

Maintaining housing stability and preventing homelessness among PWH in the NY EMA during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE)

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Learning Objectives

1. Illustrate the NY EMA Priority Setting and Resource Allocation process for replication in other EMA/TGAs.
2. Demonstrate participatory methods and tools for priority setting and resource allocation in addressing unmet need while promoting progress along the HIV care continuum.
3. Explore processes for setting priorities and identifying a range of resources that could be used for enhancing services and addressing unmet need among priority populations.

Housing in the NY EMA

- The NY EMA has a high prevalence of homelessness and housing instability, exacerbated by COVID-19 and NYS on PAUSE*:
 - Low vacancy rate creates a shortage of affordable housing options;
 - Black and Latinx/Hispanic people disproportionately affected by homelessness and housing instability;
 - Represents 88% of heads of NYC adult and family households sleeping in shelters in 2021.**

* NYU Furman Center Blog, *The Stoop*. Understanding the Potential Magnitude of Rent Shortfalls in New York due to COVID. June 4, 2020. Accessible at: <https://furmancenter.org/thestoop/entry/understanding-the-potential-magnitude-of-rent-shortfalls-in-new-york-state>

** [Basic Facts About Homelessness: New York City - Coalition For The Homeless](#)

Housing in the NY EMA

- The COVID-19 PHE exacerbated homelessness and housing instability in the NY EMA, requiring action by both the NY HIV Planning Council and the Recipient of Ryan White Part A (RWPA);
- An established planning process was utilized to allocate additional funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in Grant Year 2021.

Planning for additional CARES Act funds

- CARES Act Funding- \$1,000,000 for the RWPA program in the NY EMA
 - The Recipient worked with the NY Planning Council (PC) to
 1. Assess need within the RWPA Portfolio;
 2. Monitor program spending patterns to identify needs and opportunities to absorb additional funding sources;
 3. Highlight programs especially vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19 (housing, food, etc.); and
 4. Ensure Priority Setting and Resource Allocation for CARES Act funding went to the programs most impacted by the COVID-19 PHE.

Planning for additional CARES Act funds 2

- The Recipient conducted a needs assessment based on historic spending patterns across RWPA programs;
 - Using community-informed planning processes, the Recipient solicited information from all RWPA programs to assess need for CARES Act funding;
 - RWPA housing services in the NY EMA were identified as having the most pressing need in response to the COVID-19 PHE.
- The Recipient presented findings and recommendations for use of CARES Act funding to Priority Setting and Resource Allocations PC Committee.
- All CARES Act funding was allocated to RWPA housing services in the NY EMA.

Housing outcomes resulting from CARES Act Funding in RWPA

- CARES Act funds were distributed to three housing vendors who served approximately 283 households as follows:
 - Short-term rental assistance;
 - Utility assistance payments;
 - Virtual financial counseling and budget planning;
 - Nutrition services;
 - Virtual case management services; and
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies.
- CARES Act funding enabled housing vendors to maintain housing stability and prevent homelessness for RWHAP consumers who experienced major income loss due to COVID-19:
 - CARES funding ensured RWPA consumers were not displaced during the COVID PHE;
 - By minimizing housing instability, RWPA households could focus on remaining connected to care and treatment adherence.

Thank you!

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