

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program Overview

What is HOPWA?

In response to the unique and varied housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program was created in 1992. The program, housed in the Office of Community Planning and Development in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), directly addresses the housing and service needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Research has shown that housing is the greatest unmet service need for people living with the disease.

HOPWA programs and projects provide a range of housing opportunities, including short-term and long-term rental assistance, community residences, and provide other supportive services (like transportation) that address the needs of people who are living with HIV/AIDS.

Recent Changes: The HOPWA Formula Update

Prior to the HOPWA formula update, program funds were based on the number of cumulative AIDS cases since the epidemic began, including persons who have died. Public Law 114-201, the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act, included the long-sought after switch to count those living with HIV rather than cumulative AIDS in each jurisdiction. This formula distribution better reflects the nature of the HIV epidemic and reflects the areas with the greatest need for housing. The update, beginning in FY17, phases in full implementation of the formula change over five years; it caps grantee gains at 10% and losses at 5%, and includes a housing cost factor and poverty factor.

HOPWA needs \$385M in annual funding to ensure no districts lose funding and to provide housing to the hundreds of thousands of persons living with HIV/AIDS who are currently in need.

Key Facts about HOPWA

In 2011, HOPWA directly served 60,234 households. However, another 145,366 households were left without assistance.¹

91% of households served by HOPWA during the 2015-2016 engaged in ongoing primary health care²

71% of HOPWA clients are people of color³

94% of HOPWA TBRA (tenant-based rental assistance) have achieved housing stability⁴

76% of HOPWA households are extremely low income³

For more information, please visit: www.nationalaidshousing.org



¹ <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1980/planning-estimates-unmet-need-hopwa-formula-competitive-grantees/>

² https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/reportmanagement/published/HOPWA_Perf_NatlForm_2016.pdf

³ https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/reportmanagement/published/HOPWA_Perf_NatlForm_2016.pdf

⁴ 2015-2016 National HOPWA Performance Profiles – Formula and Competitive Grants

https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/reportmanagement/published/HOPWA_Perf_NatlComp_2015.pdf