



# Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS

The Federal Program dedicated to address the housing needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families

The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) program provides housing assistance and related supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and their families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or unstably housed. The program provides housing and other support to help the most vulnerable households with multiple health and life challenges to achieve housing stability. HOPWA supportive housing also serves as a cost-effective housing intervention that increases access to care, reduces emergency care costs, and improves life outcomes for beneficiaries.

Every person, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic circumstances, will have unfettered access to high quality, life extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.

National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States - July 13, 2010

The first step to better health is a roof over your head.

HOPWA housing resident, Chicago

## Why We Need AIDS Housing

- Need:** Persons with HIV are significantly more vulnerable to becoming homeless during their lifetime.
- HIV Prevention:** Housing stabilization can lead to reduced risk behaviors and transmission.
- Improved treatment adherence and health:** Homeless persons with AIDS assisted with HOPWA housing support demonstrated improved medication adherence and health outcomes.
- Reduction in HIV Transmission:** Stably housed persons demonstrate reduced viral loads resulting in significant reduction in HIV.
- Cost saving:** Homeless or unstably housed PLWHA are more frequent users of high-cost hospital-based emergency or inpatient services, shelters, and the criminal justice system.
- Discrimination and stigma:** AIDS-related stigma and discrimination add to barriers and disparities in access to appropriate housing and care along with adherence to HIV treatment.

For a searchable database of over 300 peer-reviewed articles on HIV and housing research, see [www.hudhre.info](http://www.hudhre.info)

## HOPWA Funding

The HOPWA program funds housing assistance and support services for low-income persons with HIV and their families in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. In 2012, \$332 million was provided to these areas in two ways:

- 90% was awarded to 135 jurisdictions according to a statutory formula based on AIDS cases, and for municipal areas, on total population.
- 10% was awarded as competitive grants to areas that are not eligible for formula funding and to innovative model projects that address special issues or populations.

## What HOPWA Does

HOPWA services provide a dynamic resource to meet varied needs.

### SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Case Management	Meals and Nutrition
Behavioral Health	Transportation
Housing Information	Employment Services
Benefits Assistance	

### HOUSING SUPPORT

Tenant Based Rental Assistance	Transitional/Short-Term Housing Facilities
Permanent Housing Facilities	Short-Term Rental, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance

## Who HOPWA Serves

HOPWA provides housing assistance to over 60,000 households with an individual living with HIV. **9 out of 10** HOPWA housing beneficiaries have extremely low or very low incomes. Among new clients served in 2011, over **4,500** (15 percent) were homeless and of all clients nearly **2,800** were veterans. An additional **30,800** clients were assisted with leveraged housing funds.

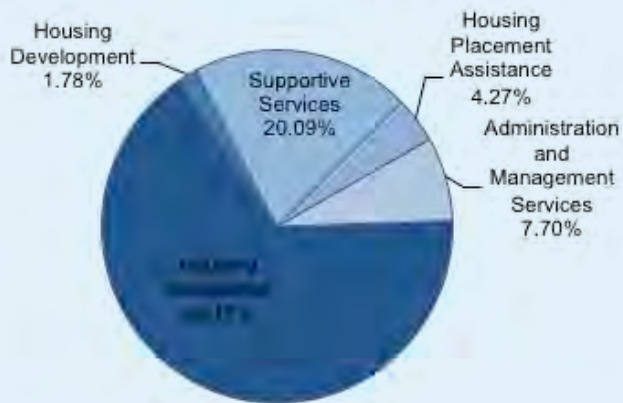
Over **40%** of beneficiaries are female and almost **one-fifth** are under 18 years of age. The racial and ethnic composition of HOPWA housing recipients reflects the disparate impact of HIV on minorities: over **62%** of persons receiving HOPWA housing identify as Black or African American and nearly **20%** identify as having Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. Over **40%** of beneficiaries are female and almost **20%** are under 18 years of age.

## How HOPWA Delivers

The HOPWA delivery system is a network of over 950 HIV providers with expertise in client outreach, housing operations, case management, and other services to address the complex issues of PLWHA and their families.

### Expenditures

by Type of Activity

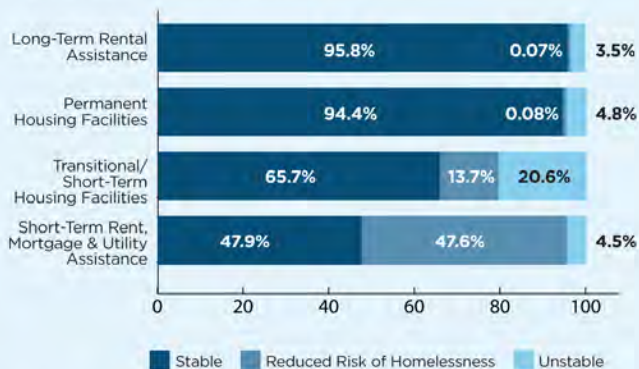


## Increasing Access to Housing and Health Care

HOPWA providers report annually on various program achievements, such as the type of housing assistance provided, the number of households served, and measurements of how connected households are to care. Clients achieve a high rate of stability with 95% of those receiving permanent housing remaining stably housed.

### Outcomes

by Type of Housing Assistance



- 87% of HOPWA's beneficiaries had contact with a health care provider.
- 86% have access to and maintained health insurance.

## Moving Forward

HUD is an integral member of the federal team implementing the National HIV/AIDS Strategy released in July 2010. The Strategy's goals are:



- Reducing HIV incidence
- Increasing access to care and optimizing health outcomes
- Reducing HIV-related health disparities

HUD is working with HHS to create common indicators to track our clients in an effort to better understand and address their needs.

HOPWA's "Getting to Work" employment initiative, developed in collaboration with the US Department of Labor, will assist HOPWA housing and service providers to increase their ability to directly deliver employment services or build strong connections to existing mainstream services.

## Find Out More At These Sessions

- 7/23 at 12:30 to 2:30:**  
Amy Richter, the Project Manager for HOPWA Data Verification and Analysis will be answering questions at her HOPWA data verification poster.
- 7/24 at 12:30 to 2:30:**  
David Vos, Director of the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing, will be answering questions at the HOPWA access to care poster.
- 7/24 at 2:30 to 6:00:**  
Learn how to develop a housing Continuum of Care for Persons with HIV in Mini Room 4 with our technical assistance providers.
- 7/26 at 12:30 to 2:30:**  
Angela Aidala will be answering questions about her poster that discusses housing status and the health of people living with HIV.
- 7/28 at 10:00 to 3:15:**  
Be part of a stakeholder discussion on employment and HIV/AIDS at the Department of Labor. You must register by July 27<sup>th</sup> at <http://webapps.dol.gov/DOLEvents/Event/View/85/Institute-on-HIVAIDS-and-Employment>.

## For More Information Contact

**Office of HIV/AIDS Housing**  
Email [HOPWA@HUD.GOV](mailto:HOPWA@HUD.GOV)  
[www.HUDHRE.info/HOPWA](http://www.HUDHRE.info/HOPWA)  
and at: [www.AIDS.GOV](http://www.AIDS.GOV)



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