

## Ways to Participate...

### ✂ **Attend a Meeting...**

All meetings are open to the general public and although only Council members are allowed to vote, public comment is always welcome. Call 713-572-3724 to put your name on the list for public comment, to request a calendar or for more information.

### ✂ **Apply for Membership...**

Applications are available for both Council and External membership. Call 713-572-3724 to request one or both applications.

### ✂ **Be a Participant...**

Voice your opinion at meetings, public hearings, focus groups or on surveys. Check the calendar regularly for topics of specific interest to you.

**The Council calendar, publications and a wealth of other information is available on our website:**

**[www.rwpcHouston.org](http://www.rwpcHouston.org)**



## **What kind of HIV medical & support services do Ryan White Program funds provide?**

- ✂ Ambulatory Outpatient Medical Care
- ✂ Case Management
- ✂ Adult Day Care
- ✂ Dental Care
- ✂ Early Intervention Services
- ✂ Health Insurance Co-Payments and Co-Insurance
- ✂ Home Health Care
- ✂ Hospice Services
- ✂ Legal Assistance (criminal matters are NOT eligible)
- ✂ Local Medication Program
- ✂ Mental Health Services
- ✂ Nutritional Supplements
- ✂ Referral
- ✂ Rehabilitation Care
- ✂ Substance Abuse Treatment
- ✂ Transportation to Medical Appointments

### **Council Publications**

The Blue Book HIV/AIDS Resource Guide  
Houston Area HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Plan  
Houston Area HIV/AIDS Needs Assessment  
Various Special Studies

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# **Ryan White Planning Council**



## **Planning Council Participation & Membership**

**[www.rwpcHouston.org](http://www.rwpcHouston.org)**

# Ryan White Planning Council



## Overview of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act

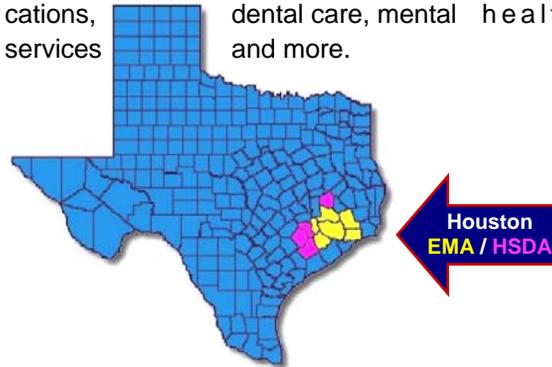
The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006 is a Federal law that was first passed by Congress in 1990 as the Ryan White CARE Act. The Ryan White Program provides Federal government funds, which are used to develop systems of care and to pay for medical and supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. It specifically identifies who can receive this money and describes how the money can be used and is divided into five major parts: A, B, C, D and F. Houston's Ryan White Planning Council is responsible for activities under Part A and makes recommendations for Part B and State Services funding.

Part A funds go to areas that have been hit hardest by the HIV epidemic. These areas are called **eligible metropolitan areas (EMAs)** and are usually cities or counties. The grant goes to the **chief elected official (CEO)** of the major city or county in the EMA. In the Houston EMA, the CEO is the County Judge. The EMA is comprised of six counties: Chambers, Fort Bend, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller.

Part B funds are awarded to the State of Texas and are used to serve the HSDA which includes the EMA and four additional counties:

Austin, Colorado, Walker and Wharton.

Annually, the Houston area receives approximately \$24 million to be used for services such as: outpatient primary medical care, medications, dental care, mental health services and more.



(See back for a complete listing of services)

## Council Roles & Responsibilities

Before the EMA can receive Part A money the CEO must appoint a planning council. Houston's Council is a 40 member volunteer planning group comprised of community members who have been appointed by the CEO to serve a two-year term.

The Council decides what services are most needed in the EMA and HSDA (**set priorities**), decides how much money should be used for each of these services (**resource allocation**) and develops a plan to provide the services (**comprehensive plan**). These decisions must be based on an evaluation of the needs of people living with HIV (**needs assessment**). The planning council has the responsibility to encourage, recruit, recognize, accommodate and support the participation of people living with HIV on the planning council.

## Planning Council Membership

The CEO appoints individuals to the planning council who have a wide range of viewpoints and expertise including health care providers, public health officials, people of various race, ethnic background and sexual orientation.. At least one-third of the members of the planning council must be people living with HIV. These members bring the consumers' point of view to planning council discussions. The Council elects officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary) to serve a one year term.

The Chair of the Planning Council assigns each member to work on one or more of the five standing committees. Committees include: Affected Community, Comprehensive HIV Planning, Operations, Priority and Allocations and Quality Assurance.



Committee members will typically commit four to six hours a month to attend committee meetings and related activities, such as special workgroups. Full Council members will commit an additional two hours per month for Planning Council meetings.