

**Las Vegas Transitional Grant Area
Planning Council**
Housing Standards of Care



Originated	Ratified	Revised
March 2011	November 2012	May 2016

1. HRSA Service Definition

Housing services provide limited short-term assistance to support emergency, temporary, or transitional housing to enable a client or family to gain or maintain outpatient/ambulatory health services. Housing-related referral services include assessment, search, placement, advocacy, and the fees associated with these services.

Housing services are transitional in nature and for the purposes of moving or maintaining a client or family in a long-term, stable living situation. Therefore, such assistance cannot be provided on a permanent basis and must be accompanied by a strategy to identify, relocate, and/or ensure the client or family is moved to, or capable of maintaining, a long-term, stable living situation.

Eligible housing can include housing that provides some type of medical or supportive services (such as residential substance use disorder services or mental health services, residential foster care, or assisted living residential services) and housing that does not provide direct medical or supportive services, but is essential for a client or family to gain or maintain access to and compliance with HIV-related outpatient/ambulatory health services and treatment.

1.2 Key Definitions

The Las Vegas Transitional Grant Area (TGA) has designated the following definitions in an effort to standardize language across all programs for both the community being served and the staff providing these services.

As used herein, the term:

Grantee: Ryan White Part A Las Vegas TGA-Clark County Social Services.

Client: includes the terms “patient” and “consumer”.

Provider: includes the terms “service provider”; “agency”; “organization” and “subgrantee”.

2. Service Goals and Objectives

2.1 Las Vegas Transitional Grant Area (TGA) Housing Service Goal:

To assist homeless and marginally housed PLWH/A in the Las Vegas TGA to secure housing so that they can access and maintain health care and supportive services

2.2 Las Vegas Transitional Grant Area (TGA) Housing Service Objectives:

1. To provide financial assistance to clients that are in need of short term rent assistance as they transition from one residence to another.
2. To provide financial assistance to new clients that are in need of short term rent assistance as they transition from one residence to another

3. Key Services

1. One housing related visit
2. One day of housing assistance

4. Eligibility

4.1 Part A

The following eligibility criteria is to be used for determining if a client is eligible for Part A services. This documentation must be verified during each eligibility assessment and re-assessment period. Every potential Part A client must have an initial eligibility assessment to ensure that they are eligible to receive a Part A service and will undergo an eligibility re-assessment every six months to ensure that the client's status has not changed. All Part A clients must meet the following criteria regardless of their service needs to be eligible for Part A services.

1. Proof of HIV Infection
2. Proof of Nevada or Arizona Residency
3. Proof of Identification
4. Proof of Household
5. Proof of Income Level
6. Asset Test (Regarding Income Determination)
7. Miscellaneous Provisions

4.2 Housing

The following eligibility is for any client determined eligible for Part A services but must also meet the criteria specific for this service category.

Clients are to be referred to Housing program from another Ryan White funded program after

Part A eligibility is determined.

Eligible utilization of service

Clients must present the housing/leasing agreement or appropriate documentation of monthly housing costs, and demonstrate the inability to pay in order to receive Housing assistance. Additionally, in order to be eligible, the person or a member of the resident household must present evidence that he/she is a named tenant under a valid lease or he/she is a legal resident of the premise. Assistance is subject to the availability of funding.

Housing services funds cannot be in the form of direct cash payments to client and cannot be used for mortgage payments.

5. Baseline Evaluation

Housing Service Activities

Short-term housing payments must be carefully monitored by the provider to assure limited amounts, limited use, and for limited periods of time. Prior to receiving Housing assistance the provider shall assist the client in seeking at least two (2) alternate funding sources in the community.

Clients receiving Housing assistance must also have a Housing Plan documented in the client chart. It should, at a minimum, include the following:

- Identified issues
- Goal/objective
- Service provided
- Client Monthly Budget
- Service start date
- Check amount
- Date the check was prepared
- Recipient of check
- Signature of client and case manager

A request is considered approved when documentation that at least two (2) prior resources have been exhausted is present and confirmation is received from the supervisor that funding is available. Clients eligible for Housing assistance should receive payment within 7 days of approved request.

6. Clients Rights and Confidentiality

All providers' staff should be able to document the following in terms of clients' rights and confidentiality for each Part A funded client that are receiving services. In addition, this

documentation shall be available for program monitoring compliance by the grantee designated staff:

1. All provider staff will attend HIPAA training as well as any State or County confidentiality trainings offered.
2. The provider will provide assurances and a method for protection of client rights in the process of care provision.
3. The provider will provide assurances and a method for protection of client confidentiality (in accordance with Nevada State law as well as with HIPAA) with regard to medical information transmission, maintenance and security.
4. The provider will provide assurances regarding the provision of culturally appropriate care to its clients. Specifically, the providers' staff must have appropriate training, supervision and/or experience with caring for those groups most affected by the epidemic. This training may be provided within the providers' organization as well as any other grantee recommended trainings.
5. Respect, confidentiality and equal access to all clients will be assured.

7. Grievance Procedures-Part A

All providers will ensure that:

1. Each client will receive a copy of a Ryan White Part A grievance procedure upon eligibility and acceptance as a Part A client. The grievance procedure will clearly indicate the process of a grievance regarding Ryan White Part A service(s) only with final appeal directly to the Part A grantee office.
2. Grievance procedures will be signed by each client with a signed copy included in the clients Part A files.
3. The grievance procedure will be reviewed with each client no less than one time annually and no more than two times per year.

8. Client Satisfaction

Client satisfaction surveys as well as other provider methods will be monitored at minimum on an annual basis for each provider site. The program indicator is as follows:

- 75% of clients will report being satisfied or very satisfied with the Ryan White Part A services they have received for their HIV status over the past 12 months.

9. Access, Care Coordination and Provider Continuity

- ❖ All providers, regardless of type of service that they are funded to provide (core or support) will ensure that (medical) case coordination and collaboration between providers will occur in order to ensure that all of the client's needs are being met, identify any potential for needs to go unmet and measure the progress of the clients care.
- ❖ Providers will document the following regarding access to and continuity of care:
 - Care/action plans that will include timeframes for delivery of services (this should be documented in the client's chart).
 - Procedures for making, receiving and tracking referrals to/from other providers must be developed and implemented and will include follow-up procedures.
 - Procedures for providing feedback to referring providers when a client is referred from another provider.
 - For all those providers that are providing Part A services, with the exception of outpatient ambulatory medical services, verification that a client is currently receiving primary medical care should be documented in the client's chart.

10. Fees

All providers must adhere to the negotiated fees as stated in the contract between the provider and the Part A grantee. Any changes to fees, specifically for an increase, must receive prior approval by the grantee in order to assure that the grant can substantiate the increase in costs as well as maintain access for eligible clients. Decrease in fees must also be reported so that expansion to serve more clients can be reviewed and implemented if applicable.

11. Licensing, Knowledge, Skills and Experience

Minimum HS Diploma; college graduate preferred. Should have HIV related experience. If qualified individuals do not have HIV related experience they must receive HIV specific training within six months of hire.

12. Program Data and Reporting

Program data for each Ryan White Part A funded program will be collected and reported through CAREWare, the Ryan White client level data collection system. This data will be used to monitor program progress as well as clinical outcomes. This data should also be reflected in each of the client's individual client charts.

13. Quality Assurance and Service Measures

13.1 Quality Management and Assurance

1. All providers will have written quality-assurance activities and methods that can identify any areas that may require improvement and action steps required to strategically improve these areas.
2. The provider organization will provide for methods to monitor services areas in need of improvement.
3. Regular utilization review of the clinical measures and data for individual clients will be conducted to ensure client's progress is being monitored. Utilization review decisions will be clinically based on best practices and consistent with emerging national standards.

13.2 Service Indicators and Measures

Indicators are used to measure and determine, over time, performance of a particular element of care. Outcomes are benefits or other results (positive or negative) for clients that may occur during or after their participation in a program. The Las Vegas TGA has developed three categories of measures to accurately track compliance vs. client progress vs. overall program performance. All measures will be tracked on an annual basis by grant year in their respective categories, which are; Agency Compliance Indicators, Client Level Outcome Measures, and Overall Program Performance Measures. The intent is that agency compliance with standards of care will improve the overall health and well-being of the clients and improve access to care. The primary method of data collection is CAREWare, in addition to an annual chart review at each agency receiving Part A funding and client satisfaction surveys. Providers should refer to the Las Vegas TGA Quality Management Plan for the most up to date indicators, measures and outcomes.

Agency Compliance Measures for Housing services and their percentage goals are listed next to their respective standards in the Service Standards section. All agencies are expected to uphold the outlined standards to a minimum of the designated percentage goal and annually their compliance will be assessed. Additional standards and guidelines pertinent to each agency regardless of the service categories they provide are outlined in the Universal Monitoring Standards document which will also be assessed annually. Providers should refer to the Las Vegas TGA Quality Management Plan for the most up to date indicators, measures and outcomes.

14. Clinical Standards

The Client Level Outcome Measures are a reflection of our clients progress as they access Housing services. The following Client Level Outcome Measure and percentage goal will be assessed annually:

In Medical Care

- 75% of clients that are in medical care (at least one medical visit per measurement period).

Maintained Adherence to Medical Care

- 75% of clients that maintain adherence to Medical Care visits within the measurement year (at least two medical visits with a provider with prescribing privileges at least three months apart in the measurement year).

Stabilized CD4 T-cell Count

- 75% of clients will stabilize or increase their CD4 T-cell count from initial count within the measurement period.

Most Recent CD4 Stable

- 75% of clients with at least one CD4 T-cell count within the measurement year and those that are considered medically stable (CD4 \geq 200)

Undetectable Viral Load

- 75% of clients that maintained an undetectable viral load or achieved an undetectable viral load from initial count within the measurement period.

Most Recent Viral Load Undetectable

- 75% of clients with at least one viral load within the measurement year will be considered undetectable (<50).

15. Summary

These service specific standards shall be followed by all funded providers that provide Part A funded Housing services. It is expected that all providers follow these standards as well as the universal programmatic and administrative standards of care. Provider organizations and staff may exceed any of these standards as part of the program delivery.

16. Recommendations

All Part A funded providers are to adhere to these service category specific standards, program standards, the primary program standards and ensure that they are familiar with their individual Part A contracts to meet the expectations of their deliverables.

17. References and further reading

All Part A funded providers should read their individual Part A contracts as well as but not limited to the Quality Management Plan and all local policies and guidelines set forth by the Part A office regarding the Part A program in the Las Vegas Transitional Grant Area. All referenced materials for standards are listed under the Universal Programmatic and Administrative Standards of Care.

18. Appendices

Not Applicable.