

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) in Wyoming

The HOPWA program is operated within the HIV Services Program, Communicable Disease Unit, Preventive Health and Safety Section, Public Health Division, Wyoming Department of Health. The program functions as both the Grantee and Project Sponsor for the entire state.

Services offered in Wyoming are Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), Short-term, Rent, Mortgage and Utilities (STRMU), permanent housing, emergency shelter, transportation, case management, nutritional services, outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment. The HIV Services Program also has funding from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) for the Ryan White Part B/ADAP and Ryan White Part C-EIS grants. Having the grants housed in one agency allows for better client service coordination and eliminated service duplication.

Case management services are currently available in 13 county public health offices, Laramie Reproductive Health, 12th Street Clinic, Cheyenne Health & Wellness, Indian Health Services and the Nebraska AIDS Project. Case managers work with local landlords in assisting clients in finding and securing safe and affordable housing. Housing needs are assessed at least twice a year during the annual and six-month recertification process and for all newly enrolled clients. Based on the assessment the case manager will help the client in identifying available and affordable properties.

The Wyoming HOPWA Program is in its 2nd year of a 3-year funding cycle. The program received \$623,117 for the three year grant cycle. To be eligible for services individuals must be HIV positive and have an income at or below established HUD income guidelines. Enrollment is completed by the client and the case manager. Application information is available on our website at www.wyohiv.info.

There are 126 individuals enrolled in the program. Client housing demographics are as follows – TBRA, 25; Staying with friends/relatives, 28, rental housing, 62; own home, 20; Public Housing/Section 8, 10.