Part C of the Ryan White Program

Comprehensive Medical Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS and Effective Resources for Responding to the Opioid Epidemic

Funding Request
The FY19 request is $225.1 million, a $24 million increase to help address the opioid epidemic by serving rising numbers of new patients and providing additional substance use disorder treatment and prevention services.


Ryan White Part C Clinics are Effective Medical Homes Serving Patients Nationwide
Part C of the Ryan White Program directly funds comprehensive and effective HIV care and treatment--services that are responsible for the dramatic decrease in AIDS-related mortality and morbidity over the last decade. Additionally, HIV treatment not only saves the lives of people living with HIV, but also benefits public health by reducing HIV transmission to virtually zero when individuals are virally suppressed.

Part C directly funds approximately 350 community health centers and clinics that provide comprehensive medical care in 49 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Part C clinics provide medical care to more than 300,000 people each year and are the primary method for delivering HIV care to rural jurisdictions--approximately half of Part C providers serve rural communities.

Part C Clinics Are on the Frontlines of the Opioid Epidemic
Ryan White Part C clinics and medical providers are experienced and able to effectively respond to the opioid epidemic because these clinics already serve a significant number of individuals living with both substance use disorder and HIV. Ryan White Part C providers are able to deliver a range of medical and support services needed to prevent and treat substance use disorders as well as related disorders, including HIV and other infectious diseases, such as hepatitis C and sexually-transmitted infections. The significant experience and expertise of Part C providers should be fully leveraged in order to help effectively respond to the opioid epidemic and expand access to substance use disorder services more rapidly.
Part C Clinics Meet a Critical Public Health Need
Part C of the Ryan White Program supports comprehensive, lifesaving HIV medical services for underserved, underinsured, and uninsured people living with HIV/AIDS nationwide. The program’s comprehensive services help to engage and keep people in HIV care and treatment. This fact is critical, because HIV disease is infectious, so identifying, engaging, and retaining persons living with HIV in effective care and treatment is an essential public health outcome that will help lead the nation to an AIDS-free generation. This comprehensive, successful Part C treatment model is similar to what is needed now to effectively address the opioid epidemic. Part C providers are responding to the concerning increases in new HIV cases linked to the opioid epidemic and are working across community-based providers and public health systems to provide access to needed HIV and substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and support services.

Part C Clinics Are Saving Lives and Reducing Costs
Early and reliable access to HIV care and treatment both helps patients with HIV live healthy and productive lives and is more cost effective. A study from the Part C clinic at the University of Alabama at Birmingham found that patients treated at later stages of HIV disease required 2.6 times more health care dollars than those receiving earlier treatment meeting federal HIV treatment guidelines.

These principles also apply when addressing substance use disorders. Kaiser Permanente Northern California analyzed the average medical costs during the 18 months pre and post substance use disorder treatment and found that the substance use disorder treatment group had a 35% reduction in inpatient costs, 39% reduction in ER costs, and a 26% reduction in total medical costs, as compared to a matched control group.[1],[2] Engaging Ryan White Part C clinics and providers to help expand access to substance use disorder services will both address the urgent need for this care nationwide and help reduce medical and emergency care costs for individuals living with substance use disorder.


For more information please contact:
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