



# The Intersection of Housing and HIV Institute 301: Comprehensive Services to Maximize Health Outcomes

2022 National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care and Treatment

*August 25, 2022*

**Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People**



# Federal Presenters

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- **Susan Robilotto, DO**, Director, Division of State HIV /AIDS Programs, HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB)
- **Amy Palilonis, MSW**, Deputy Director, Office of HIV/AIDS Housing, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- **Rashida Hassan, MSPH**, Division of HIV Prevention (DHP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



# Disclosures

Susan Robilotto has no relevant financial interests to disclose.

Amy Palilonis has no relevant financial interests to disclose.

Rashida Hassan has no relevant financial interests to disclose.

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# Agenda

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- Recap of 101: Addressing Housing in HIV Prevention and Care and 201: Integrating Housing Services with HIV Services
- Jurisdictions' descriptions of their housing and HIV service delivery models
- Question and answer session

# Learning Objectives

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- Identify models of housing and HIV service delivery that positively impact HIV health outcomes.
- Recognize challenges in implementing comprehensive HIV and housing models.
- Develop successful approaches to delivering housing and HIV services that result in positive HIV health outcomes for people who are unstably housed or homeless.

# Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

## Overview



Supports more than 90 programs that provide health care to people who are geographically isolated, economically or medically challenged



HRSA does this through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 3,000 awardees, including community and faith-based organizations, colleges and universities, hospitals, state, local, and tribal governments, and private entities



Every year, HRSA programs serve tens of millions of people, including people with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, mothers and their families, and those otherwise unable to access quality health care

# HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau Vision and Mission

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## Vision

Optimal HIV care and treatment for all to end the HIV epidemic in the U.S.

## Mission

Provide leadership and resources to advance HIV care and treatment to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities for people with HIV and affected communities.



# HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Overview

- Provides a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medications, and essential support services for low-income people with HIV.
- Funds grants to states, cities, counties, and local community-based organizations to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission.
  - Recipients determine service delivery and funding priorities based on local needs and planning process.
- Provided services to nearly 562,000 people in 2020—more than half of all people with diagnosed HIV in the United States.
- 89.4% of RWHAP clients receiving HIV medical care were virally suppressed in 2020, exceeding national average of 64.6%<sup>i</sup>.





# Recap of 101 and 201



# Housing and HIV Service Delivery Models

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- **Deborah B. Noble, CSI-HQS, MPHA**, Director of Housing, Housing Services Unit, Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV, and Sexually Transmitted Infections, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- **Kathie Hiers**, CEO, AIDS Alabama
- **Norman Dixon**, CrescentCare



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# Comprehensive Services to Maximize Health Outcomes Housing is Healthcare

Deborah B. Noble, CSI-HQS, MPHA,  
Director of Housing, Housing Services Unit

Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV, and Sexually  
Transmitted Infections

NYC Department of Health and Mental  
Hygiene

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# DOHMH HSU Overview

Embracing the *Housing is Healthcare* approach, which promotes stable permanent housing as a means to improve and maintain health outcomes for PWH, DOHMH-HSU works with qualified vendors to provide supportive permanent and transitional housing to very low-income PWH who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The HOPWA Program administers 23 Contracts in the 5 NYC boroughs and 7 contracts in the Tri-County area.

The RWPA Program administers a total of 14 contracts – Twelve in New York City and two in Hudson Valley.

The NYC City Council also provides funding to administer 3 additional contracts with 3 separate agencies to provide Client Engagement Services to eligible consumers.

The types of housing services provided are:

- Short Term Rental Assistance
- Housing Placement Assistance
- Short Term Housing Assistance
  - Emergency Housing
  - Transitional Housing
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Scattered-Site Supportive Housing
- Congregate Supportive Housing

# DOHMH HSU Overview

The Housing Services Unit at the NYC DOHMH administers both HOPWA and RWPA housing programs to support PWH in achieving their best quality of life possible while also maintaining housing stability. Homelessness has a direct correlation to negative health outcomes

1. NYC is home to more than 8.8 million people. It continues to have a large HIV epidemic in the U.S., with approximately 9% of the nation's PWH and 5% of all HIV diagnoses in 2019.
2. Compared to New York state, New York City continues to bear the greatest HIV/AIDS burden. As of the end of 2019, 128,419 persons were living with HIV.
3. PWH who are homeless are predominantly at risk for poor health outcomes. Research shows the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is three to nine times higher among persons who are homeless or unstably housed, depending on the geographical area studied
4. The Community Health Advisory & Information Network (CHAIN) Project findings indicate that receipt of housing was a strong and consistent predictor of increased access to medical care and treatment, retention in care, and improved health outcomes.

There are significant positive health outcomes associated with receiving housing subsidies for PLWH in NYC:

- As of May 2022, 98% of HOPWA consumers are in care and 85% are virally suppressed. Suppression has stayed consistent since 2021.
- In 2021, 98% of RWPA consumers were reported to be in care and 84% are virally suppressed.
- From 2010 to 2019, the number of persons *newly diagnosed* with HIV in New York City has steadily decreased to a historically low 1,772!

The DOHMH HSU also has a its own Research and Evaluation Staff who manage, analyze, and disseminate data to monitor, evaluate, and optimize the health and housing status of New Yorkers with HIV.

The goals and objectives of the DOHMH Housing Services Unit program are:

- Reduce the prevalence and risk of homelessness among PWH;
- Enable PWH to establish and/or better maintain a permanent, stable living environment in housing that is decent, safe, and sanitary;
- Improve access to health care and HIV viral suppression rates among PWH;
- Promote self-sufficiency to enable PWH to maintain independent, permanent housing without the provision of rental assistance.

Supportive housing services provided by the community organizations that we partner with enable individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their chosen families to live independently and achieve housing stability. Despite difficult times, these housing programs have continued to assist eligible persons and their families in reducing barriers that impede their ability to maintain housing and health stability.

*Housing is Healthcare*



# Comprehensive Services to Maximize Health Outcomes Housing is Healthcare

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# Maximizing HIV Health Outcomes through Housing

Kathie Hiers

CEO, AIDS Alabama

2022 Ryan White Conference on HIV Care and Treatment



AIDS**Alabama**  
Housing Is Healthcare

# The AIDS Alabama Model: The Full Continuum

- Emergency housing and vouchers: Rectory/Hotels/Ryan White
- Transitional housing: Homeless programs/Ryan White/University of Alabama at Birmingham Housing Partnership
- Permanent, supportive housing (mental health/substance use/transportation/case management/financial assistance/peer support/clinical services/employment/food/translation): Four apartment complexes/State and City HOPWA long-term and short-term emergency assistance/Scattered houses/Alabama Rural AIDS Project/Shelter Plus Care Vouchers
- Permanent, enriched housing: JASPER House
- Permanent housing with support optional: Scattered housing

\* Birmingham's only LGBTQ housing and Trans housing!

# Every State Is Different!

- AIDS Alabama provides assistance to all 67 counties through a partnership with the AIDS Service Organizations.
- Some states don't help in rural areas.
- Some states offer long-term help; some don't.



Who runs your HOPWA program?

# Ryan White and Housing? Yes!

- Must be payor of last resort
- Must develop mechanisms to allow new clients access to housing services
- Must ensure that housing is limited to transitional, short-term, or emergency housing
  - Recommended duration limit of 24 months



# Ryan White and HOPWA: The Perfect Marriage?

- Housing is complicated! Fair Market Rent/Landlord relationships/Housing plan/30% of adjusted gross income max/Homeless Continuums of Care/Community Planning and Development Departments/Etc.
- Ryan White case managers cannot be expected to understand the intricacies of housing
- Designate one person to be a housing case manager, attend local Continuum of Care meetings, get to know the HOPWA provider



# Our Newest Project: The Way Station

- 40-bed facility for young adults 18 to 24 with emphasis on LGBTQ
- 20 emergency shelter beds and 20 transitional beds



Opening in  
August 2022!

# Comprehensive Services to Maximize Health Outcomes



CrescentCare

*A Partnership for Life*

**Comprehensive Services to  
Maximize Health Outcomes**





# Overview

CrescentCare started as a small organization in New Orleans in the early 1980s to respond to the HIV/AIDS crisis.

We've evolved and grown significantly over the last 40 years.

Now a Federally Qualified Health Center serving 14,000 patients, including 2,700 HIV patients with 270 staff.

Operates a wide range of services, including primary care, dental, behavioral health, psychiatry, prevention services, and other support services.

Two major clinic sites.

# New Orleans Demographics and Housing Market

1.3 million

metro area population

60%

african american

24%

live in poverty

In 2020, New Orleans ranked 9th for HIV case rates among the large metro areas in the nation.

As of March 2022, a total of 8,650 persons were living with HIV/AIDS in New Orleans.

# Homelessness and Housing in New Orleans

Homelessness is a substantial issue in New Orleans with an estimated 1,000 individuals experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness is frequently exacerbated by natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornados.

New Orleans has the 5th highest percentage of cost-burdened renter households of all large metro areas.

Home ownership rate in Orleans Parish was only 48 percent in 2020, compared to 64 percent nationally.

## **Homelessness and Housing in New Orleans (cont)**

26 percent of homes have severe housing problems such as mold, roaches, plumbing issues, etc. and renters were more than twice as likely to experience these issues.

Renters in majority Black neighborhoods were six times more likely to experience evictions.

# The Importance of Housing

For people living with HIV, housing is one of the strongest predictors of their access to treatment, their health outcomes, and how long they will live. Those who are unstably housed:

- Are more likely to enter HIV care late
- Have lower CD4 counts and higher viral loads
- Are less likely to receive and adhere to antiretroviral therapy
- Are more likely to be hospitalized and use emergency rooms
- Experience higher rates of premature death

## **Housing Services**

CrescentCare is committed to the housing first approach in which assistance is offered without requiring compliance with treatment or medication.

CrescentCare's housing program has been in place since 1999.

# 2021 Program Outcomes Tracked

Number of clients that maintained stable housing at the end of the year = 369 through STRMU and TBRA

Total amount of funding used by each client:

STRMU average \$2,018.96

TBRA average \$10,071.23

PHP average \$1,355.39

Numbers of clients needing assistance in excess of maximum amount allowed =0 due to flexibility of grants

# Results

Program	Number of Clients
Short Term Mortgage Rental and Utility Assistance	243
Tenant Based Rental Assistance	126
Permanent Housing Placement	95
HUD – Continuum of Care Grants	150
PSH/MHR	500+

Clients were able to receive case management, navigation, and other supportive services to ensure they remain in HIV care.



# CrescentCare

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# How To Claim CE Credit

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[ryanwhite.cds.pesgce.com](https://ryanwhite.cds.pesgce.com)

# Contact Information

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<https://ryanwhite.hrsa.gov>



Sign up for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Listserv:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHSHRSA/signup/29907>

# Connect with HRSA

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# Questions and Answers

