

## Administrative Amendment to the 2014 State of Texas Consolidated Plan, One Year Action Plan for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program

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The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has prepared an administrative amendment to the 2014 State of Texas Consolidated Plan, One Year Action Plan, for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) in accordance with the State’s citizen participation plan and the requirements of 24 CFR part 91. Since DSHS will not develop new activities or change the method of distribution connected to the 2014 annual action plan, the State of Texas is not required to substantially amend the 2015-2019 State of Texas Consolidated Plan. Instead, DSHS will submit an administrative amendment.

### Detail on the HOPWA Amendment

Based on information from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD’s) Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS), the State of Texas has a balance of \$521,520.30 from fiscal year (FY) 2014 to commit to activities. In total, the State has \$521,520.30 of pre-2015 funds to draw from IDIS. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and HUD are working to extend the period of performance for the HOPWA 2014 grant so that DSHS may commit the unused funds to activities connected to the 2014 annual action plan and liquidate the 2014 fund balance. DSHS will submit a request and spend-down plan to HUD to extend the period of performance for the FY 2014 HOPWA formula grant until May 31st, 2020 in order to spend down the 2014 fund balance and assist eligible households. Based on historical expenditure data, DSHS plans to liquidate the 2014 fund balance within a three-month period starting on May 1st, 2018 during the HOPWA 2018 program year (02/01/2018 – 01/31/2019).

The expenditure outputs in the initial 2014 annual action plan will be subject to reallocation. DSHS will allocate unused 2014 funds to the following activities in the HOPWA 2018 program year:

HOPWA Activity	2014 Allocations	Percent of Allocation	Additional Households
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	\$331,088.59	63.49%	84
Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility (STRMU)	\$68,689.93	13.17%	83
Permanent Housing Placement (PHP)	\$1,322.02	0.25%	3
Supportive Services	\$89,377.44	17.14%	164
Project Sponsor Administration	+ \$31,042.32	5.95%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$521,520.30</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

The use of these 2014 HOPWA funds will be reported on in future CAPERS.

## **Action Plan: Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS**

Situated within a comprehensive network of HIV care services, the Texas HOPWA Formula program addresses the unmet housing and supportive services needs of PLWH and their families in Texas by providing housing assistance and supportive services to income-eligible individuals. These services are integrated with the larger Ryan White Program both in administration and service delivery, which in turn is integrated into the larger, multi-sectoral system for delivering treatment and care to these clients. The goals of the HOPWA program are to help low-income HIV-positive clients establish or maintain affordable and stable housing, to reduce the risk of homelessness, and to improve access to health care and supportive services. Housing is consistently cited as a service gap in every service area in Texas.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, a housing-specific goal of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States is to increase the percentage of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program clients with permanent housing from 82% to 86% by 2015.<sup>2</sup>

The HOPWA Formula program is administered by the TB/HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis Unit - HIV/STD Prevention and Care Services Branch of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and provides the following services (91.320(d) and (e)):

### **TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE (TBRA) PROGRAM**

The TBRA program provides tenant-based rental assistance to eligible individuals until they are able to secure other affordable and stable housing.

### **SHORT-TERM RENT, MORTGAGE, AND UTILITIES (STRMU) ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The STRMU program provides emergency short-term rent, mortgage, and utility payments to eligible individuals for a maximum of 21 weeks of assistance in a 52-week period for the sole purpose of stabilizing currently-existing permanent housing to prevent homelessness

### **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM**

The Supportive Services program provides case management, basic telephone service and assistance to purchase smoke detectors to eligible individuals.

### **PERMANENT HOUSING PLACEMENT SERVICES (PHP)**

The PHP program provides assistance for housing placement costs which may include application fees, related credit checks, and reasonable security deposits necessary to move persons into permanent housing.

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<sup>1</sup> 2008-2010 Texas Statement of Coordinated Need

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/NHAS.pdf>, July 2010

## **ANNUAL PROGRAM GOALS**

DSHS estimates that 425 households can be provided with STRMU assistance; 400 households can be provided TBRA (tenant-based rental assistance); 825 can be provided with supportive services; and 13 households can be provided PHP (permanent housing placement) during the 2014 program year.

## **PROJECT SPONSOR SELECTION PROCESS**

DSHS selects seven Administrative Agencies (AAs) across the State through a combination of competitive Requests for Proposals (RFP) and intergovernmental agency contracts. The AAs act as an administrative arm for DSHS, with DSHS oversight, by administering the HOPWA program locally.

These AAs in turn select HOPWA Project Sponsors through local competitive processes that are open to all grassroots, faith-based, and community-based organizations, and governmental agencies. Each AA contracts with one or more Project Sponsors who directly provide HOPWA services to eligible clients throughout the State's 26 HIV Service Delivery Areas (HSDA). Some Project Sponsors may change during a program year due to local competitive processes and/or contract revisions.

## **PROGRAM BUDGET**

DSHS typically reserves less than 3% of the total award for administrative and indirect costs, including, personnel, supplies, travel, training/technical assistance, and contractual support for the AIDS Regional Information and Evaluation System (ARIES) in order to direct more funding to Project Sponsors for HOPWA activities. Project Sponsors are allowed up to 7% of their allocation for personnel or other administrative costs. The funding allocation is distributed geographically by HSDA and is based on a formula including HIV/AIDS morbidity, poverty level, and population distribution with adjustments based on prior performance and periodic adjustments for Project Sponsor funding needs.

Texas HOPWA contracts were previously executed based on 2013 level funding of \$2,724,029 for the project year that began 2/1/2014. HUD recently announced the 2014 awards, for which the Texas HOPWA Program will receive \$2,922,632, resulting in an increase of \$198,603 over the 2013 award. DSHS is currently working with the Administrative Agencies and Project Sponsors to determine and prioritize need, revise the budget, and amend contracts to allocate additional funding up to the 2014 allocation of \$2,922,632. Allocations are always subject to revisions based on funding approval, DSHS-approved reallocations, and/or contract changes. The following is a summary of the original allocated amounts for 2014 based on the 2013 award:

Line Item	Amount
TBRA	\$1,776,925
STRMU	\$339,881
Permanent Housing Placement	\$9,775
Supportive Services	\$417,109
Project Sponsor Administration (up to 7%)	\$154,964
Contractual Subtotal	\$2,698,654
DSHS Administration (indirect costs) (up to 3%) Subtotal	\$25,375
<b>Grant Total</b>	<b>\$2,724,029</b>

**NOTE:** Per the 2017 administrative amendment to the 2014 annual action plan, the allocations in the table above have changed in order for DSHS to liquidate the 2014 fund balance of \$521,520.30 and assist eligible households. DSHS will reallocate \$331,088.59 to TBRA, \$68,689.93 to STRMU, \$1,322.02 to PHP, \$89,377.44 to Supportive Services, and \$31,042.32 to Project Sponsor Administration.

#### **GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION**

§91.320(f) and (k)

The funding allocations are geographically distributed across the State to the 26 HSDAs and all 254 Texas counties.

#### **CLIENT PARTICIPATION**

Clients participate in shaping local approaches to meeting housing needs in three ways:

All areas conduct periodic needs assessment of client needs, and assessment of housing needs are included in such assessments. These assessments vary in methodology and depth with which housing needs are explored, which is appropriate given the varying needs for housing assistance in various areas of the State. Additionally, all Ryan White Part A councils in Texas have either completed special assessments of homeless persons or persons at risk for homelessness, or will be completing such assessments in the future. Assessments in all EMAs are joint Ryan White Part A and Part B assessments.

All planning areas in the State must have options for community members, including clients, to have input into local priorities, allocations, and plans. All plans include discussions of how best to deliver services to meet the needs identified in assessments, and plans that prioritize expenditures on housing or identify housing needs that would include discussions of how best to meet these needs. Plans are written on three to four-year cycles, but reviewed annually. Local community outreach and collaboration with other agencies and local housing authorities are priority initiatives, as well.

Finally, clients shape housing services via direct interactions with service providers. Through the intake system, HIV clients are informed about the HOPWA program, assisted with the application, or referred directly to the HOPWA Project Sponsor. Clients' housing needs are also assessed regularly with case managers as circumstances change and as determined by clients' housing plans.

**OUTCOME MEASURES**

24 CFR §91.320(c)(3), §91.320(e) and §91.320(g)

DSHS HOPWA contractors must address the following outcomes pursuant to the performance measurement outcome system mandated by HUD:

**Annual Action Plan – 2014 Planned Project Results**

<b>Outcomes and Objectives</b>	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Expected Number</b>	<b>Activity Description</b>
DH-2	# of households served	400	TBRA housing assistance
DH-2	# of households served	425	STRMU housing assistance
DH-2	# of households served	825	Supportive Services (restricted to case mgt., smoke detectors, and phone service)
DH-1	# of households served	13	Permanent Housing Placement (security deposits, application fees, credit checks)
Key	Availability/Accessibility	Affordability	Sustainability
Decent Housing	DH-1	DH-2	DH-3

**NOTE:** Per the 2017 administrative amendment to the 2014 annual action plan, the allocations in the goals above have changed in order for DSHS to liquidate the 2014 fund balance of \$521,520.30 and assist eligible households. DSHS will serve an additional 84 households with TBRA services, 83 households with STRMU services, 3 households with PHP services, and 164 households with Supportive Services.

**2014 HOPWA Special Needs Goals**

<b>ANNUAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING GOALS</b>	<b>Expected Annual Number of Individuals Served with Housing Assistance</b>
Special needs households new to program (Veterans and/or Chronically Homeless)	10