

**Announcing a new HUD Ideas in Action forum: HOPWA and the National HIV/AIDS Strategy  
February 22, 2011**



**Message to HOPWA Grantees and Program Stakeholders:**

I am pleased to share with you HUD's implementation plan for the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS). HUD is committed to working with our Federal and community partners to ensure the success of this national response to HIV/AIDS. In addition to the attached summary, I invite you to review HUD's plan as posted on [www.AIDS.gov](http://www.AIDS.gov).

Research has demonstrated that stable housing is an effective strategy in both reducing an individual's HIV risk and increasing treatment adherence for persons living with HIV/AIDS. As the nation's housing agency, HUD's contributions will involve actions to maximize the effective use of housing resources and to enhance integration of housing programs with comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and supportive services. *HUD's FY2010-2015 Strategic Plan* and *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* will also serve as foundations for carrying out these efforts.

These new documents are unified in proposing actions to increase stable housing for low-income, homeless and special needs populations, and to enhance their access to health care, supportive services, income supports, employment and other assistance. The Department will also seek to identify existing models that improve access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The office expects to share information that will further support the development of place-based approaches that demonstrate successes in actions to plan, deliver and evaluate HOPWA and related assistance. As the partnerships with community efforts make use of multiple resources to achieve housing stability and improved health, HUD is also seeking to better engage with program stakeholders, grant administrators, area providers and program clients to enhance our results.

I am pleased to announce a HUD online public forum intended to solicit ideas and suggestions for advancing HOPWA's contributions to stable housing and health outcomes. This online HOPWA forum is available through the [HUD Ideas in Action](#) webpage, and open for public comment, beginning Tuesday, February 22, 2011. Our comment period on this site will close on April 19, 2011. This consultation is one of the features of HUD's Open Government Initiative. I expect to share other communications with HOPWA grantees in this ongoing focus.

You are invited to submit your ideas and suggestions related to:

- (a) how HUD can best seek to update the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funding formula to better target resources to need;
- (b) how we can increase access to housing and non-medical supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS; and
- (c) how we can enhance the HOPWA program to help prevent and end homelessness for people living with HIV/AIDS.

On behalf of the HOPWA team at HUD, I look forward to considering your responses as the HOPWA partnerships work to strengthen housing results as part of the national response to HIV/AIDS. Thank you for your dedication to this work.

Sincerely,

David Vos  
Director  
Office of HIV/AIDS Housing

More information is also available [here](#).



# National HIV/AIDS Strategy Operational Plan: An Overview

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



Office of Community Planning and Development  
February 2011

## Overview

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is pleased to join with our Federal and community partners to advance the national response to HIV/AIDS. Together we can achieve the three major goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS): to reduce HIV infection; to increase access to care and improve health outcomes for persons living with HIV/AIDS; and to reduce HIV-related health disparities. In February 2011, HUD released its operational plan guiding the agency's actions under the Strategy.

As the nation's housing agency, HUD will contribute through actions to maximize the effective use of housing resources and promote better integration of housing interventions into comprehensive HIV care systems. Implementation of this plan will be coordinated by HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), and we will seek to collaborate with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other Federal partners on over twenty implementation activities. CPD administers a variety of affordable housing programs, including the Federal government's targeted HIV housing program, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). Currently HOPWA is funded at \$335 million to assist communities across the nation in providing housing assistance for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. CPD also manages homeless assistance programs that partner with other leveraged resources to create comprehensive local approaches to meeting housing need.

Summarized below are HUD's primary action steps, as described further in the operational plan. Taken together, these steps provide a roadmap for how HUD will invest in the future by enhancing community partnerships for housing people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

### ► Identify ways to increase access to housing and non-medical supportive services as critical elements of an effective HIV care system.

- Engage stakeholders in discussions around—and invite their recommendations regarding—ways to enhance access to housing and supportive services for beneficiaries.
- Engage in discussions with DHHS, other Federal agencies, and grantees regarding funding, policies and grantee expectations for the provision of non-medical supportive services.
- Work with DHHS and other Federal partners to identify model approaches coordinating delivery of non-medical supportive services through innovative case management and other mechanisms.
- Highlight these model programs through webinars and guides, as well as on-site technical assistance.

### Sharing the Successes of Model Programs

HUD is pleased to be showcasing in 2011 a number of community-operated HOPWA programs in honor of the 20th anniversary of the authorization of the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program as part of the Cranston-Gonzalez Affordable Housing Act. These programs demonstrate the success and innovation of our state, city and nonprofit partnerships and the vital connections of housing and care for our client population. Models can be found at: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/aidshousing/showcase/model\\_programs](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/aidshousing/showcase/model_programs)

\* \* \*

### New: HUD Ideas in Action Forum on HOPWA

HUD wants to hear from its stakeholders about how to best advance the goals outlined in this document. Please visit [hudideasinaction.uservoice.com](http://hudideasinaction.uservoice.com) to join the discussion about how to improve the HOPWA program and creatively advance the housing-related goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

- Initiate steps to apply recommendations for improvements that will most effectively enhance access of HIV/AIDS clients to non-medical supportive services.

► **To promote equitable resource allocation, work with Congress to develop a plan to shift to HIV/AIDS case reporting as a basis for formula grants for HOPWA funding.**

- Engage in discussion with CDC and other Federal offices regarding the current and future availability of HIV surveillance data and other relevant data for its potential use in the HOPWA formula.
- Invite stakeholder recommendations regarding potential changes to the HOPWA funding formula, including a shift to HIV case reporting as the basis for allocations.
- Develop estimates of the likely impact of a variety of recommended formula changes.
- Consider stakeholder input to produce a legislative proposal containing potential formula changes.

► **Participate in DHHS-led interagency collaborations to promote more coordinated HIV housing efforts.**

- Establish an ad hoc work group of relevant HUD program representatives for input on potential HUD efforts and participation in Federal collaborative actions to achieve HUD Strategic Plan goal of using housing as a platform to improve quality of life, including health.
- Help link relevant participants as appropriate to the collaborative working groups.
- Identify and disseminate successful models developed by grantees that enhance local provider collaboration and integrated service delivery.
- Explore efforts with other Federal HIV programs and providers to improve HIV housing and service integration by expanding use of Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) client-level data elements, as currently used by HUD and SAMHSA, and as proposed for use by Veteran's Affairs.

HUD recognizes the profound effects that housing can have on the lives and livelihoods of people living with HIV/AIDS. Over 90% of HOPWA beneficiaries live with no income or very low income. Placement in supportive housing reduces the burden of this population on hospital emergency departments, and helps maintain individuals' health and well-being. By addressing policies that promote access to both housing and supportive services for these clients—and by ensuring that our programs are equitable, data-driven, place-based, and collaborative—we can together make great strides toward reducing HIV infection, improving access to care, and ending chronic homelessness in this population, all while utilizing housing as a platform for improving their health and quality of life.

For more information, including the full National HIV/AIDS Strategy and HUD's operational plan, please visit <http://www.AIDS.gov>. To learn more about HOPWA, please see <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/aidshousing/>

### **New: HOPWA Oversight Resource Guide**

Close and ongoing collaboration between HOPWA grantees and their project sponsors is an important part of the HOPWA program's success. As a desk guide for staff, the new HOPWA Grantee Oversight Guide, available on [www.HUDHRE.info](http://www.HUDHRE.info), is a tool to be used by grantees in navigating the grants management responsibilities to achieve the HOPWA program's housing stability performance outcome measures of maintaining stable housing arrangements, reducing risks of homelessness, and improving access to care.

\* \* \*

### **New: HOPWA Financial Management Training**

The Office of HIV/AIDS Housing (OHH) is pleased to announce the availability of a new program management tool. This tool is designed to provide important information about the regulations and practices of the HOPWA program and to benefit a variety of staff. The training covers many topics including: HOPWA financial management standards, management of personnel and non-personnel costs, HOPWA rental assistance and reporting, auditing, and oversight of project sponsors. .

<http://www.hudhre.info/hopwa/index.cfm?do=viewHopwaHome>

