

# Ryan White Program FACT SHEET

## About the Ryan White Program

The Metro Public Health Department (MPHD) Ryan White program provides HIV-related services to residents of thirteen counties of Middle Tennessee; Cannon, Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Hickman, Macon, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson and Wilson. The program serves persons with HIV disease who do not have sufficient health care coverage or financial resources for coping with HIV disease. The program fills gaps in care not met by other payers.

The **mission** of the Ryan White program is to decrease and eventually eliminate HIV disease in our community.

## About the Ryan White Planning Body

The Ryan White program is supported by a local planning body comprised of community volunteers to assure that the program is responsive to local needs and issues. The planning body members reflect the local HIV epidemic demographically and include members with specific expertise in health-care planning, housing for the homeless, health care for incarcerated populations, and substance abuse and mental health treatment or members who represent other Ryan White and Federal programs.

At least thirty-three percent (33%) of the members are consumers of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program services. The planning body is responsible for several key activities including allocation of Part A funds, development of needs assessment and development of a strategic plan.

## About Ryan White Program Goals

- Increased community awareness and education about HIV disease;
- Support of routine HIV testing for all persons and early identification of HIV disease;
- Quick access to, an engagement in HIV medical treatment and other services for persons who are HIV positive; and
- Improved health status of the community-at-large and persons with HIV disease.

## About Ryan White Program Funding

The MPHD receives funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) to administer the Ryan White Part A Program.

Under the Part A Program, HRSA provides funds to local governments that are most severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic and have reported 1,000 to 1,999 AIDS cases in the most recent 5 years and have a population of at least 50,000. The MPHD is one of (51) cities in the United States to receive these funds.

## By the Numbers:

- Over the last five years, there has been a 10% decrease in new HIV diagnoses.
- In 2018, the overall percent of viral suppression was 85.5%.
- Viral suppression is defined as having less than 200 copies of HIV per milliliter of blood. HIV medicine can even make the viral load so low that a test can't detect it. This is called an undetectable viral load. People with HIV who take HIV medicine as prescribed and get and keep an undetectable viral load (or stay virally suppressed) have effectively no risk of transmitting HIV to their HIV-negative sexual partners.

