



# RYAN WHITE QUARTERLY

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RYAN WHITE  
PLANNING COUNCIL OF DALLAS, TX

Q2 | VOL 3 ISSUE 2

JUNE 1, 2023

## *A Letter from Office of Support...*

*Greetings, we are excited to  
continue the year with new  
idea development, education,  
connection, and advocacy.  
Thank you for supporting  
the Ryan White Planning  
Council of Dallas to extend  
our reach.*

*Best,*

*Office of Support Staff*

## UPCOMING RWPC MEETINGS

JUNE 7, 2023 @ 2PM

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 14, 2023 @ 9AM

PLANNING COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 20, 2023 @ 2PM

NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 21, 2023 @ 9AM

PLANNING & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 22, 2023 @ 12PM

CONSUMER COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 26, 2023 @ 5:15PM

ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 27, 2023 @ 2PM

EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING

## *take a look- WHAT HAVE WE BEEN WORKING ON?*

### *Executive*

Review Committee  
Deliverables

### *RWPC*

Assemble Bylaw Update  
Workgroup

### *Evaluation*

FY 22 Assess AAM

### *CCC*

Forum Planning/ Consumer Education

### *Needs Assessment*

Assessing FY 2022 Needs  
Assessment Next Steps

### *Planning & Priorities*

FY 2023 Service Priority Setting and  
Allocation Process

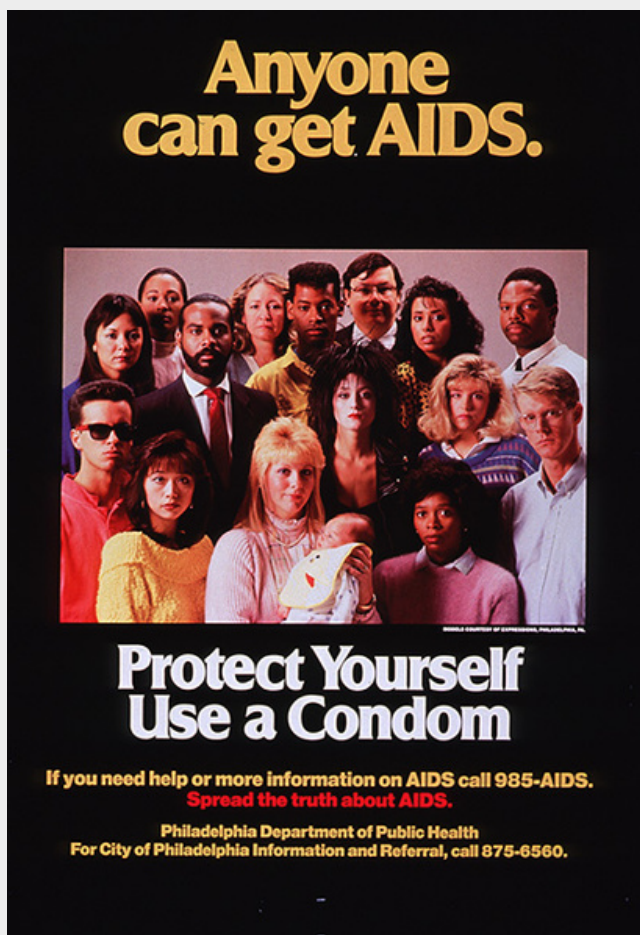
### *Allocations*

FY 2023-24 Resource  
Allocation Projections

# The Importance of Understanding Risk Factor



HIV can affect anyone regardless of sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, gender, age, or where they live. However, certain groups of people in the United States are more likely to get HIV than others because of particular factors, including the communities in which they live, what subpopulations they belong to, and their risk behaviors.



Communities. When you live in a community where many people have HIV, the chance of being exposed to the virus by having sex or sharing needles or other injection equipment with someone with HIV is higher. You can use CDC's HIV, STD, hepatitis, and tuberculosis Atlas Plus to see the percentage of people with HIV ("prevalence") in different U.S. counties and states and other data. Within any community, the prevalence of HIV can vary among different subpopulations.

Risk behaviors. In the United States, HIV is spread mainly through anal or vaginal sex or by sharing needles or syringes with an HIV-positive partner. Anal sex is the highest-risk behavior. Fortunately, there are more HIV prevention tools available today than ever before. These include using condoms correctly every time you have sex; pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), medicine people at risk for HIV take to prevent getting

HIV from sex or injection drug use, and treatment as prevention, a method in which people with HIV take HIV medicine as prescribed to achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load, a level of HIV in the blood so low that it can't be detected in a standard blood test.

## Facing Stigma



People with HIV who take HIV medicine (called antiretroviral therapy or ART) as prescribed and get and keep an undetectable viral load can live long and healthy lives and will not transmit HIV to their HIV-negative partners through sex.

### *What should those at higher risk do to protect themselves?*

If you think you're at risk for getting HIV or that you might already have HIV, get tested and learn about the effective HIV prevention and treatment options available today.

Testing is the only way to know for sure if you have HIV. [Find out whether testing is recommended for you.](#)

Many HIV tests are now quick, free, and painless. Ask your healthcare provider for an HIV test or use the [HIV Services Locator](#) to find a testing site near you. You can also buy an FDA-approved home testing kit at a pharmacy or online.

Knowing your HIV status gives you powerful information to help you take steps to keep you and your partner(s) healthy:

- If you test positive, you can start [HIV treatment](#) to stay healthy and prevent transmitting HIV to others.
- If you test negative, you can use [HIV prevention tools](#) to reduce your risk of getting HIV in the future.

It's essential to reduce the stigma regarding HIV; anyone can acquire the virus. The proper focus should be to educate individuals about their **risk factors** instead of blindly placing blame on already marginalized groups.

PLANNING COUNCIL  
*in the community*



On Wednesday, May 3, 2023, Congressman Jasmine Crockett presented DCHHS with a check for \$17,085,614.00 for the HIV Emergency Relief Project Grant. This is the first time any Congress Representative has held this event with the stakeholders: DCHHS, Ryan Planning Council, and Sub-Recipient Partners.



On Thursday, April 13, 2023, the Ryan White team celebrated their start of the HRSA Virtual Site Visit week in fellowship with one another.

The Legacy Grace Project hosted its annual Grace Project Conference on May 19-21, 2023. The conference exists to break through the stigma preventing women from accessing healthcare and to address the unique needs of women living with HIV/AIDS. The Grace Project supports, educates, and empowers women by providing access to affordable HIV-specific mental health and substance abuse counseling, connections to



support services, educational programs, and the Grace Project Conference- the nation's largest conference for women living with HIV/AIDS with an established network of over 200 women.

## Oak Lawn Pharmacy resumes full service

### HEALTH IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

New owner has recommitted the company to serve the LGBTQ community

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Oak Lawn Pharmacy on Lemmon Avenue is under new ownership and has resumed the community-based, full-service treatment for the LGBTQ community that it has been known for, according to company officials. "Since last fall, we've tried to build back to what we were when we opened in 2010," manager Kelly Salinas said this week.

In 2010, the company opened as Pride Pharmacy in an office building on Carlisle Street in Oak Lawn that also housed Uptown Physicians Group. The plan was to locate in buildings with a large HIV medical practice, specialize in HIV medications and also offer a full line of prescription drugs while providing the kind of customer service missing from retail chains. The idea for Pride Pharmacy came when a friend of the original owner said he'd give anything to see his over boxes of Pampers to get to the pharmacist. Instead, customers walked into something more like a living room. And the living room and an adjoining conference room were available to community groups for meetings. That meeting space is returning to Oak Lawn Pharmacy.



Oak Lawn Pharmacy on Lemmon Avenue (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



The space next door to the pharmacy became available, so the new owners rented it. Salinas named the new space The Space Next Door and dubbed it an information and referral clearinghouse. Just this week, the space has been used for a meeting to discuss new forms of PrEP available including injectables, and Parldard will be using the space next month for free testing. But the space is also available to community groups that need a place to meet. In 2020, the store relocated to its current Lemmon Avenue strip mall location and rebranded as Oak Lawn Pharmacy. But it didn't have the volume of business necessary to obtain HIV meds at a discounted price. So the company had to send its customers on name-brand drugs to other pharmacies, and by last fall, the pharmacy was on the verge of closing. But Salinas wants the community to know that has changed. "We now carry anti-retrovirals," Salinas said, adding that the drugstore is back to being a full-service pharmacy offering not just brand name and generic HIV medications, but other meds you would get from a pharmacist, too. Delivery is free and "Pride packs" are available. Rather than coming in a bottle, meds can be delivered in daily blister packs — multi-dose packaging that bundles medications together by date and time. "We're not a retail chain," Salinas said. "We don't have a corporate office. New leadership is really committed to restoring service to the community we were intended to serve." Salinas kept throwing out tips she wants the community to know. Younger people hesitate to get tested for HIV when we know getting into treatment early saves lives. "If you're on your partner's insurance, you can get tested, and they'll never know," she said. That information doesn't appear on any statement the policyholder receives. One last fun thing about Oak Lawn Pharmacy: They're looking for artists to exhibit their work. If you would like to exhibit, contact Kelly Salinas at 225-773-0700 or Kelly@OakLawnPharmacy.com or stop by the drugstore at 4033 Lemmon Ave.

**MDPC**  
MD PROGRESSIVE CARE

Luis Valdes Castillo, FNP-C, has joined Dr. Marc Tribble of MD Progressive Care, located in the heart of the Oak Lawn community. Luis has over 12 years of medical experience. His areas of clinical interest include primary care, Diabetes treatment, HIV Treatment & Prevention (PrEP), STD treatment, and LGBT care. He is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and the American Academy of HIV Medicine. He accepts all major medical insurance plans and speaks English & Spanish.

MDProgressiveCare.com  
214-521-0100  
info@mdprogressivecare.com

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Pictured, Oak Lawn Pharmacy Manager Kelly Salinas is a Dallas's Ryan White Planning Council member.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We need you!*

The Ryan White Planning Council is a community group that has been appointed by the County Judge, to plan the organization and delivery of HIV services for the Dallas EMA, HSDA funded by Part A, MAI Part B, & State Services of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act. Each council member is a caring, dedicated volunteer who was carefully selected to represent the general public, persons living with HIV, funded service providers, and other health and social service organizations.

***Please contact RWPC Office Of Support at (214) 819-1840 for an application and/or more information.***

[Ryan White Planning Council | Home \(dallascounty.org\)](http://Ryan White Planning Council | Home (dallascounty.org))

**A TOTAL OF 10 CANDIDATES SAT FOR INTERVIEWS WITH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR APPOINTMENT TO STANDING COMMITTEES OR RECOMMENDATIONS TO JOINING THE COUNCIL**

## *Planning Council Reflectiveness*

**Did you help your committee establish quorum for the month of May?**

***Quorum is equal to two-thirds of the assigned committee members being present at committee meetings. Quorum is essential for being able to conduct business and complete action items.***

**Planning Council (33 seats): 28 members seated - 5 seats vacant**

**\*RWPC Reflectiveness 32% Non-Aligned Consumers (HRSA requires 32%, Non-Aligned Consumers)**

**Allocation Committee (15 seats): 9 members (6 seats open)**

**Evaluation Committee (15 seats): 8 members (7 seats open)**

**Planning & Priorities Committee (15 seats): 9 members (6 seats open)**

**Consumer Council Committee (20 seats): 13 members (7 seats open)**

**Needs Assessment Committee (25 seats): 15 members (11 seats open)**

**RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL**  
*Opportunities*

N/A



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, June 16, 2023  
CCC Forum: HIV & Stigma

Saturday, June 24, 2023  
"Get Tested. Grab a Bite"

## Q2 COMMITTEE DELIVERABLES

*Executive- Orientation Training*

*RWPC- Committee Project Final Approvals*

*P&P- FY 2023 PSRA Process*

*Needs Assessment- FY 2022 Needs Assessment*

*Evaluation- FY 2022 Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism (AAM)*

*Allocations- Re-Allocation Recommendations*

*CCC- Community Forums*

*Happy Birthday*

TO READERS CELEBRATING IN  
APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE