

**INLAND EMPIRE HIV PLANNING COUNCIL STANDARDS OF CARE
RIVERSIDE / SAN BERNARDINO TRANSITIONAL GRANT AREA
RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM**

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

This document offers a limited set of focused standards addressing key aspects specific to this service category. Other relevant standards, including the Common Standards, as well as other policies, recommendations and guidelines should be referenced in conjunction with this standard.

Purpose of Standards

These service and care standards are prescribed by the Inland Empire HIV Planning Council (IEHPC). The purpose of these standards is to establish a minimum set of quality expectations to ensure uniformity of service funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program legislation across the Riverside/San Bernardino Transitional Grant Area (R/SB TGA).

These standards are to be monitored and enforced by means of incorporation into service provision contracts managed by the Ryan White Program (RWP) Office on behalf of the IEHPC, as provided by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program legislation and HRSA policies, guidance, and other requirements.

Definition of Service (HRSA)

Emergency Financial Assistance provides limited one-time or short-term payments (no more than 3 consecutive months) assist an HRSA RWHAP client with an urgent need for essential items or services necessary to improve health outcomes, including: utilities, housing, food (including groceries and food vouchers), transportation, medication not covered by an AIDS Drug Assistance Program or AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance, or another HRSA RWHAP-allowable cost needed to improve health outcomes. Emergency Financial Assistance must occur as a direct payment to an agency or through a voucher program. Program

I. Care and Treatment Goal(s):

The goal of Emergency Financial Assistance is to augment other resources for emergent needs through the provision of referral services, including assessment, short term and emergency services designed to stabilize the clients in order to promote access to health care and supportive services. In combination with emergency assistance funds and other short-term intensive support Emergency Financial Assistance will provide an environment that facilitates

continuation of HIV medical care and appropriate medication adherence thereby improving quality of life and clinical health outcomes.

II. Service Goal(s):

Enable HIV service clients at risk of loss of essential services or who are in urgent need to maintain a stable living environment thereby improving quality of life and clinical health outcomes.

A. Service Objectives

1. Provide short-term (one payment of a maximum of 3 consecutive months of payments or 3 times per year) to assist the RWHAP client with an emergent need for paying for essential items or services necessary to improve health outcomes, including: utilities, housing, food (including groceries and food vouchers), transportation, medication not covered by an AIDS Drug Assistance Program or AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance, or another HRSA RWHAP-allowable cost needed to improve health outcomes.

B. Description of Service Service Components

1. Provide RWP clients in need of assistance one payment of MAXIMUM OF three (3) months or 3 times per year to pay their for essential items or services necessary to improve health outcomes, including: utilities, housing, food (including groceries and food vouchers), transportation, medication not covered by an AIDS Drug Assistance Program or AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance, or another HRSA RWHAP-allowable cost needed to improve health outcomes.
2. Conduct a service assessment with the client. The necessity for assistance must be documented by a case manager or other qualified professional. When appropriate, the assessment should be made available for inclusion in the client's Care Plan. Payment for emergency financial assistance must be certified or documented by a case manager, social worker, or other licensed healthcare professional(s)." When appropriate, the emergency assessment should be made available for development of the client's Care Plan.
3. If a Care Plan is in place, the Care Plan should be reviewed and incorporated where appropriate. If the case manager identifies additional service needs, these needs should be incorporated into the Client's Care Plan if they are ever in need of Medical Case Management.
4. Emergency Financial Assistance allocations for for essential items or services necessary to improve health outcomes, including: utilities, housing, food (including groceries and food vouchers), transportation, medication not covered by an AIDS Drug Assistance Program or AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance, or another HRSA RWHAP-allowable cost needed to improve health outcomes. will be paid directly to the utility company or authorized third party billing entity.

C. Limitations are as follows : Assistance is limited to one payment of three (3) consecutive months annually or three(3) times per year.

IV. Exceptions and Urgent Need Please refer to the Common Standards of Care for guidance concerning Exceptions and Urgent Need.

V. Reportable Units of Service and Financial Eligibility. Please refer to the current service contract for a description of the unit of service and financial eligibility thresholds for each service category.