

# The National AIDS Housing Coalition

## HOPWA 2007 Need

**NAHC recommends \$424 million. Here's why:**

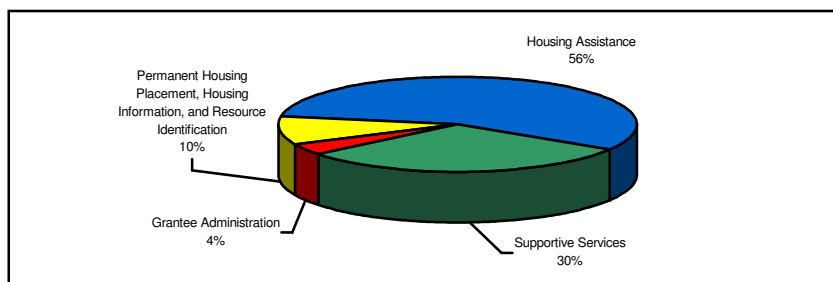
### NAHC 2007 ACTUAL HOPWA Need

Estimated Number of People Living with HIV/AIDS	1,100,000
Number of People living with HIV/AIDS needing some form of housing assistance	50%
Number of Individuals Potentially Served	550,000
Average Annual Cost per Person Served (including Supportive Services and Rental Assistance)	\$6,500
<b>Total FY 2007 Actual Need</b>	<b>\$ 3,575,000,000</b>

Since 1992 the **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA)** has provided a national safety net of housing and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently estimates that 1,039,000 to 1,185,000 are living in the United States with a diagnosis of HIV or AIDS.

- HOPWA housing assistance **helps prevent homelessness and creates access to medical care and support services** for individuals and families affected by HIV and AIDS. Experts estimate that roughly half of people living with HIV/AIDS will need some form of housing assistance during the course of their illness and national research has shown that **housing is the greatest unmet service need** for people living with the disease.
- The FY2006 HOPWA appropriation of \$286 million – \$9 million less than HOPWA's highest funding level (2004) – must support the delivery of housing and related services in **122 jurisdictions eligible for formula allocations**. At least two more jurisdictions may qualify in FY2007.
- Last year, HOPWA funded 19 competitive grants to nonprofit groups, state agencies, and local governments to provide housing and supportive services for more than **3,800** low income people with HIV/AIDS and their families. **35 grants will be awarded this year.**

**Distribution of HOPWA Expenditures:  
Program Years 2000 – 2001 and 2001 – 2002**



**66% of HOPWA dollars are used for housing and housing placement services and 30% are used for housing-related supportive services.**

**NAHC recommends an additional \$138 million in HOPWA 2007 funding for a total of \$424 million.**

This increase will be used to reduce waiting lists for HOPWA funded housing; expand the capacity of communities to develop new housing for poor individuals with HIV/AIDS and their families; provide rental assistance; establish strategic housing plans; ensure that thousands of low-income people living with HIV/AIDS displaced by Hurricane Katrina receive vital housing assistance; and make a minimal level of supportive services available to keep people in their housing and fill gaps in comprehensive care available through other sources.

- **The need for stable and affordable housing is more urgent than ever as more people are living longer with HIV/AIDS and housing costs increase.** Improved drug therapies and medical care have dramatically reduced the number of AIDS deaths. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's *Out of Reach* study, the 2005 national housing wage was \$15.78. An American family must earn this hourly wage 40 hours per week to afford housing at the fair market rent. According to HUD, 91% of HOPWA clients have family incomes less than \$1,000 per month, roughly 60% less than what is needed to afford housing, using the national housing wage as a standard of affordability.

- **New research demonstrates a strong link between housing and HIV prevention.** The CDC estimates that there are still 40,000 people newly infected with HIV each year. Improvements in housing status are strongly associated with lowered rates of HIV risk behavior and people who are housed are more likely to know their HIV status, and therefore less likely to transmit the disease to others. These findings suggest that housing may be an important, cost-effective method of preventing transmittal, thus improving overall community health and reducing treatment and care costs.

- **HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects people and women of color, and the poor.** Although African Americans make up only 12.5% of the U.S. population, in 2003 they accounted for 50% of the new HIV/AIDS diagnoses. In 2001, AIDS was the number one cause of death for African American women ages 25-34. Recent research also shows a strong correlation between higher AIDS rates and lower income. These rates may be affected by lack of access to high-quality medical care and HIV prevention education.

## HIV/AIDS Housing Need

*A snapshot from across the country*

AIDS housing need remains at crisis levels throughout the country. Many waiting are homeless, unstably housed and multiply diagnosed with mental health, substance abuse and other health challenges. In many regions providers don't maintain waiting lists because assistance is simply not available. A sample of only a dozen NAHC members reveals more than 6,000 people with HIV/AIDS waiting for transitional or permanent housing. In an additional nine southern states and cities (excluding Katrina-affected areas) at least 290 families await housing assistance, particularly devastating in a region with high rates of poverty and 34% of the nation's population but 41% of the nation's live AIDS cases.

- In CT, 81% of people seeking housing assistance are denied and 90% of denials are due to lack of space.
- In NYC 900 rental subsidies and 1500 permanent supportive housing units are needed and outside of the NYC EMSA, more than 6,000 vouchers will be required by the end of 2007 to supplement only 637 in current use.
- Kansas City, MO has lost 26% of its Ryan White CARE Act funding, much of which was used for overall housing services. Loss of this resource coupled with waits as long as 5 years for the 10,000 people on the Section 8 waiting list, exacerbate the need for AIDS specific housing resources.
- More than half the 99 counties in TN have no HOPWA providers despite 12,495 HIV/AIDS cases.
- In San Francisco, more than half of the 2000 people on the closed Housing Wait List report incomes below \$1000 per month; nearly half have histories of homelessness or unstable housing.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.nationalaidshousing.org](http://www.nationalaidshousing.org)

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## HIV/AIDS, Homelessness and Healthcare

*The implications of housing status on individual and community health*

**Homelessness is a major risk factor for HIV, and HIV is a major risk factor for homelessness.** Recent research confirms strong links between housing status and HIV/AIDS infection. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS is up to nine times higher among persons who are homeless or unstably housed compared with persons with stable and adequate housing (1). Furthermore, up to 60% of all persons living with HIV/AIDS report a lifetime experience of homelessness or housing instability (2).

**Housing is HIV prevention.** New research has suggested that change in housing status is strongly associated with risk behavior change, suggesting that housing is a structural factor that has an independent causal role in HIV infection (3). Those who are housed demonstrate lower rates of HIV risk behaviors (4). As well, housed individuals are more likely to know their HIV status and therefore, more than six times less likely to transmit the virus to others (5). The economic costs of continued high rates of HIV transition are enormous; the estimated lifetime medical treatment cost of each new infection is \$155,000 to \$195,000 (6).

**Housing is healthcare.** Individuals who were unstably housed or had other housing problems and who received housing assistance were 2.5 times more likely to retain appropriate medical care as those who did not receive the assistance (7). Improved housing status not only improves access to appropriate medical care, but adherence as well, which is linked to lower viral loads and reduced mortality. The all-cause death rate among homeless persons is five times the death rate among housed persons with HIV/AIDS (8).

HOPWA Funding 2001-2005 (in millions \$)				
Fiscal Year	Formula Allocations	Competitive Grants	Technical Assistance	Total
2002	247.9	27.5	2.0	277.4
2003	259.3	28.8	2.0	290.1
2004	263.1	29.2	2.5	294.7
2005	251.3	27.9	2.5	281.7
2006	258.8	28.7	1.5	289

Source: *HOPWA Appropriations*. Available online:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/aidshousing/budget/index.cfm>; Conf. Rep. to accompany H.R. 3058 (Nov. 18, 2005); P.L. 109-115 (Nov. 30, 2005).

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