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HOPWA In Focus: World AIDS Day 2024

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This letter from Amy Griffin, Director, Office of HIV/AIDS Housing, was originally distributed via HUD.gov. HUD Exchange is redistributing the information for awareness.

Dear Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Grantees, Project Sponsors, and Friends,

Every year on December 1st, the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing (OHH) recognizes World AIDS Day to honor the over 32 million lives lost due to AIDS-related illness and to recommit ourselves to the fight to end the HIV epidemic.

For World AIDS Day 2024, the federal government has chosen the theme, **Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV Progress**, a testament to all the progress that has been made in the field of HIV prevention and treatment and a promise to continue our efforts to address the evolving needs of people with HIV. This year's theme also serves as an important reminder of the transformative impact that working together and harnessing our collective strength can make on improving the programs and services we provide for people with HIV.

Housing remains a vital piece of ending the HIV epidemic and the HOPWA program plays a crucial role in these efforts. As the only federal program dedicated to providing housing and supportive services for people with HIV, we hold an immense responsibility in ensuring that the HOPWA program is responsive, inclusive, and reflective of the current needs of people with HIV. This year, the HOPWA program has provided grant funding to over 150 community organizations and local governments, and provided housing and supportive services for over 100,000 low-income people with HIV and their families. HOPWA program funding helps enable communities to expand their response efforts and provide pathways to achieve stable housing.

In 2023, HOPWA providers reported that 97 percent of households receiving HOPWA permanent housing assistance were stably housed, 92 percent had contact with a case manager, and 84 percent had contact with a primary care physician. OHH is committed to **sustaining** efforts to increase access to permanent stable housing and improve health outcomes for people with HIV. In addition, OHH is dedicated to **accelerating** our efforts by working with our federal partners and local communities to end the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030.

Together we have made significant progress in achieving the goals established in the National HIV/AIDS

Strategy (2022-2025). Representatives from OHH continue to participate as part of a federal steering committee responsible for the coordinated implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and of the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative. This week in response to World AIDS Day, OHH will attend “Enhancing the Lives of People with HIV – A Quality of Life Symposium” convened by the White House Office of National AIDS Policy on December 5, 2024 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM EST. At this session, OHH will work across the federal government to explore our opportunities to impact the five quality of life indicators named in the National HIV/AIDS strategy- overall health, mental health, food insecurity, stable housing, and employment. View more information, including a link to participate virtually, on the **Enhancing the Lives of People with HIV – A Quality of Life Symposium** (<https://www.hiv.gov/blog/white-house-to-convene-symposium-on-quality-of-life-for-people-with-hiv>).

This World AIDS Day, we call on our partners and friends to join in the promise of **collective action** as we strive to support and amplify the needs of people with HIV. We also join the global community in honoring the 37th anniversary of World AIDS Day and remembering the family and friends we have lost to the HIV epidemic. We look forward to continuing the work with our federal partners to end the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030. As always, we thank you for your continued support of the HOPWA program.

Respectfully,
Amy Griffin, MSW
Director, Office of HIV/AIDS Housing

HOPWA Mailing List Subscription

HOPWA uses two different listservs to communicate competition and program updates:

- **Subscribe to the HUD.gov listserv** (<https://www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup?listname=Housing%20Opportunities%20for%20Persons%20with%20AIDS%20Program&list=HOPWA-L>) for information developed by HUD/Office of HIV/AIDS Housing.
- **Subscribe to the HUD Exchange listserv** (<https://www.hudexchange.info/mailinglist/subscribe/>) for information and guidance produced by HUD technical assistance providers regarding the HOPWA program.

HOPWA grantees and interested stakeholders should consider subscribing both to the HUD.gov mailing list and HUD Exchange mailing list.

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