The bipartisan HIV Epidemic Loan-Repayment Program (HELP) Act will address the urgent need to support a strong and effective HIV clinical and dental workforce by authorizing a new loan-repayment program specific to HIV clinical providers. HIV clinicians shortages are already widening in parts of the country.


Nationally, more than 38,000 people are newly diagnosed with HIV each year, and of the 1.1 million people living with HIV, only half are in regular care and benefiting from treatment. Treating people with HIV rapidly and effectively to reach sustained viral suppression is important for people with HIV to stay healthy and to prevent new HIV transmissions.

From AIDSVu: Prevalence Rate Ratios, by Race/Ethnicity, 2018

- The rate of Black males living with an HIV diagnosis is 5.1 times that of White males.
- The rate of Hispanic/Latino males living with an HIV diagnosis is 3.7 times that of White males.
- The rate of Black females living with an HIV diagnosis is 22.9 times that of White females.
- The rate of Hispanic/Latina females living with an HIV diagnosis is 9.0 times that of White females.

The new loan repayment program would offer up to $250,000 in loan repayment to HIV clinicians and dentists for up to five years of service providing HIV-related treatment in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), Ryan White-funded clinical sites or a service area that meet criteria to be defined by the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau.

Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas

A HPSA is a geographic area, population group, or health care facility that HRSA has designated as having a shortage of health professionals. These areas have a shortage of primary or dental care providers.

- The number of total Primary Care HPSA Designation in Massachusetts 62
- The number of Practitioners needed to remove the HPSA designation in Massachusetts 109

HRSA’S Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP)

RWHAP supports direct health care and support services for over half a million people with HIV — approximately half of all people with diagnosed HIV in the United States, of which 73.4% of the clients are members of ethnic minority populations.

- 12,550 clients received services from Massachusetts’s Ryan White Program in 2018

The initiative will be expanded nationally as funding allows.

June 2021
Massachusetts

20,739 People living with HIV in Massachusetts in 2018

Rate of adults/adolescents living with an HIV diagnosis per 100,000 population

Income Status of All Ryan White Clients

| Percentage living in poverty (At or below 100% of Federal Poverty Level) | 60.0% |

93.8% of clients in Massachusetts with an HIV diagnosis who had at least one medical visit and had at least one viral load reported were virally suppressed

Massachusetts Ryan White Program Funding (FY20)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Part A</th>
<th>Part B</th>
<th>Part C</th>
<th>Part D</th>
<th>Part F</th>
<th>EHE</th>
<th>AETC</th>
<th>Total*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
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<td>$1,117,069</td>
<td>$2,107,983</td>
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*The total does not include funding for the CARES Act or the Special Programs of National Significance.