

RYAN WHITE PROGRAM DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACTG	AIDS Clinical Trials Group. A network of medical centers around the country in which federally-funded clinical trials are conducted to test the safety and efficiency of experimental treatments for HIV; studies funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).
Adherence	The word adherence comes from the word “adhere.” To adhere to something means to stick to or stay with something. Adherence is very important when taking your HIV medications.
Administrative Agent	Organization, agent or other entity (e.g., public health department, community-based organization) which functions in political jurisdictions within Part A EMAs to assist the grantee in carrying out administrative activities (i.e., disbursing program funds, developing reimbursement and accounting systems, developing Requests for Proposals [RFPs], monitoring contracts, etc.). Not all grantees use a separate administrative agent.
AETC	AIDS Education and Training Center. Regional centers providing education and training for primary care professionals and other HIV-related personnel; authorized under Part F of the CARE Act. https://aidsetc.org/
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. AIDS, currently referred to as Stage 3 HIV, is the most advanced stage of HIV.
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy. These are the medications that work to prevent HIV from copying itself in your body. Other names for these medications are ARVs or HAART.
ASO	AIDS Service Organization. An organization that provides medical or support services primarily or exclusively to populations living with and affected by HIV.
Capacity Building	Process to increase the skills, infrastructure, and resources of individuals, organizations, and communities. Capacity building is a key strategy for the promotion, delivery, and sustainability of HIV prevention programs. As a result of capacity building on HIV prevention programs, the programs will (1) operate optimally and (2) increase their capacity to effectively deliver evidence-based interventions and core public health strategies for HIV prevention.
CARE Act	Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act. The Federal legislation created to address the health and service needs of people living with HIV and their families in the US; enacted in 1990 and reauthorized in 1996 and 2000. In 2006, Congress passed the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act, extending the CARE Act for an additional three years. In 2009, Congress

	passed the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act, extending the CARE Act for four more years.
CBO	Community-Based Organization. An organization which provides services to locally defined populations, which may or may not include populations living with or affected by HIV.
CD4	CD4 cells are immune cells that the HIV attacks. Sometimes they are also called T-cells or helper T-cells. The higher your CD4 count, the stronger your immune system is.
CD4 Count	This is a measure of the CD4 cells in your body. Your CD4 count tells your doctor how strong your immune system is. A person with a CD4 count of less than 200 is said to have Stage 3 HIV (previously referred to as AIDS).
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that administers HIV prevention programs, including the HIV Prevention Community Planning process, among other programs; responsible for monitoring and reporting of all infectious diseases; administers HIV surveillance grants and publishes epidemiological reports such as the HIV Surveillance Report.
CEO	Chief Executive Official. The official recipient of Part A CARE Act funds within the EMA, usually the mayor or chair of the county board of supervisors. The CEO is ultimately responsible for administering all aspects of the CARE Act in the EMA and ensuring that all legal requirements are met. In EMAs with more than one political jurisdiction, the recipient of Part A CARE Act funds is the CEO of the city or urban county that administers the public health agency that provides outpatient and ambulatory services to the greatest number of people with AIDS in the EMA.
Collaboration	Working with another person, organization, or group for mutual benefit by exchanging information, sharing resources, or enhancing the other's capacity—often to achieve a common goal or purpose.
Community Members	1) consumers/members of the priority population that are receiving services, or 2) people who are not affiliated with organizations but are living with or affected by HIV and have a passion to address HIV.
Comprehensive Planning	The process of determining the organization and delivery of HIV services; strategy used by a planning council to improve decision-making about services and maintain a continuum of care for people living with HIV.
Conflict of Interest	Conflict between the private interests and public obligations of a person in an official position.

Continuum of Care	An approach that helps communities plan for and provide a full range of emergency and long-term service resources to address the various needs of people living with HIV.
Core Services	Ryan White Part A, B, and C grantees must spend at least 75% of funds on "core medical services." These services include outpatient and ambulatory health services; pharmaceutical assistance; substance use outpatient treatment services; oral health; medical nutritional therapy; health insurance premium assistance; home health care; hospice services; mental health services; early intervention services; and medical case management, including treatment adherence services. The remaining funds may be spent on Support Services.
Cost-effectiveness	The relative costs and effectiveness of proposed strategies and interventions, either demonstrated or probable.
CPCDMS	Centralized Patient Care Data Management System. A de-identified computer database that allows Part A-funded providers to share client eligibility information while maintaining client confidentiality. Information collected includes demographics, co-morbidities, biological markers, mortality and service utilization data. Since its inception in June of 2000, over 13,000 clients have been registered in the CPCDMS. In addition, the CPCDMS has been the foundation upon which evaluation and quality management activities in the EMA were built.
Culturally appropriate	Conforming to a culture's acceptable expressions and standards of behavior and thoughts. Interventions and educational materials are more likely to be culturally appropriate when representatives of the intended target audience are involved in planning, developing, and pilot testing them.
DSHS	Texas Department of State Health Services
EIIHA	Early Identification of Individuals with HIV/AIDS. Identifying, counseling, testing, informing, and referring of diagnosed and undiagnosed individuals to appropriate services, as well as linking newly diagnosed HIV positive individuals to care.
ECHPP	Enhanced Comprehensive HIV Prevention Planning. A 3-year demonstration project funded by CDC's Division of HIV Prevention (DHP) for the 12 municipalities with the highest number of people living with AIDS in the US. As part of the response to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS), the ECHPP project supports the 12 Cities Project which is directed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
EMA	Eligible Metropolitan Area. The geographic area eligible to receive Part A funds. The boundaries of the metropolitan area are defined

	<p>by the Census Bureau. Eligibility is determined by AIDS cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).</p> <p>Some EMAs include just one city, other EMAs are composed of several cities and/or counties; and some EMAs extend over more than one state.</p> <p>The Houston EMA is a 6- county area comprised of Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Liberty, Chambers and Waller Counties.</p>
Epidemic	The spread of an infectious disease through a population or geographic area.
Formula Grant Application	The application used by EMAs and States each year to request an amount of CARE Act funding which is determined by a formula based on the number of reported AIDS cases in their location and other factors. The application includes guidance from DHS on program requirements and expectations.
FY	Fiscal Year. The fiscal year for Ryan White Part A funds is March 1 through February 28. The fiscal year for Part B and State Services funds runs from September 1 through August 31 (subject to change by the State).
Grantee	<p>Another term for the recipient of Part A funds. As the official recipient of those funds in the EMA, the CEO is the grantee. However, the CEO usually delegates his or her authority to administer Part A funds to an organizational unit within the city or county government (e.g., the county health department). Often, this entity is also referred to as the grantee.</p> <p>Use of the terms CEO and grantee helps to distinguish between the person ultimately responsible for the CARE Act grant (the CEO) and the entity which actually carries out the day-to-day operations associated with it (the grantee).</p> <p>In the Houston EMA, the Harris County Judge is the CEO and the grantee is the Harris County Health Department</p>
Harm Reduction	Harm reduction is any behavior or strategy that helps to reduce risk or harm to yourself and others. For example, to reduce your risk of getting HIV you can practice safer sex by using condoms or taking PrEP, and practice safer drug use by using clean needles.
HAART	Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy. Some people may refer to your ART regimen as HAART.
HHD	Houston Health Department
HIV	HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. HIV attacks CD4 cells and uses their machinery to make copies of itself.
Homeless	Individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including those who live in locations not meant for

	human habitation such as public parks and streets, those who live in or are transitioning from temporary housing or shelters, and those who have persistent housing instability.
HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS. A program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development which provides funding to support housing for people living with and their families. Locally, HOPWA funds are administered by the City of Houston Department of Housing and Community Development.
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration. The agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that is responsible for administering the Ryan White Program.
HTBMN	How to Best Meet the Need. A process of the Planning Council's Quality Improvement Committee where all of the funded service categories are reviewed and/or updated by workgroups comprised of Council and community members.
PWIDU	Persons with injection drug use as a risk factor for acquiring HIV. Individuals who inject medications or drugs, including illegal drugs, hormones, and cosmetics.
IGA	Inter-Governmental Agreement. A written agreement between a Part A grantee and another governmental agency in the EMA; these agreements usually address the allocation of funds across agencies or jurisdictions.
Immune System	The immune system is the body's infection fighter. It helps the body fight all kinds of illnesses including colds, flu, pneumonia and viruses such as HIV. The immune system is made up of many different types of cells that interact with each other and work together to serve as our defense against bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites that cause infectious illnesses.
Incidence	The number of new cases of a disease that occur during a specified time period.
Incidence Rate	The number of cases of a disease per population per specified time period often expressed per 100,000 population (HIV rates are often expressed this way).
Intervention	A specific activity, or set of related activities, intended to change the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, behaviors, or practices of individuals and populations to reduce their health risks. An intervention has distinct process and outcome objectives and a protocol outlining the steps for implementation.

IRR or I/RR	Incarcerated or Recently Released. Individuals who are currently incarcerated in the jail or prison system or have been released from jail or prison within the past 12 months.
Linkage to Care	Post-referral verification that care/services were accessed by an individual diagnosed with HIV being referred into care.
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area. The geographic area designated to receive CDC prevention funds.
MSM	Men who have sex with men, also referred to as same gender loving men.
MSMOC	Men of color who have sex with men.
Needs Assessment	A systematic process to determine the service needs of a defined population; a definition of the extent of need, available services, and service gaps by population and geographic area.
Opportunistic Infection	Opportunistic infections (OIs) are those infections that may harm the body when the immune system is weakened. When the immune system is strong and not weakened by HIV, it fights off OIs. Some examples of OIs include pneumocystitis pneumonia (PCP), thrush, mycobacterium avium complex (MAC), shingles and toxoplasmosis.
Out of Care	HRSA defines an individual as “out-of-care” if they have not had a CD4 count or viral load test, been prescribed antiretroviral therapy (ART) and have not had a primary care visit in the previous 12 months.
Part A	The part of the CARE Act that provides emergency assistance to localities (EMAs) disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic.
Part B	The part of the CARE Act that enables States and territories to improve the quality, availability, and organization of health care and support services to individuals living with HIV and their families.
Part C	The part of the CARE Act that supports primary medical care and early intervention services to people living with HIV through grants to service organizations.
Part D	The part of the CARE Act that supports research and services for children living with HIV and their families and the HIV Dental Reimbursement Program.
Part F	The part of the CARE Act that funds AETC, SPNS.
Planning Council	A planning body appointed or established by the Chief Elected Official of an EMA whose basic function is to establish a plan for the delivery of HIV care services in the EMA and establish priorities for the use of CARE Act funds.
PLWH	Person/People Living with HIV.

Prevalence	The total number of persons living with a specific disease or condition at a given time.
Prevalence Rate	The proportion of a population living at a given time with a condition or disease (compared to the incidence rate, which refers to new cases).
Prevention Activity	Activity that focuses on behavioral interventions, structural interventions, capacity building, or information gathering.
Prevention Services	Interventions, strategies, programs, and structures designed to change behavior that may lead to HIV or other diseases. Examples of HIV prevention services include street outreach, educational sessions, condom distribution, and mentoring and counseling programs.
Priority Setting	The process used by a planning council or consortium to prioritize service categories, to ensure consistency with locally identified needs, and to address how best to meet each priority.
Public Health Surveillance	An ongoing, systematic process of collecting, analyzing and using data on specific health conditions and diseases (e.g., the CDC's surveillance system for HIV cases).
QA	Quality Assurance. A broad spectrum of evaluation activities aimed at ensuring compliance with minimum quality standards.
QI	Quality Improvement. Activities aimed at improving performance.
Qualitative Data	<p>Non-numeric data, including information from sources such as narrative behavior studies, focus group interviews, open-ended interviews, direct observations, ethnographic studies, and documents.</p> <p>Findings from these sources are usually described in terms of underlying meanings, common themes, and patterns of relationships. Qualitative data often complement and help explain quantitative data.</p>
Quantitative Data	Numeric information—such as numbers, rates, and percentages—representing counts or measurements suitable for statistical analysis.
Resource Allocation	The legislatively mandated responsibility of planning councils to assign CARE Act dollars or percentages across specific service categories, using key information such as documented need, defined service priorities and other resources as part of the process.
RFP	Request For Proposal. An open and competitive process for selecting providers of services (sometimes called <i>RFA</i> or <i>Request for Application</i>).
Risk Factor or Risk Behavior	Behavior or other factor that places a person at risk for disease. For example, drug use is a factor that increases risk of acquiring HIV

	infection, and factors such as sharing injection drug use equipment, unprotected anal or vaginal sexual contact, and commercial unprotected sex increase the risk of acquiring HIV.
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The entity within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that administers alcohol, substance abuse and mental health programs.
SCSN	Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need. A written statement of HIV-related service needs for the entire State; the SCSN is developed through a process that includes representatives of all CARE Act Parts, providers, people living with HIV, and public health agencies.
Seroconversion	The development of detectable antibodies to HIV in the blood as a result of infection. It normally takes several weeks to several months for antibodies to the virus to develop after HIV transmission. When antibodies to HIV appear in the blood, a person will test positive in the standard ELISA test for HIV.
Seroprevalence	The number of persons in a population who test HIV-positive based on serology (blood serum) specimens; often presented as a percent of the total specimens tested or as a rate per 100,000 persons tested.
Seroprevalence Report	A report that provides information about the percent or rate of people in specific testing groups and populations who have been diagnosed with HIV.
Side Effects	Side effects are the unwanted effects that your medications can cause. Common side effects of ART are nausea, vomiting and fatigue, among many others.
SIRR	Serving the Incarcerated and Recently Released Partnership. SIRR is a project of The Resource Group. It started in 2009, building upon the local discharge planning pilot project between the Harris County Sheriff's Office, Houston Area Community Services, Legacy Community Health Services and the Houston Ryan White Part A Grant Administration. The group meets on the 4 th Wednesday of the month.
SPNS	Special Projects of National Significance. A health services demonstration, research and evaluation program funded under Part F of the CARE Act. SPNS projects are awarded competitively.
Socioeconomic Status	A description of a person's societal status using factors or measurements such as income levels, relationship to the national poverty line, educational achievement, neighborhood of residence, or home ownership.

Stakeholder	A person or representative who has personal or professional experience, skills, resources, or expertise in HIV.
STDs	Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are also known as venereal diseases (VDs) or sexually transmitted infections (STIs). STDs are diseases or infections that you can transmit between humans by means of sexual contact such as vaginal intercourse, oral sex and anal sex. Practicing safe sex or harm reduction techniques can decrease your chances of getting STDs.
Support Services	Ryan White grantees must spend at least 75% of funds on core medical services. The remaining funds may be spent on support services, defined as services needed to achieve outcomes that affect the HIV-related clinical status of a person living with HIV. HRSA outlines support services as outreach, medical transportation, language services, respite care for persons caring for individuals living with HIV and referrals for health care and other support services.
Surveillance	The ongoing and systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of data about occurrences of a disease or health condition.
TA	Technical Assistance. The delivery of expert programmatic, scientific, and technical support to organizations and communities in the design, implementation, and evaluation of HIV programs.
Target Population	A population to be reached through some action or intervention; may refer to groups with specific demographic (e.g. Latino, Women, Youth) or geographic characteristics (e.g. rural, specific zip code).
TGA	Transitional Grant Area. Geographic areas highly-impacted by HIV that are eligible to receive Ryan White Program Part A funds. To be an eligible TGA, an area must have reported at least 1,000 but fewer than 2,000 new AIDS cases in the most recent 5 years. (See also EMA)
Transgender	Individuals who cross or transcend culturally-defined categories of gender.
Transmission Category	A grouping of disease exposure and infection routes; in relation to HIV, exposure groupings include PWIDU, MSM, heterosexual contact, perinatal (mother to child) transmission, etc.
Unmet Need	Individuals diagnosed with HIV but with no evidence of care for 12 months.
Viral Load	Viral load is a test to measure the amount of HIV in your blood. Your doctor often uses this test to see how well your anti-retroviral medications are working.