

Save the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part F Dental Programs!

Access to dental care for people with HIV remains a leading unmet need for people with HIV (PWH) who access services via the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP). To help address this unmet need are two programs housed in Part F of the RWHAP: the Dental Reimbursement Program (DRP) and the Community Based Dental Partnership Program (CBDPP). While good oral health is important to the well-being of all population groups, it is especially critical for PWH. Inadequate oral health care can undermine HIV treatment and diminish quality of life, yet many PWH are not receiving the necessary oral health care that would optimize their treatment.” * **It has been reported that the remaining portion of the CBDPP funding appropriated by Congress will not be distributed by the Administration.** The average grant award for the 12 national grantees is \$302,178. The grantees will need the entire award to maintain their efforts to provide care and train the next generation.

First funded in 1994, the Dental Reimbursement Program (DRP) expands access to oral health care for PWH while training additional dental and dental hygiene providers. To achieve its goal, the DRP provides a portion of their uncompensated care from the previous year to accredited dental schools, schools of dental hygiene, and postdoctoral dental education programs that treat PWH. Since July 2003, the DRP has provided training, on average, to 12,000 people each year. **DRP-reimbursed sites support, on average, approximately 230,000 oral health care visits each year!**

First funded in 2002, CBDPP increases access to oral health care for PWH, providing education and clinical training for dental care providers, especially those practicing in community-based settings. To achieve its goal, the CBDPP works through multipartner collaborations between dental and dental hygiene education programs and community-based dentists and dental clinics. Community-based program partners help design programs and assess their impact. CBDPP-funded sites support, on average, **approximately 35,000 oral health care visits each year.**

More than half of DRP clients and approximately two-thirds of CBDPP clients are living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL). In 2020, 62.1% of CBDPP clients were living at or below 100% FPL. Dental care remains a high unmet need due to barriers including cost, transportation, stigma and medical complexity. Both programs provide dental care to the most vulnerable PWH.

Please contact your elected officials via email or a phone call and tell them to fully fund the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part F Dental Program

To find and contact your U.S. Senator: 1. Visit the Senate website (www.senate.gov). 2. Conduct a search using the Find Your Senators pull-down menu in the upper right corner (select your state and click Go). 3. On the results page is a link to the Senators’ website, contact information, and links to an online contact form (forms vary by Senator).

To find and contact your U.S. Representative: 1. Visit the House of Representatives website (www.house.gov). 2. Conduct a search using the Find Your Representative zip code search box in the upper right corner (enter your zip code and click Go). 3. On the results page is a photo of your Representative(s), links to the Representative’s personal website and online contact form, and a local map. 4. In the event your zip code overlaps with multiple congressional districts, the results page will include boxes for you to enter your zip code+4 or mailing address to find the correct Representative.

* U.S. Public Health Service Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin, MD, MBA