



August 29, 2023

Dear Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A Recipients:

This letter provides clarification on the Health Resources and Services Administration, HIV/AIDS Bureau's (HRSA HAB) expectations of a required community input process for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Part A awards. The Chief Elected Official, as the recipient of RWHAP Part A funds, is ultimately responsible for establishing the planning body to spearhead the development of a comprehensive HIV service system for the Eligible Metropolitan Area or Transitional Grant Area (EMA/TGA) through a planning council (PC) or planning body (PB).

Section 2602(b) of Title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act outlines the roles and responsibilities of the PC. Section 2609(d)(1) outlines the requirement for TGAs to have a formal community input process to formulate the overall plan for priority setting and resource allocations in TGAs.

This program letter clarifies HRSA HAB requirements and expectations for the PC/PB. Unless otherwise noted, the requirements and expectations apply to both PCs and PBs.

**Roles and Responsibilities-
Priority Setting and Resource
Allocation**

Priority Setting and Resource Allocations (PSRA) is the single most important legislative responsibility of a PC/PB, and greatly influences the system of HIV care in the EMA/TGA. The PSRA process must prioritize all RWHAP HIV core medical and support services annually.
[2602(b)(4)(C)] and 2602(d)(1)]

PC Membership

The PC must include a representative from each of the 13 legislatively required membership categories. The PC must also include at least one member to separately represent each of the designated membership categories (unless no entity from that category exists in the EMA/TGA). Separate representation means each PC member can fill only one legislatively required membership category at any given time, even if qualified to fill more than one. There are only three situations that allow one person to represent two membership categories. PC members must reflect the demographics of the population of individuals with HIV in the jurisdiction. Additionally, no less than 33 percent of PC membership must be comprised of unaffiliated clients receiving RWHAP Part A services in the jurisdiction.
[2602(b)(2)]

PB Membership

At a minimum, the PB must include representatives of the various stakeholders in the TGA, and must reflect the demographics of the population of individuals with HIV in the jurisdiction. Additionally, no less than 33 percent of PB membership must be comprised of unaffiliated clients receiving RWHAP Part A services in the jurisdiction.

Term Limits

To ensure the PC/PB are reflective of the demographics of the population of individuals with HIV in the jurisdiction, HRSA HAB expects the PC/PB to establish term limits and membership rotations.

Separation of PC/PB and Recipient Roles

A separation of PC/PB and recipient roles is necessary to avoid conflicts of interest. The legislation prohibits PC public deliberations from being “chaired solely by an employee of the grantee.” [2602(b)(7)(A)]. A recipient representative, whose position is funded with RWHAP Part A funds, provides in-kind services, or has significant involvement in the RWHAP Part A grant, shall not occupy a voting seat in the PC/PB. A recipient representative may serve as a non-voting co-chair of the PC/PB.

If you have any questions regarding the information outlined in this letter, please consult your project officer.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chrissy Abrahms Woodland, MBA

Chrissy Abrahms Woodland, MBA
Director
Division of Metropolitan HIV/AIDS Programs