



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**COMMISSION ON HIV**



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Get in touch: [hivcomm@lachiv.org](mailto:hivcomm@lachiv.org)

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<https://tinyurl.com/y83ynuzt>

# Consumer Caucus Special Virtual Meeting

*If you are a person living with or at risk of HIV, we invite you to be a part of a unified effort to help improve HIV prevention & care service delivery in Los Angeles County*

***"Improving Housing Opportunities for People Living with HIV (PLWH)"***

**Thursday, July 14, 2022  
3:00-5:00pm (PST)**

Agenda and meeting materials will be posted on  
<http://hiv.lacounty.gov/Meetings>  
under "Other Meetings"

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REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED + SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION IN SPANISH AND OTHER LANGUAGES NOW AVAILABLE VIA CLOSED CAPTION FEATURE WHEN JOINING VIA WEBEX. CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MORE INFO.

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## **TO JOIN BY COMPUTER:**

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=m858364c3b754507a9ff894fcd04e1bab>

Meeting password: CAUCUS

## **TO JOIN BY PHONE:**

1-213-306-3065 & Access Code/Event #: 2597 631 5860

For a brief tutorial on how to use WebEx, please check out this video:

[http://lacountymediahost.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip\\_id=9360](http://lacountymediahost.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=9360)

*\*For those using iOS devices - iPhone and iPad - a new version of the WebEx app is now available and is optimized for mobile devices. Visit your Apple App store to download.*

## **LIKE WHAT WE DO?**

Apply to become a Commissioner at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022CommissiononHIVMemberApplication>

For application assistance call (213) 738-2816 or email [hivcomm@lachiv.org](mailto:hivcomm@lachiv.org)



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON HIV



510 S. Vermont Ave 14<sup>th</sup> Floor • Los Angeles, CA 90020 • TEL (213) 738-2816 • FAX (213) 637-6748

HIVCOMM@LACHIV.ORG • <http://hiv.lacounty.gov>

### CODE OF CONDUCT

We welcome commissioners, guests, and the public into a space where people of all opinions and backgrounds are able to contribute. We create a safe environment that celebrates differences while striving for consensus and is characterized by consistent, professional, and respectful behavior. Our common enemies are HIV and STDs. We strive to be introspective and understand and clarify our assumptions, while appreciating the complex intersectionality of the lives we live. We challenge ourselves to be self-reflective and committed to an ongoing understanding. As a result, the Commission has adopted and is consistently committed to implementing the following guidelines for Commission, committee, and associated meetings.

**All participants and stakeholders should adhere to the following:**

- 1) We strive for consensus and compassion in all our interactions.**
- 2) We respect others' time by starting and ending meetings on time, being punctual, and staying present.**
- 3) We listen, don't repeat what has already been stated, avoid interrupting others, and allow others to be heard.**
- 4) We encourage all to bring forth ideas for discussion, community planning, and consensus.**
- 5) We focus on the issue, not the person raising the issue.**
- 6) We give and accept respectful and constructive feedback.**
- 7) We keep all issues on the table (no "hidden agendas"), avoid monopolizing discussions and minimize side conversations.**
- 8) We have no place in our deliberations for homophobic, racist, sexist, and other discriminatory statements and "-isms" (including misogyny, transphobia, ableism, and ageism).**
- 9) We give ourselves permission to learn from our mistakes.**

Approved (11/12/1998); Revised (2/10/2005; 9/6/2005); **Revised (4/11/19; 3/3/22)**



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## **CONSUMER CAUCUS (CC) SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA**

### ***“Improving Housing Opportunities for People Living with HIV (PLWH)”***

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022  
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

#### **TO JOIN BY COMPUTER**

<https://lacountyboardofsupervisors.webex.com/lacountyboardofsupervisors/j.php?MTID=m858364c3b754507a9ff894fcd04e1bab>

**MEETING PASSWORD:** CAUCUS

**TO JOIN BY PHONE:** +1-213-306-3065 **MEETING #/ACCESS CODE:** 2597 631 5860

- I. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & COH MEETING DEBRIEF 3:00PM – 3:10PM  
(Alasdair Burton, Ish Herrera, and Damone Thomas, Co-Chairs)
- II. “SETTING THE STAGE” (Cheryl Barrit, MPIA, Executive Director) 3:10PM – 3:15PM
  - Background & Context
  - Meeting Objectives:
    - Gain a better understanding of the Housing Opportunities for People Living with AIDS (HOPWA) Program and how it coordinates with other housing and supportive service programs,
    - participants will contribute at least 3 constructive ideas on improving housing-related services for PLWH
  - Code of Conduct
- III. HOPWA Program (Jesus “Chuy” Orozco, HOPWA Program Coordinator) 3:15PM – 4:00PM
  - HOPWA Program Overview
  - HOPWA Program vs. Ryan White Program (RWP)
  - Accessing & Navigating the HOPWA Program
- IV. DISCUSSION: Opportunity for clients/consumers to share 4:00PM – 4:45PM  
constructive feedback. Comments limited to 2 minutes per person to allow for participation from all attendees.

V. NEXT STEPS

4:45PM – 4:55PM

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

4:55PM – 5:00PM

VII. ADJOURNMENT

5:00PM



510 S. Vermont Ave., 14th Fl • Los Angeles, CA 90020 • TEL (213) 738-2816  
HIVCOMM@LACHIV.ORG • <https://hiv.lacounty.gov>

## **CONSUMER CAUCUS**

### **Thursday, June 9, 2022 | 3:00pm to 5:00pm**

#### **VIRTUAL MEETING SUMMARY**

Meeting packet is available at: <https://hiv.lacounty.gov/meetings/>

*\*Contact staff for verification of attendance*

#### **1. Welcome + Introductions + Check In**

Co-Chairs Alasdair Burton and Ish Herrera welcomed attendees and led introductions.

#### **2. HOPWA Discussion**

Cheryl Barrit provided background by acknowledging the ongoing concerns shared by consumers regarding challenges accessing and navigating the HOPWA program, and that their advocacy is what provided this platform in bringing all partners together to improve access to and quality housing services for PLWH.

While Chuy Orozco, City of Los Angeles HOPWA Coordinator, was not able to join and lead the discussion, the group determine it will continue as a listening session to gather information from consumer/clients regarding their experience and concerns with the HOPWA program. The conversation extend to the July 14 Caucus meeting where Chuy will be able to provide additional overview, context and technical guidance regarding the HOPWA program.

Alison King, City of Long Beach Housing Authority and Pamela Bright, City of Long Beach Health and Human Services Department, attended and shared insights from a provider/sub-recipient perspective; some of which were new to the group. A few key concerns/challenges shared included:

- Funding inconsistencies from one year to the next so it is difficult to develop a sustainable long-term plan around HOPWA.
- High turnover of workforce; increased administrative burden - staff spends more time on paperwork than helping clients.
- Unable to prioritize PLWH when transitioning from HOPWA to Section 8 as Section 8 doesn't prioritize HIV status.
- Insufficient HOPWA vouchers – only 48 HOPWA vouchers allocated this program year with a waiting list of approximately 1,200 in the City of Long Beach.
- Changing leadership makes it difficult to develop a solid and sustainable strategy to assist PLWH attain suitable housing.
- Insufficient housing inventory

The Caucus members queried whether the state's surplus can be allocated to fill in HOPWA voucher and Section 8 voucher gaps and be utilized to provide additional housing-related supportive services for PLWH. Katja Nelson and Lee Kochems, Public Policy Committee (PPC) Co-Chairs, noted they will refer these concerns and recommendations to the PPC for discussion.

**3. Co-Chair Vacancy**

Damone Thomas was nominated and elected to serve as the Caucus' third Co-Chair.

**4. Agenda Development for Next Meeting**

The Caucus will continue the HOPWA discussion with Chuy Orozco's assistance at its July 14 meeting. The Caucus would like to invite Alison King and Pamela Bright back to the July 14 discussion.

**5. Public Comments and Announcements**

Staff reminded the group that the HIV workforce and consumer of HIV services surveys have been distributed in English and Spanish and encouraged all those eligible to complete as the information compiled will help inform the COH's Comprehensive HIV Plan (CHP).

**6. Adjournment**



# LA HOPWA

Chuy Orozco, HOPWA Project Manager  
July 14, 2022





# Agenda

HOPWA History and Program Theory

Services & Eligibility

Collaboration





# Training Agenda

## HOPWA History and Program Theory

- History of HOPWA
- HIV and Housing Outcomes

# Program Origin and Purpose

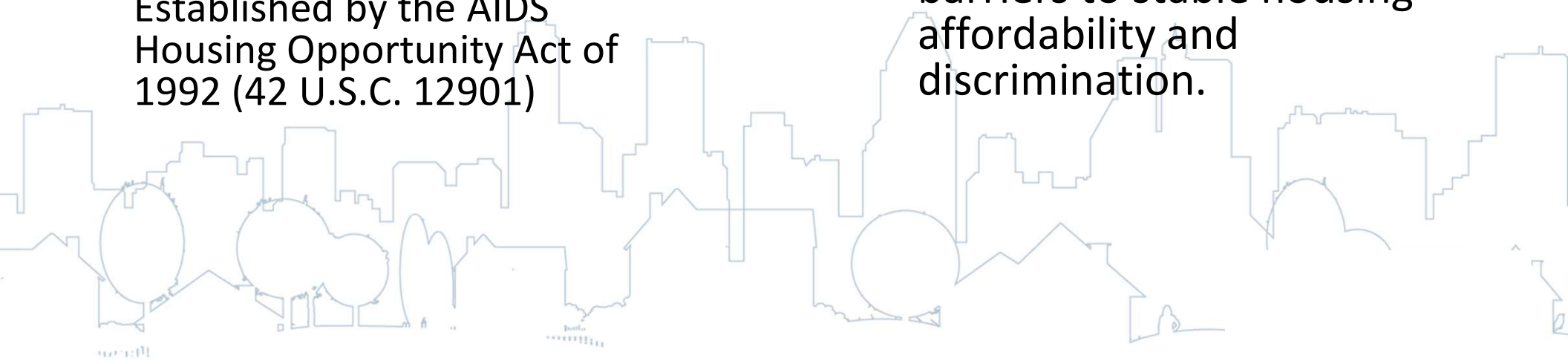
## ORIGIN.....

The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program was created to address the housing needs of low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Established by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 12901)

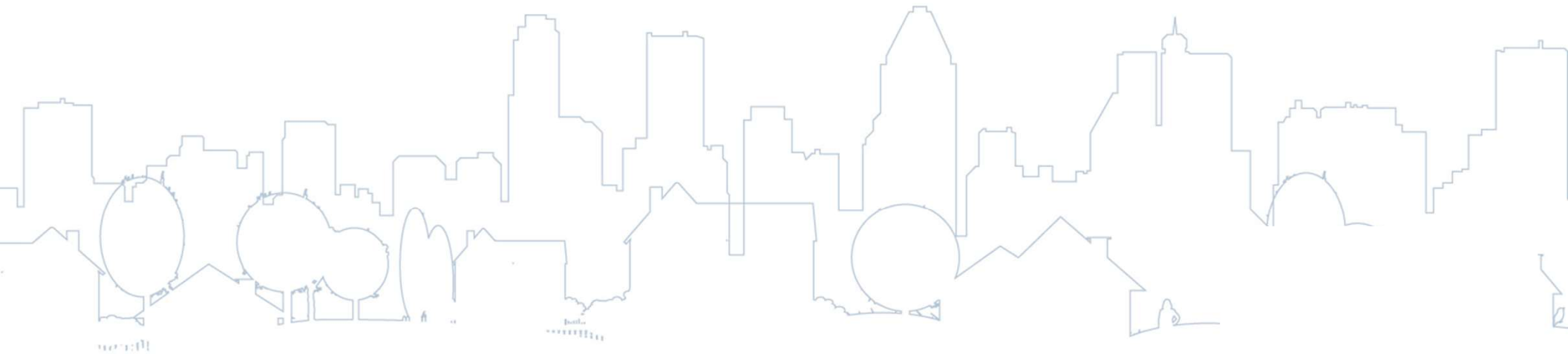
## PURPOSE....

To provide **long-term strategies** to develop a range of housing assistance and supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS **and their families** to overcome key barriers to stable housing - affordability and discrimination.

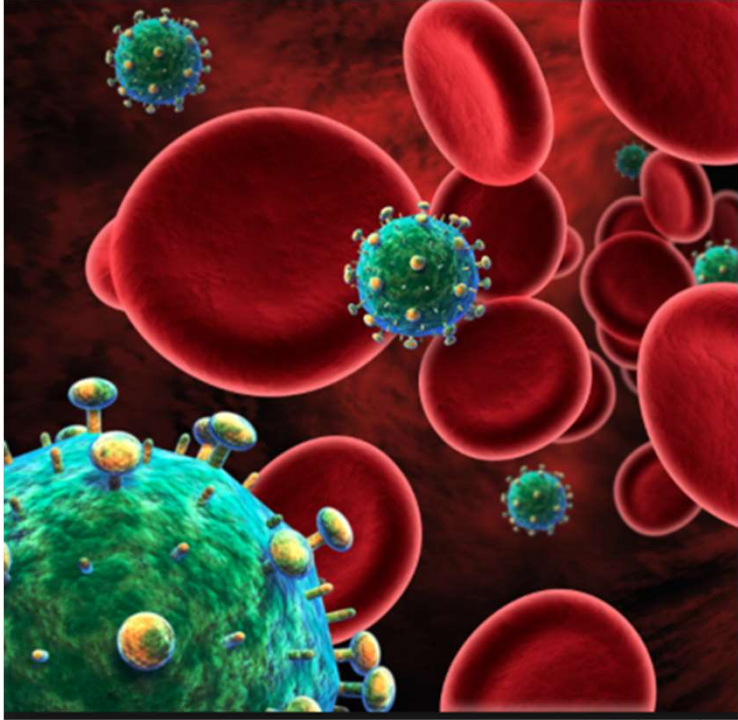


# Program Vision

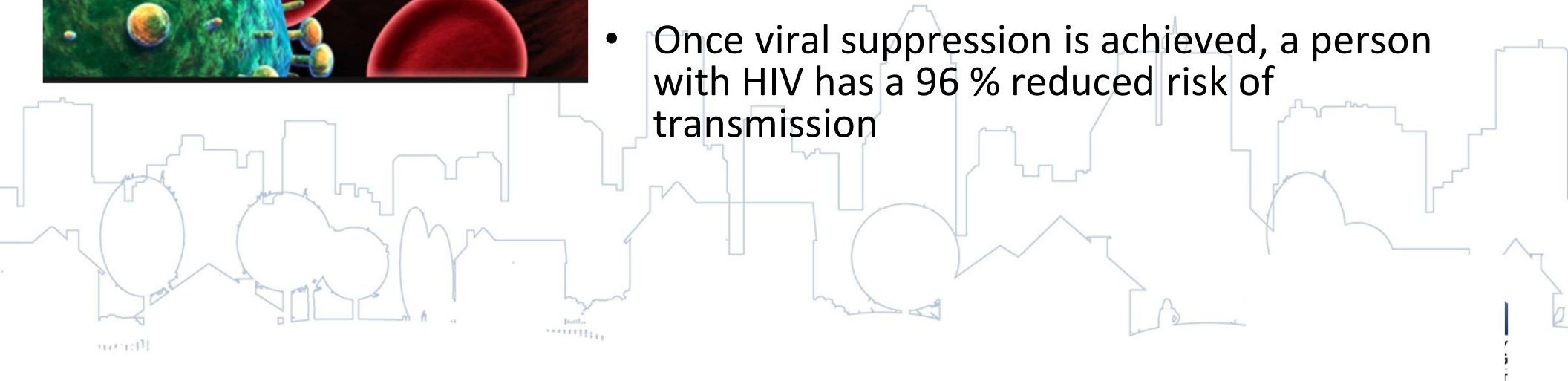
**Vision: to elevate housing  
as a structural intervention in ending  
the HIV Epidemic  
in the United States.**



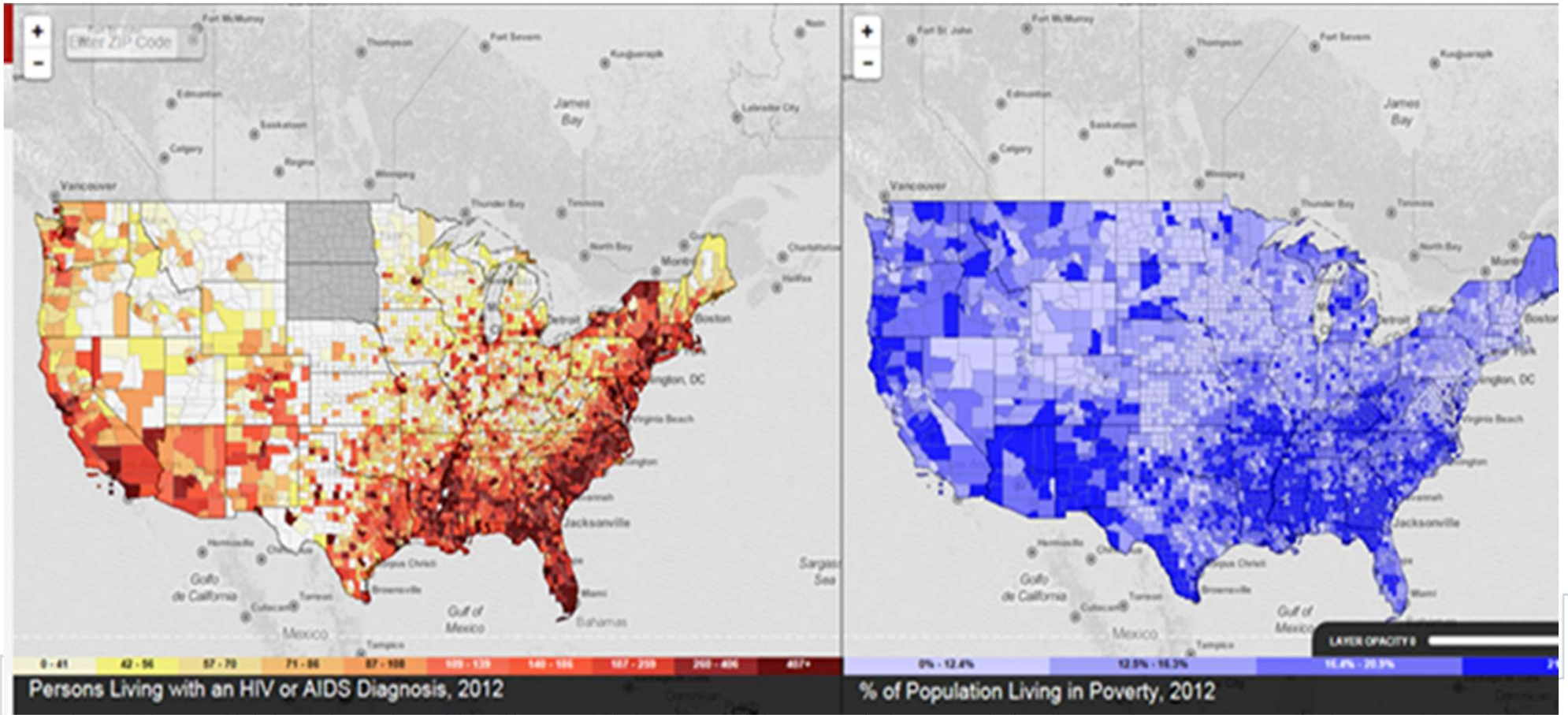
# Understanding HIV today



- More than 1.2 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV
- Approximately 50,000 new infections a year (U.S.)
- Statistics show a strong link between poverty, socioeconomic status and HIV
- HIV disproportionately affects African Americans as well as gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men
- Once viral suppression is achieved, a person with HIV has a 96 % reduced risk of transmission



# HIV & Poverty

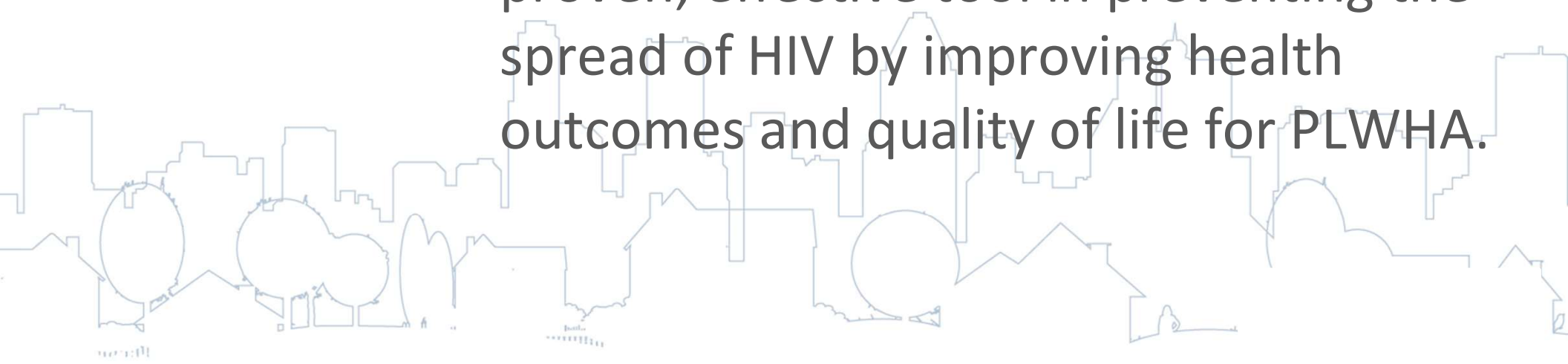




# Why HOPWA

50% of  
PLWHA will  
have some  
form of a  
housing crisis  
in their  
lifetime.

HIV is a public health risk and a highly communicable disease. Housing is a proven, effective tool in preventing the spread of HIV by improving health outcomes and quality of life for PLWHA.



# Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act (HOTMA),

Enacted in July 2016, the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act (HOTMA), changed how HOPWA formula programs are allocated funds. Because of HOTMA, the formula for determining the amount of funding a HOPWA jurisdiction receives is now based on HIV/AIDS cases, Fair Market Rents (FMRs), and poverty rates in a jurisdiction. This formula change was phased in with a stop-loss provision in place from FY 17 to FY 21, with full implementation occurring in FY 22.



# Housing Impacts Health Outcomes



## Housing Instability

1. Delayed diagnosis
2. Increased risk of acquiring & transmitting
3. Delayed entry into care
4. Lack of regular care visits
5. Delayed use of ART
6. Less likely to be virally suppressed



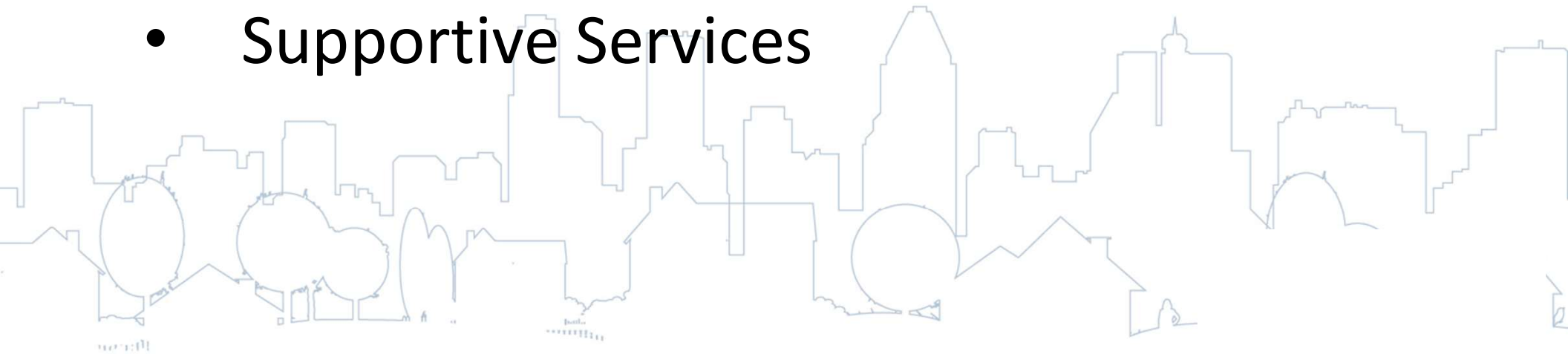
## Housing Stability

1. Reduced risky behaviors
2. Increased rates of care visits
3. More likely to return to care
4. More likely to receive ART
5. More likely to be virally suppressed
6. Reduced use of ER and public resources

# Los Angeles County HOPWA Program

Both Facility and Scattered site.

- Permanent supportive housing
- Emergency Housing
- Transitional/Short-term Housing
- Supportive Services



# HOPWA Activities

**Acquisition**

**New Construction**

**Rehab/ Conversion/  
Repair**

**Operating Costs for  
Facilities**

**Leasing & Master  
Leasing**

**Tenant Based  
Rental Assistance  
(TBRA)**

**Short-term Rent  
Mortgage & Utility  
Assistance  
(STRMU)**

**Permanent Housing  
Placement**

**Housing  
Information**

# Los Angeles County HOPWA Program

**Housing Information and Referral** – Locates vacant units within the County of Los Angeles and maintains a user-friendly website that includes rental listings, housing resources, and additional community resources.

**Housing Specialist/Crisis Housing** – Performs comprehensive assessments and housing plan to address barriers to finding and sustain stable housing. Emergency and transitional housing for clients homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

**Short Term Financial Assistance** – Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility (STRMU) program provide short term financial assistance to maintain housing and Permanent Housing Placement (PHP) provides move-in grant to help households with first month's rent, security deposits and utility switch on fees.

**Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)** – Funded through four housing authorities, operates similarly to a Section-8 voucher program. Households who remain eligible after 12 months may convert to the Section-8 program.

# Los Angeles County HOPWA Program

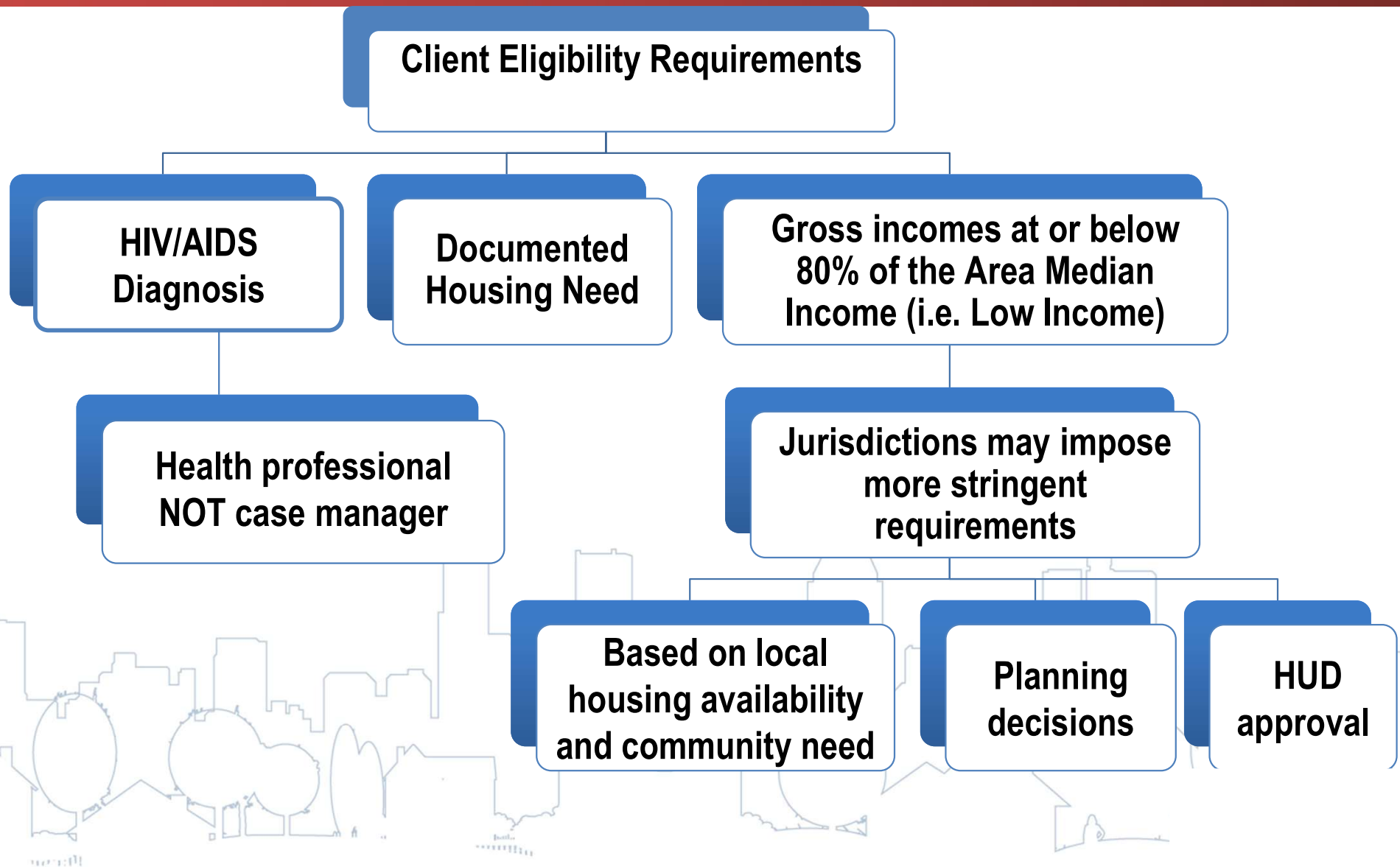
**Scattered Site Master Leasing** – Households living in units leased by a non-profit agency scattered throughout multiple buildings and receive supportive services.

**Residential Service Coordination** – Households living in affordable permanent housing (PH) receive supportive services and linkages to other community resources.

**Legal Services** – Assists with evictions, issues related to eligibility for public benefits, and informs tenants of rights regarding fair housing laws.

**Animal Advocacy** – Teaches tenants' rights regarding service animals for emotional support as well as supportive services for animals.

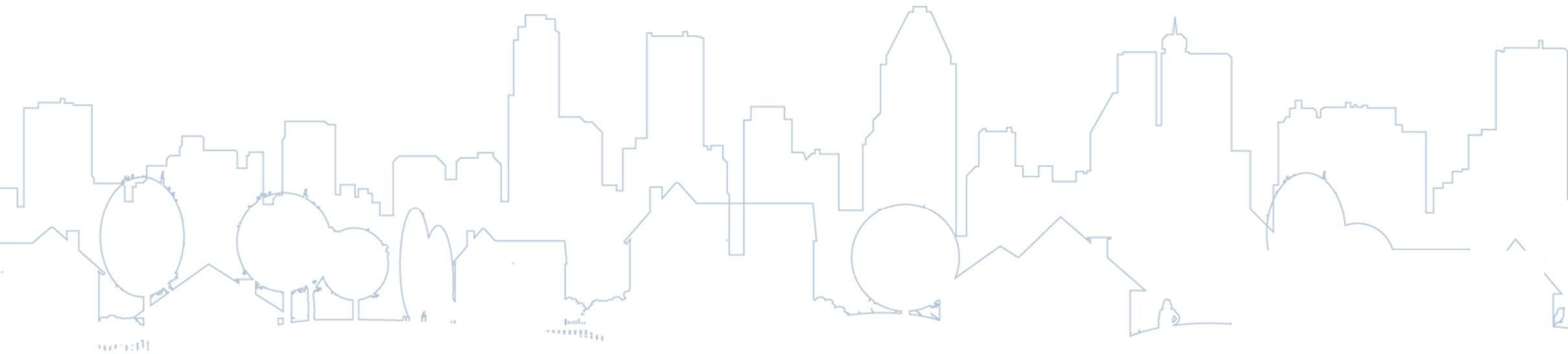
# Client Eligibility



# TBRA/PBRA & SSML

Resident rent payment – whichever is higher of:

- i) 30% of family's monthly adjusted income
- ii) 10% of family's monthly gross income
- iii) part of public assistance designated to meet family's housing costs

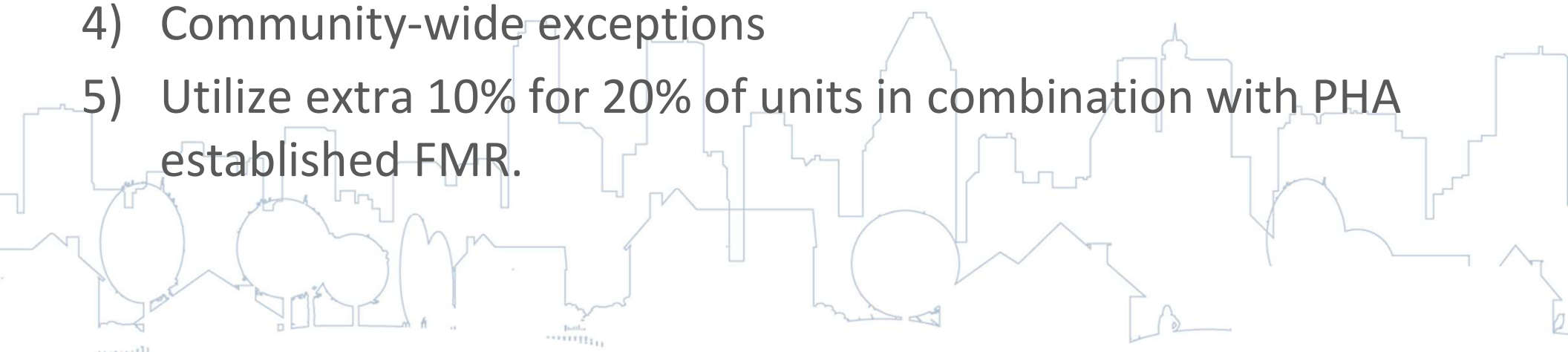




# Standard Rent

**FAQ: If FMR in area is reduced, how much time can client be allowed to remain in unit no longer meeting FMR standard?**

- 1) Reach out to landlord and request lower rent
- 2) Reasonable accommodation for client who is too sick to relocate
- 3) 20% of total TBRA enrollments can exceed FMR by 10%
- 4) Community-wide exceptions
- 5) Utilize extra 10% for 20% of units in combination with PHA established FMR.



# HOPWA & Ryan White

## HOUSING

### HOPWA:

- Facility/Project-based
- Tenant-based rental assistance
- Homelessness prevention (STRMU)
- Short-term Supported Housing (including hotel/motel and shelters)
- Permanent Housing Placement

### Ryan White:

- Housing Service Category
  - Temporary housing

## TRANSPORTATION

### HOPWA:

- Supportive services

### Ryan White:

- Medical Transportation Service Category
- Emergency Financial Assistance Service Category

# HOPWA & Ryan White

## HOUSING

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# Integration with Other Community Planning Efforts

- **Continuum of Care**
- **Section 8**
- **Home**
- **ESG**
- **Ryan White**
- **Employment Programs**
- **Other local service organizations**



# Why is Collaboration Important?

The need is greater than available resources

- Increases coordination across funding streams
- Leads to more efficient use of funds & prevents duplication of services
- Draws upon expertise of various providers
- Involves key players to develop recommendations

# HOPWA/Ryan White Collaboration

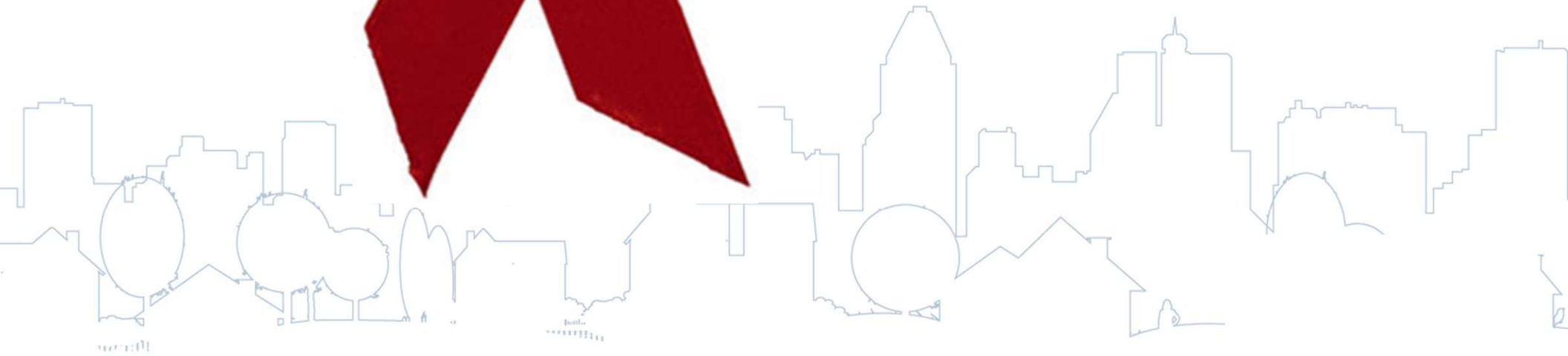
## Collaboration between HOPWA and Ryan White Care Continuum

- Enhance client access to housing
- Improves linkages to care
- Provides coordinated continuum of services
- Integration of data systems standards
- Provides a complete understanding of housing and its impact on health
- Better utilizes limited resources

## Models of Collaboration:

- Single agency to maintain eligibility process for housing services
- Joint training of RW and HOPWA Case Managers
- Single Request for Application and contracting process
- HMIS data bridge
- Integrated data systems (New York/San Francisco)

# Questions





# Contact

## **HOUSING SPECIALIST, CRISIS HOUSING OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Antelope Valley (SPA 1) – Tarzana Treatment Center (661) 948-8559

San Fernando Valley (SPA 2) – Tarzana Treatment Center (818) 342-5897

San Gabriel Valley/Pasadena (SPA 3) – Foothill AIDS Project (909) 482-2066

Hollywood/ Metro/Westside (SPA 4/5) – Alliance for Housing and Healing (323) 656-1107

Downtown Los Angeles (SPA 4) – JWCH Institute Inc. (Wesley Health Centers) (213) 285-4260

South Los Angeles Area (SPA 6) – APLA Health (213) 201-1637

East LA/Great Whittier Area (SPA 7) – Foothill AIDS Project (909) 482-2066

Greater Long Beach area (SPA 8) – Alliance for Housing and Healing (562) 294-5500



# Contact

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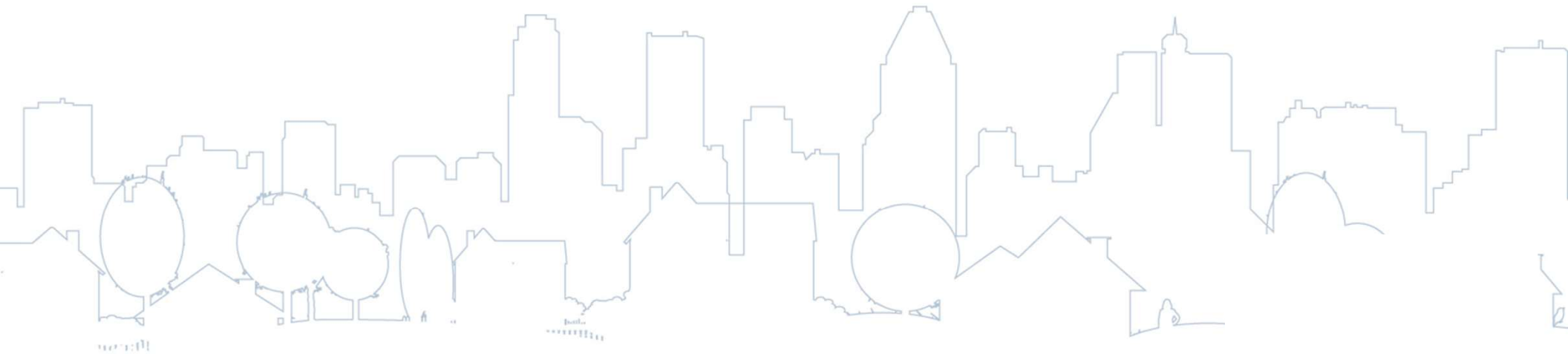
# Contact

## **LEGAL SERVICES**

Inner City Law Center (213) 891-2880

## **ANIMAL ADVOCACY & SUPPORT**

PAWS/LA (213) 741-1950



# Contact

**CHIRPLA** at **(877) 724-4775** or visit their website at [www.chirpla.org](http://www.chirpla.org).

You may also contact the **HOPWA Hotline** at **(213) 808-8805** or via e-mail at [lahd.hopwa@lacity.org](mailto:lahd.hopwa@lacity.org)

Or email [chuy.orozco@lacity.org](mailto:chuy.orozco@lacity.org) (213) 808-8668

Maisha Hunter – [Maisha.Hunter@lacity.org](mailto:Maisha.Hunter@lacity.org)

Matthew Muhonen – [Matthew.Muhonen@lacity.org](mailto:Matthew.Muhonen@lacity.org)

Hannah Levien – [Hannah.Levien@lacity.org](mailto:Hannah.Levien@lacity.org)

