

Ways to Participate...

ATTEND A MEETING...

All meetings are open to the general public and although only Council members are allowed to vote, public comment is always welcome. Call to put your name on the list for public comment, to request a calendar or for more information.

APPLY FOR PROJECT LEAP...

Learn valuable skills to help you effectively participate in HIV planning.

APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP...

Applications are available for both Council and Committee membership.

BE A PARTICIPANT...

Voice your opinion at meetings, public hearings, focus groups or on surveys. Check the calendar regularly for topics of specific interest to you.

Council publications, membership applications, the calendar of meetings, and a wealth of other information is available on our website:

www.rwpcHouston.org



What medical and support services do Ryan White Program funds provide for people living with HIV?

- ✂ Adult Day Care
- ✂ Ambulatory Outpatient Medical Care
- ✂ Case Management & Service Linkage
- ✂ Early Medical Intervention
- ✂ Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance
- ✂ Hospice Care
- ✂ Linguistic Services
- ✂ Medication Assistance
- ✂ Mental Health Services
- ✂ Nutritional Therapy & Supplements
- ✂ Oral Health (Dental) Care
- ✂ Treatment for Substance Use Disorders
- ✂ Transportation to Medical Appointments
- ✂ Vision Care

Council Publications

- Blue Book HIV Resource Guide
- Houston Area Comprehensive HIV Prevention & Care Services Plan
- Houston HIV Needs Assessment
- Houston Area Epidemiological Profile
- Various Special Studies

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Ryan White Planning Council



Planning Council Participation & Membership

www.rwpcHouston.org

Houston's Ryan White Planning Council



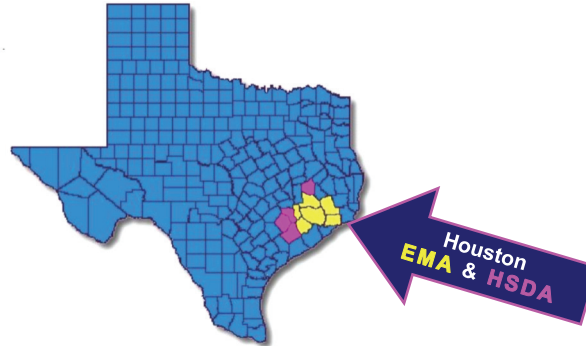
The Ryan White CARE Act

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 is a Federal law that was first passed by Congress in 1990 as the Ryan White CARE Act. The Ryan White Program provides Federal funds which are used to develop systems of care and pay for medical and support services for people living with HIV and their families. It specifically describes how the money can be used and is divided into five major parts: A, B, C, D and F. Houston's Ryan White Planning Council is responsible for activities under Part A and makes recommendations for Part B and State Services funding.

Part A funds go to areas hit hardest by the HIV epidemic. These areas are called **Eligible Metropolitan Areas (EMAs)**. The grant goes to the **Chief Elected Official (CEO)** of the major city or county in the EMA. In the Houston EMA, the CEO is the County Judge. The Houston EMA is comprised of six counties: Chambers, Fort Bend, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller.

Part B funds are awarded to the State of Texas and are used to serve the Houston area which includes the EMA and four additional counties: Austin, Colorado, Walker and Wharton.

Annually, the Houston area receives approximately \$24 million to be used for services such as outpatient medical care, medications, dental care, mental health services and more. *See the back for a list of currently funded services.*



Council Roles & Responsibilities

Before the EMA can receive Part A funds the CEO must appoint a Planning Council. Houston's Council is a 40 member volunteer group comprised of community members who have been appointed to serve a two-year term.

The Council decides what services are most needed in the area (**service priorities**), decides how much money should be used for each of these services (**resource allocation**) and develops a plan to provide the services (**comprehensive plan**). All decisions must be based on an evaluation of the needs of people living with HIV (**needs assessment**). The Council has the responsibility to encourage, recruit, accommodate and support the participation of people living with HIV on the Planning Council.

Planning Council Membership

Individuals appointed to the Council have a wide range of viewpoints and expertise including health care providers, public health officials, people of various races, ethnic backgrounds and sexual orientations. At least one-third of the members must be people living with HIV to bring the consumers' point of view to Planning Council discussions. The Council elects officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary) to serve a one year term.

The Chair of the Planning Council assigns

each member to work on one or more of the standing committees. Committees include: Affected Community, Comprehensive HIV Planning, Operations, Priority and Allocations and Quality Improvement.



Committee members typically commit four to six hours a month to attend committee meetings and related activities, such as special workgroups. Full Council members will commit an additional two hours per month for Planning Council meetings.

Project L.E.A.P. ([Learning Empowerment Advocacy Participation](#))

Project LEAP is a free, 17-week comprehensive advocacy training course for individuals living with and/or affected by HIV in the Greater Houston Area. The goal is to train people living with HIV so that they become active participants in local HIV planning activities by serving on a planning body, such as the Ryan White Planning Council or the City of Houston HIV Prevention Community Planning Group (CPG).

Some of the topics covered in Project LEAP include: history and trends of HIV in the Houston area, HIV and stigma, designing HIV services, the service prioritization and funding allocation process, HIV prevention, comprehensive planning, leadership skills, parliamentary procedure (Robert's Rules of Order), and much more.

A brief application and in-person interview are required to participate.