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
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.
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.
On Wednesday, May 3, 2023, Congresswoman 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 on Lemmon Avenue is under new ownership. It has resumed the community-based, full-service treatment for the LGBTQ community that it has been known for, according to officials.

Pictured, Oak Lawn Pharmacy Manager Kelly Salinas is a Dallas’s Ryan White Planning Council member.
We need you!

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