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To: HOPWA-L@HUDLIST.HUD.GOV
Subject: HOPWA In Focus: World AIDS Day 2022

HOPWA In Focus: World AIDS Day 2022

Dear HOPWA Grantees, Project Sponsors, and Friends,

Every year we commemorate [World AIDS Day](#) on December 1st. It is a day to remember and honor those who have died due to AIDS-related illnesses. It is a day to recognize the contributions towards ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic by those we have lost and those who are continuing the work. It is a day to raise our voices and renew efforts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. World AIDS Day is an opportunity for us to speak with one voice about our commitment to ensuring equitable access to health services and housing. We do all of this while also responding to COVID-19 and [mplex](#), which disproportionately impact many of the same communities most affected by HIV/AIDS.

The U.S. government's theme for World AIDS Day 2022— ***Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving Equity to End HIV***—emphasizes accountability and action, affirming the Biden-Harris administration's dedication to ending HIV, both in the United States and around the globe, through an approach that centers on communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic. The theme reflects the importance of HIV testing and highlights the administration's commitment **to lead with equity** in our response to HIV/AIDS. Through the [National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States 2022–2025 \(NHAS\)](#), the Biden-Harris administration is advancing a holistic/status-neutral approach that begins with HIV testing. This approach aims to reduce the number of new infections by addressing the needs of the whole person while also mitigating HIV-related stigma. Safe and stable housing is the foundation we all need to ensure health, wellbeing, and dignity regardless of factors like age, income, or HIV status.

The NHAS was released by President Biden last year on World AIDS Day 2021, and it builds on previous iterations of the Strategy to provide a roadmap for the nation to accelerate our efforts to end the HIV epidemic in the U.S. by 2030. The August 2022 release of the White House's companion [NHAS Federal Implementation Plan](#) reflects the collaborative work of representatives from 10 federal departments and details more than 380 action items they will implement individually and collaboratively to move the strategy's indicators of progress in the right direction. Notably, reducing unstable housing and homelessness is included as an indicator in measuring success of the plan, and HUD is working department-wide and with federal partners on actions to support progress on the housing indicator.

The Office of HIV/AIDS Housing (OHH) continues to advance equity through the HOPWA Equity Initiative. This is a technical assistance (TA) initiative where TA providers are working with several communities to assess their HOPWA programs' ability to address equity and provide

tools for communities to improve their systems such that people with HIV have equitable access to housing and services. The desired outcome of this initiative is to have HOPWA programs that provide services using an equity lens, ensuring that Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), Women, and LGBTQ+, have unfettered access to housing and services. Outcomes from the assessment phase of the equity initiative will be released in early 2023.

The work to advance equity continues to show its importance in the aftermath of the recent violence directed at the LGBTQ+ community in Colorado Springs. We send our heartfelt condolences to all the family and friends who have lost a loved one to violence associated with stigma and discrimination. This year we will be working on ways to involve people with lived experience in HOPWA program planning and design to make sure we can together find solutions to eliminate stigma, discrimination, and barriers to accessing housing and supportive services.

This year we are also celebrating the [30th anniversary of the HOPWA program](#) by recognizing and looking back on milestones and accomplishments of the program. Throughout the year we will be shining a spotlight on HOPWA programs and their important work utilizing housing as a structural intervention to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We will send out HOPWA Provider Spotlights through our listserv and make them available online [here](#).

We are so proud to work alongside all of you and continue the work being done to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We know the importance of housing in improving health outcomes for people with HIV and in ending the epidemic. We hope you will also join us in remembering and honoring all the friends, family, and neighbors we lost to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and recommitting to continue the hard work with us to end the epidemic. As always, thank you for your continued work with and support of the HOPWA program.

Respectfully,

Rita Harcrow
Director, Office of HIV/AIDS Housing



Housing is a structural intervention in ending the AIDS epidemic in the United States.

Each year, HOPWA ensures housing stability for more than 100,000 American households that are low-income and living with HIV.

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https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/hopwa

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