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 prevent new HIV transmissions.

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

- The rate of Black males living with an HIV diagnosis is 6.2 times that of White males.
- The rate of Hispanic/Latino males living with an HIV diagnosis is 2.7 times that of White males.
- The rate of Black females living with an HIV diagnosis is 13.7 times that of White females.
- The rate of Hispanic/Latina females living with an HIV diagnosis is 3.5 times that of White females.

More than 50% of new HIV diagnoses in 2016 and 2017 occurred in 48 counties, Washington, D.C., and San Juan, Puerto Rico. These 50 jurisdictions are prioritized in Phase I of the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative and seven states with a disproportionate occurrence of HIV in rural areas.

Missouri is 1 of 7 priority states in Phase I of EHE.

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.

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.

HRSA’s Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (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.

8,656 clients received services from Missouri's Ryan White Program in 2018
People living with HIV in Missouri 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)

59.5%

89.0% of clients in Missouri with an HIV diagnosis who had at least one medical visit and had at least one viral load reported were virally suppressed

Missouri 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>Missouri</td>
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<td>$13,421,249</td>
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<td>$21,430</td>
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*The total does not include funding for the CARES Act or the Special Programs of National Significance.