



AGENDA

Annual Action Plan FY2021
Virtual Public Hearing – HOPWA Only
Thursday, April 29, 2021, 4:30 p.m.

1. Introduction

2. Action Plan – What is it?

- ✓ Assistant Director, Department of Housing and Community Development – Roberto Tazoe

3. Public Input & Comments

The meeting will open for live public input, pre-recorded messages and online comments to identify additional needs related to the affected community

4. Adjournment

Department of Housing and Community Development

ABOUT HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS (HOPWA)

WHAT IS HOPWA?

The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program was established by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act of 1990, and revised under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992.

The HOPWA program provides states and localities with grant funds for housing assistance and related support services to low-income persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and their families.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF HOPWA?

The goal of the HOPWA Program is to provide housing assistance to participants resulting in more stable housing arrangements, reducing the household's risks of homelessness, and improving the access to health care and other support for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

WHO ADMINISTERS HOPWA?

In accordance with federal regulations implementing the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act of 1990, the City of Miami (City) serves as the grantee for HOPWA funds as it is the municipality with the largest population in the Miami-Dade Eligible Metropolitan Division (EMD).

The HOPWA Program serves all residents of Miami-Dade County and is administered by the City of Miami's Community & Economic Development Department. The City works with all levels of government, service providers, consumers and the private sector in developing resources and services, particularly housing and social services for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

WHO IS INVOLVED WITH PLANNING FOR THE USE OF HOPWA?

The Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership, through its Housing Committee, serves in an advisory capacity to the Department of Housing and Community Development and City Commission with regard to HOPWA formula grant funds awarded to the City on behalf of the Miami-Dade EMD.

Specifically, the City of Miami looks to the Partnership's Housing Committee for community input and advice concerning resource allocation, HOPWA program policies, and coordination of efforts to address housing needs with care and treatment services and activities directed at persons living with HIV/AIDS. The City of Miami is formally represented on the Partnership and its Housing Committee.

HOW ARE HOPWA FUNDS CURRENTLY USED LOCALLY?

Currently local HOPWA funds are directed towards Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Housing Specialist support services for TBRA participants, Short-Term Rental, Mortgage, and Utility assistance (STRMU), project-based operating assistance and, when funds allow, capital funding for rehabilitation or new construction (new construction limited to single-room occupancy units and community residences). All TBRA participants receive the support of Housing Specialists.

Consistent with shifts in U.S. HUD policy and local policy recommended by the Housing Committee of the Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership and adopted by the City of Miami, HOPWA funds are directed only towards housing and housing-related services due to the limited resources available to meet the housing needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Miami-Dade EMD.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR HOPWA ASSISTANCE?

Low-income persons with an AIDS diagnosis are eligible for assistance under HOPWA TBRA program. Low-income persons with an HIV or AIDS diagnosis are eligible for STRMU assistance. Low-income means that the combined annual income of all household members is 80% or less of median income as established by US HUD.

HOPWA Long-Term Tenant-Based Rental Assistance

Assistance Available

The HOPWA TBRA Program provides long-term rental subsidy assistance to low-income persons with an AIDS diagnosis and their families. The goal of the TBRA Program is to assist program participants in achieving and maintaining housing stability so as to avoid homelessness and improve their access to, and engagement in, HIV/AIDS treatment and care.

Form of Assistance

Program participants must pay a portion of the rent, usually 30% of their monthly adjusted household income. The TBRA Program pays the difference. Program participants select their own market rental housing (similar to the Section 8 Housing Choice Program), however, the unit must pass a housing quality standards inspection and the asking rent cannot exceed the HOPWA rent standard for Miami-Dade County based on the annual Miami-Dade Fair Market Rents published by U.S. HUD. Participants' income eligibility must be recertified annually and the rental units must pass re-inspection each year.

TBRA Program participants also receive the support of Housing Specialists who manage participants' housing assistance and serve as liaisons between the participant and landlord. Housing Specialists also serve as liaison between the participant and Ryan White (or other social service) case management to ensure that the participant receives the necessary services to maintain independent living, remains engaged in health care and treatment and has access to other support services.

Community-based agencies currently providing housing specialist support to TBRA clients are:

- ◆ Empower "U", Inc.
- ◆ Center of Information & Orientation, Inc.
- ◆ Care Resource
- ◆ Spanish-American Basic Education & Rehabilitation, Inc. (SABER)
- ◆ Sunshine for All, Inc.

Who is Eligible?

You are eligible if:

1. you are a full-time resident of Miami-Dade County or will be taking full-time residence in Miami-Dade County;
2. you have received a medical diagnosis of AIDS, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In the case of a family unit applying for HOPWA assistance, one (1) or more of the family members (regardless of age) must have AIDS.
3. your income, or in the case of a family, your family's income, does not exceed 80 percent of the medium income for the Miami-Dade EMSA. In calculating income, the HOPWA Program counts the income of **all** family members.
4. You may apply as an individual or as a family. A family is a household composed of two (2) or more related persons with at least one person diagnosed with AIDS. Persons in a family may be related by ties of blood, marriage, or other legal sanctions or deemed to be important to the care or well-being of the household member with AIDS.

Annual Re-Certification Required

The HOPWA TBRA Program provides on-going long-term rental assistance, subject to continued eligibility and the availability of HOPWA funds. Participating households must be recertified at

least annually to verify continued income eligibility. Subsidized housing units also must be re-inspected annually.

Questions

Please call Maritza Martinez at (305) 416-1572 or email her at MCMartinez@miamigov.com

HOPWA Short-Term Rental, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance

Assistance Available

This is time-limited, need-based housing assistance to prevent homelessness and increase housing stability of individuals experiencing a financial crisis as a result of issues arising from their HIV or AIDS condition. STRMU assistance is only available to persons with a current place of residence, evidenced by a lease or a mortgage upon which they are named. Assisted individuals are expected to achieve housing stability at the end of the housing assistance. Assistance may be provided to an eligible person for a period of up to, but no more than, 21 weeks in any 52-week period.

Form of Assistance

The STRMU program provides rental, mortgage, and/or utility (except telephone) assistance. STRMU cannot be used to pay for deposits and/or first month rent. For more information on this program or to set up an eligibility determination appointment, please contact Care Resource at 305-576-1234.

HOPWA Project-Based Housing

Assistance Available

The Project Based HOPWA Housing Assistance Program offers low income persons with AIDS the opportunity to occupy efficiencies, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, or three-bedroom housing units that are operated by community-based agencies or low income housing developers under City of Miami HOPWA contract. Applicants should take note that any rental subsidy assistance that may be attached to one of these project-based units remains with the unit, not the tenant, in the event that the tenant later vacates, or is evicted from, a HOPWA project-based unit.

Project-based housing units are located on Miami Beach and in central Miami-Dade County.

Who is Eligible?

You are eligible if:

1. you are a full-time resident of Miami-Dade County or will be taking full-time residence in Miami-Dade County;
2. you have received a medical diagnosis of AIDS, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In the case of a family unit applying for HOPWA assistance, one (1) or more of the family members (regardless of age) must have AIDS.
3. your income, or in the case of a family, your family's income, does not exceed 80 percent of the medium income for Miami-Dade. In calculating income, the HOPWA Program counts the income of all family members.
4. You may apply as an individual or as a family. A family is a household composed of two (2) or more related persons with at least one person diagnosed with AIDS. Persons in a family may be related by ties of blood, marriage, or other legal sanctions or deemed to be important to the care or well-being of the household member with AIDS. Please note that each project-based unit is subject to an occupancy limit.

Annual Re-Certification Required

Project-based housing client households must be recertified at least annually to verify continued income eligibility. These project-based housing units also are subject to annual housing quality inspection by the City of Miami HOPWA Program.

Application Process

Project-based housing sponsors administer their own site-specific waitlists.

Questions

Please call Maritza Martinez at (305) 416-1572 or email her at MCMartinez@miamigov.com

Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA):

The City of Miami serves as administrator of the formula grant funded HOPWA program for the entire geographical area of Miami-Dade County. The goal and intent of the local HOPWA program is to ensure that a continuum of housing options and related housing services is available to low income persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or related diseases to prevent homelessness of such individuals and their families. The city provides our HOPWA clients with housing assistance and/ or provides funds to developers building affordable housing units reserved for HOPWA clients. The City of Miami presently assists over 800 clients under this program.

The following chart depicts HOPWA funding allocations starting from fiscal year 2002:

