

The Ryan White CARE Act & Housing

The CARE Act and Transitional Housing

Both Title I and Title II of the CARE Act can be used to provide housing-related assistance. A majority of Title I grantees allocate some portion of their funding in the following categories:

- **Transitional Housing Assistance:** Provides funding for supportive housing programs, rental assistance, emergency & transitional housing.
- **Housing Referral Services:** Includes housing search and counseling services.
- **Emergency Financial Assistance:** Can be used for utility payments and first/last month's rent or security deposits.

In 2002, Title II grantees provided housing assistance for 29,622 clients and Emergency Financial Assistance for 40,870 clients.



How Many EMAs Provide Housing-Related Assistance Through the CARE Act?

According to HRSA, in 2002, **75% of Title I Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs) allocated some CARE Act funds for housing-related assistance.** In 2005, NAHC conducted an informal survey of grantees and found that housing continued to be an important use of resources. For example:

Dallas, TX

In 2004, Dallas was compelled to expend more money on housing support than they had originally budgeted due to an overwhelming demand for tenant-based transitional housing assistance. From May to December the EMA assisted 97 households with short-term rental assistance and 34 households with utility assistance.

Detroit, MI

Detroit used CARE Act dollars to help clients fund first/last month's rent and/or security deposits not covered by the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The EMA funded their housing assistance program at \$158,162 in 2004.

San Diego, CA

San Diego allocated \$318,600 for emergency housing and used other emergency financial assistance funds for both utility payments and housing deposits. The EMA also allocated \$580,422 for transitional, short term rent subsidies that allowed the program to accommodate up to 270 clients at any point during the year.

Cleveland, OH

Cleveland needed to reallocate additional money for rental subsidies; the EMA employed \$294,277 to assist more than 1,500 consumers.

In 2002, 11% of persons receiving CARE Act assistance did not have permanent housing.

What Does Housing Have to Do With Health for People With HIV/AIDS?

New research findings demonstrate the significance of housing as a structural intervention to address public and individual health priorities, including prevention, health care access and effectiveness, and cost containment.

- The death rates among homeless HIV positive persons are five times the death rates among HIV positive persons who are housed.
- Lack of stable housing has consistently been associated with poor access to medical care and treatment options for persons living with HIV. Improved housing status significantly improves health care access, including Highly Active Antiretroviral Treatment (HAART).
- Housing status impacts continuity of medical care. Individuals who were unstably housed or had other housing problems and received housing assistance, were 2.5 times as likely to be sustained in appropriate medical care as individuals who did not receive the assistance.
- Lack of stable housing is associated with high rates of drug use and high risk sexual behaviors. Most importantly, new research shows that improvement in housing status is strongly associated with risk behavior reduction, suggesting that housing access is a structural factor that has an independent causal role in HIV infection.