaluating intervention strategies. The intervention strategies focus on three priority populations and one area of opportunity for improving service delivery. The four focus areas are to improve HIV health outcomes—

1. For people with substance use disorder
2. For LGBTQ+ youth
3. For people who are or have been incarcerated
4. By using telehealth services

The initiative also funds the 2iS Evaluation Center to assess the implementation of these intervention strategies using an implementation science framework.

Building Capacity to Improve Collecting and Reporting Viral Suppression Data to the Medicaid Adult Core Set (FY 2021–FY 2024)

This initiative develops strategies for building capacity among HIV surveillance and Medicaid programs for reporting high-quality HIV viral suppression data to comply with HIV Viral Load Suppression measure requirements on the Medicaid Adult Core Set. HRSA awarded one System Coordination Provider to select, fund, and work with RWHAP Part B recipients and collaborate with HIV surveillance and Medicaid programs to build their capacity to report data to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as part of the annual state Medicaid reporting. The initiative is working with state RWHAP, HIV surveillance, and Medicaid programs to develop, implement, and evaluate strategies for improving the collection and reporting of HIV viral suppression data to the Adult Core Set. In addition, the initiative will promote the dissemination and replication of effective strategies and lessons learned for adoption across other states.

Funding Considerations

Congress appropriated approximately \$25 million for RWHAP Part F SPNS in FY 2024.

