

# Houston's Ryan White Planning Council

## ABOUT THE COUNCIL...

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The Houston Area HIV Services Ryan White Planning Council will improve the quality of life and advocate for those living with and/or affected with HIV by taking a leadership role in the planning and assessment of HIV resources.**

### **VISION STATEMENT**

**We envision an educated community where the needs of all people living with and/or affected by HIV are met by accessible, effective, and culturally sensitive health and psychosocial services that are part of a fully coordinated system. The community will continue to intervene responsibly until the end of the epidemic.**

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 is divided into five major sections: Part A, B, C, D and F. The Houston Area Ryan White Planning Council is responsible for activities under Part A and makes recommendations regarding Part B and State Services funding. In 2021, these funds totaled approximately 30 million dollars.

Houston's Council is a 35-40 member volunteer planning group comprised of community members who have been appointed by the Chief Elected Official (CEO), Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, to serve a two-year term. The CEO is the person who officially receives the Ryan White Program Part A funds and the appointment of the Planning Council is a requirement in order to receive that funding.

Council members, in collaboration with consumers, service providers and other experts, determine what services are most needed by people living with HIV in the Houston Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA). The Council then prioritizes those services and decides the best way to allocate Houston's grant award to fund the service categories.

The Council is also responsible for making recommendations regarding Standards of Care for each of the funded service categories and for working with other local stakeholders to develop a Comprehensive Plan for all HIV services in the community.

The Council does not directly fund or contract with agencies to provide client services. The Administrative Agent, Ryan White Grant Administration, a department of Harris County Public Health, is responsible for contracting with agencies according to the service descriptions, priorities, and allocations determined by the Council in order to acquire services for people living with HIV in Harris and the nine surrounding Counties.