

HOPWA FAQs

Q: What is the HOPWA Program?

Answer: The *Housing Opportunities for People with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA)* Program helps people living with HIV/AIDS who have problems affording housing. Such persons may be actually homeless, or are at risk of becoming homeless. If you are HIV-positive, have a home but you are falling behind on paying your rent, mortgage or utilities, all of which could lead to eviction, or if you do not have a home (might be staying with relatives or friends temporarily, or staying in shelters or transitional housing, or even on the streets) the HOPWA program can assist you in paying for those housing needs in order for you to have safe, stable, appropriate housing.

HOPWA is a state-provided housing assistance program using federal funding that prioritizes **solely** our community members with a diagnosis of HIV. With housing problems addressed, individuals can in turn access doctor's care, HIV/AIDS medications and many other services essential to living life as normal as possible. Core HOPWA services include:

- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA): long-term housing subsidy.
- Short-Term Rent, Mortgage or Utility Assistance (STRMU)-up to 21 weeks of assistance.
- Permanent Housing Placement (PHP) assistance: utility and or security deposits and 1st month rent.
- Support Services: linkage to essential medical, dental and mental health care, job training, etc.

HOPWA funds cannot be provided directly to individuals.

Q: Am I Eligible?

Answer: To be eligible for HOPWA, you must

- Be diagnosed with HIV or AIDS
- Have an income that is low-to-moderate (i.e. 80% or below of the Area Median Income, *AMI*) for where you are located in the state.

In some cases, your family members can benefit from HOPWA services through your eligibility, even though they may not be diagnosed with HIV.

If you think you or your family members may be eligible, see the [HOPWA Community map](#) and accompanying [information list](#) to contact a HOPWA agency in your area.

Q: How Do I Start Getting HOPWA?

Answer: When you are put in contact with the nearest HOPWA agency (or any Ryan White service agency) you will be assisted in completing the necessary application paperwork to determine if you are eligible for HOPWA. A case manager will sit down with you and ask about your housing, medical and other needs. That will help determine what you are eligible for, based upon your health condition, income and resources. HOPWA case managers and Ryan White Program staff know what services are available and can help you get care. All services are free.

Q: How Do I Pay for HOPWA?

Answer: What you pay for HOPWA assistance mostly depends on how much income and resources you have. Normally, the goal of HOPWA is to pay to the landlord the difference between what your income affords you to pay and what the housing cost actually amounts to. If you do not have income or have a very low income, you may not have to pay very much especially when the service you qualify for is TBRA (long-term assistance).

Your housing case manager can help you

- learn what services you are eligible to receive,
- apply for health care assistance, and
- determine whether you have to cover any of the housing costs for TBRA and how much.