



Public Comment Period for Draft Housing Service Standards: Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool

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The Los Angeles County Commission on HIV (COH) announces an opportunity for the public to submit comments for the draft **Housing Service Standards: Flexible Housing Subsidy** revised by the Standards and Best Practices Committee. Comments from consumers, providers, HIV prevention and care stakeholders, and the public are welcome. A draft of the document is posted to the COH website and can be found at: <https://hiv.lacounty.gov/service-standards>. Comments can be submitted via email to HIVCOMM@LACHIV.ORG. Additionally, consumers of Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool services can request for a physical copy of the service standards be mailed to their home address. For more information, please contact COH staff at jgaribay@lachiv.org or at (213) 738-2816.

After reading the document, consider responding to the following questions when providing public comment:

1. Are the service standards reasonable and achievable for providers? Why or why not?
2. Do the service standards meet consumer needs? Why or why not? Give examples of what is working/not working.
3. Is there anything missing from the service standards related to HIV prevention and care?
4. Do you have any additional comments related to the service standards and/or Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool services?

Public comments are due by **March 7, 2025.**

DRAFT HOUSING SERVICE STANDARDS: FLEXIBLE HOUSING SUBSIDY POOL

PURPOSE: Service standards outline the elements and expectations a Ryan White service provider follows when implementing a specific service category. The purpose of the service standards is to ensure that all Ryan White service providers offer the same fundamental components of the given service category across a service area. Service standards establish the minimal level of service or care that a Ryan White funded agency or provider may offer in Los Angeles County.

Description

Housing provides transitional, short-term, or emergency housing assistance to enable a client or family to gain or maintain outpatient/ambulatory health services and treatment, including temporary assistance necessary to prevent homelessness and to gain or maintain access to medical care. Activities within the Housing category must also include the development of an individualized housing plan, updated annually, to guide the client's linkage to permanent housing. Housing may provide some type of core medical (e.g., mental health services) or support services (e.g., residential substance use disorder services).

Housing activities also include housing referrals services, including assessment, search placement, and housing advocacy services on behalf of the eligible client, as well as fees associated with these activities.

Program Guidance:

HRSA RWHAP recipients and subrecipients that use funds to provide Housing must have mechanisms in place to assess and document the housing status and housing service needs of new clients, and at least annually for existing clients.

HRSA RWHAP recipients and subrecipients, along with local decision-making planning bodies, are strongly encouraged to institute duration limits to housing activities. HRSA HAB recommends recipients and subrecipients align duration limits with those definitions used by other housing programs, such as those administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which currently uses 24 months for transitional housing.

Housing activities cannot be in the form of direct cash payments to clients and cannot be used for mortgage payments.

RWHAP funding may be used to pay for a RWHAP client's security deposit if a RWHAP recipient or subrecipient has policies and procedures in place to ensure that the security deposit is returned to the RWHAP recipient or subrecipient and not to the RWHAP client. Opportunities for Persons with AIDS grant awards.

<https://ryanwhite.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/ryanwhite/grants/hrsa-hab-security-deposit-program-letter.pdf>

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Be diagnosed HIV or AIDS with verifiable documentation
- Have a state-recognized identification document
- Have an income at or below 500% of Federal Poverty Level
- Unstably housed, at-risk for homelessness, and homeless/unsheltered

FLEXIBLE HOUSING SUBSIDY POOL

Ryan White funds may be used to leverage Los Angeles County's Housing for Health (HFH), [Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool \(FHSP\) services](#). The Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool (FHSP) is a supportive housing rental subsidy program of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS), along with other governmental partners and the Conrad N. Hilton foundation. The goal of the FHSP is to secure quality affordable housing for DHS patients who are homeless.

Each person is provided Intensive Case Management Services (ICMS) that ensure housing stability often starting with crisis intervention and referrals to mental and physical healthcare services. Equally important are services to ensuring housing retention, which start with building community and purpose by being present in people's lives for as long as they need the services. Services include eviction prevention, connection to disability benefits, retaining rental subsidies, assistance with life skills, job skills, and volunteer, educational and vocational opportunities.

FHSP services using Ryan White funds must adhere to HRSA and Ryan White CARE Act regulations and federal requirements. Agencies must adhere to DHS HFH service standards, the Commission on HIV Universal Standards, and the Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) programmatic and time limits requirements if using Ryan White funds to enroll eligible clients in HFH FHSP Program.

LINKAGE TO MEDICAL CARE COORDINATION

Based on assessment and client needs, eligible individuals should be linked to Ryan White-funded Medical Care Coordination (MCC) services. MCC service providers must follow the Division of HIV and STD Programs MCC Protocol. For MCC-specific service standards, click [HERE](#).