

Howard Brown Health At-A-Glance

Howard Brown Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides comprehensive services to LGBTQ+ people in Chicago, Illinois. Howard Brown Health began providing Rapid Start services through the Same Day Start program in early 2018.

Rapid Start services are provided at all nine Howard Brown Health locations throughout Chicago. Through a partnership with Walgreens, pharmacies are embedded at clinic sites to facilitate quick access to ART.

Key Rapid Start Service Characteristics

Urban-Rural Classification Urban
Care Setting FQHC located in Chicago, IL
RHWAP Funding Parts A, C and D
Population Size Approximately 5,500 clients with HIV
Clients Served Newly diagnosed and re-engaging in care



Priority Population LGBTQ+ people
Medicaid Expansion State (Yes/No) Yes
ART Starter Packs Available (Yes/No) Yes
Onsite Pharmacy (Yes/No) Yes
Onsite Lab Draws (Yes/No) Yes
Onsite HIV Testing (Yes/No) Yes

Unique Features of Howard Brown Health Services' Rapid Start Program

A linkage to care navigation team is dedicated to providing Rapid Start services and follows clients for four medical appointments before transitioning to regular care

A partnership with Walgreens supports embedding pharmacies into each clinical site to connect clients to medication rapidly

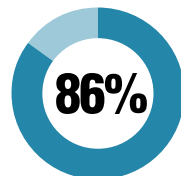
Pharmacists are part of the healthcare team and essential to ensuring access to same-day medication

The **entire healthcare** team, including primary care providers, at walk-in HIV testing sites are **trained on Rapid Start**

Client Outcomes (January 2021 – December 2021)



newly diagnosed and re-engaged clients received Rapid Start services



of newly diagnosed Rapid Start clients were virally suppressed in 6 months

On average, newly diagnosed Rapid Start clients achieved viral suppression

