

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW OF RYAN WHITE PART A PROGRAM

Background

In 1993, New Haven and Fairfield Counties became eligible for Ryan White CARE Act. These funds were intended provide development, organization, coordination and operation of more effective and cost-efficient systems for the delivery of service. The federal government classified New Haven and Fairfield county area as one Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA). The CARE Act required the city in the EMA with the largest number of AIDS cases to act as fiduciary or fiscal agent for these funds. Under this Act, New Haven's mayor is directly responsible for administration of Ryan White Part A funds.

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension ACT of 2009 which went into effect October 30th, 2009 replaced the previous Treatment Act of 2006.

Current Funding & Services

The first year of Ryan White CARE. Act funding (FY94/95), we received approximately \$2.1 million from the federal government. Our current award for FY 2020 is \$5,420,535.00 which is \$142,386 less than FY19. Most of the award is based on the number of persons living with HIV and new cases. In the EMA the number of those living with HIV has remained stable and the cases of HIV continue to drop.

Ryan White funds are equitably distributed by the percentage of AIDS cases in proportion to the number of HIV cases reported for each sub-region in the EMA (sub-regional divisions are as follows: Region I: Greater New Haven; Region II: Waterbury; Meriden and the Naugatuck Valley; Region III: Greater Bridgeport; Region IV: Norwalk and Stamford and Region V: Greater Danbury county that make up the total of AIDS cases in this EMA.

In the current FY2020, New Haven HIV service providers received \$1,385,276 dollars to provide care, which translates to 33% of the total funds available for services for the entire EMA.

Impact

Ryan White funded services provide the vital supportive lifeline to treatments and care to those living with HIV. By the end of the last fiscal year, this grant directly assisted approximately two thousand seventy-five (2075) persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families throughout the EMA.

Communities disproportionately affected by this disease are receiving the greatest benefit of Ryan White funding. In the EMA, approximately eighty-two percent (82%) of clients served are African-American/African Descent and Latino.

Planning Council & Service Priorities

The New Haven/Fairfield Counties HIV Ryan White Planning Council consists of twenty one (21) members from throughout the EMA and is appointed by the Mayor of New Haven. The Council is mandated by Ryan White HIV Treatment Extension Act and is comprised of persons living with HIV; representatives of community based organizations and others with valuable HIV expertise. It is diverse in terms of gender, race/ethnicity and sexual orientation.

It is the Council's role to conduct needs assessments and collect other data in order to set service priorities for the approaching fiscal year and to determine the dollar amounts for each service.

This year the Council prioritized services for persons living with HIV/AIDS based on findings of needs assessments and consumer input from each of the five service regions. The assessment data provided by persons living with HIV determined the need for various services throughout the EMA. The following is the list of prioritized services for FY 2021:

- Medical Case Management
- Mental Health Services
- Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services
- Substance Abuse Services - Outpatient
- Housing Services
- Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals
- Oral Health Care
- Medical Transportation
- Substance Abuse Services - Inpatient
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Early Intervention Services
- Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance

Contractor Selection Process

The City of New Haven must follow guidelines, service priorities and funding allocations established by the Planning Council in accordance with the Ryan White Extension Act. The Ryan White Office follows City Purchasing rules and guidelines. It issues a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Planning Council prioritized service areas with a one year renewable option. The Bureau of Purchases advertises the RFP in local community newspapers and each major newspaper throughout New Haven and Fairfield Counties.

The RFP clearly states the services applicants might apply for, the total amount of funds available for each service area and other qualifications required by the Treatment Extension Act of 2009, the Ryan White Planning Council and the City of New Haven.

The Ryan White Office sends the proposals to individual members of a diverse review team. The goal is to select a group of individuals from throughout Connecticut who have knowledge and expertise in HIV and health services who have no conflict of interest. All reviewers are required to sign a conflict of interest statement that is kept on file.

The Ryan White office strictly adheres to the recommendations of the panel and reports the recommendations to the Mayor and Planning Council. By law, only the Planning Council has the right to change service priorities and dollar allocations that support the priorities.