

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

FOOD SERVICES

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)

Food Services include the provision of actual food or meals. It does not include finances to purchase food or meals. The provision of essential household supplies such as hygiene items and household cleaning supplies should be included in this item. Includes vouchers to purchase food.

I. Care and Treatment Goal(s)

The provision of "Food Services" in the R/SB TGA augments other public and private resources for food or meals available to individuals in an attempt to ensure that there will be no regression in health status or additional problems with daily living caused by inadequate or unbalanced nutrition.

II. Service Goal

The overall goal of food services is to supplement eligible HIV/AIDS client's ability to maintain continuous access to adequate caloric intake and balanced nutrition sufficient to maintain optimal health in the face of compromised health status due to HIV infection.

A. Service Objectives

1. To provide access to healthy and nutritiously necessary food or meals for PLWH/A in the R/SB TGA through the distribution of actual food or food vouchers to help maintain caloric intake and balanced nutrition, consistent with each client's care plan.

B. Description of Services

Service Components

1. Food Services in the R/SB TGA consist of the distribution of food vouchers, as well as the purchase of food and hot meals.
2. Licensure: Funded food service program will be licensed, if applicable, and meet inspection requirements for Food Service Sanitation in the city or county of operation.
3. Food Handling Policy: Provider must submit, post and show evidence of adherence to a policy to ensure disposal of perishable and non-perishable, damaged or package tampered goods.
4. Agencies providing food vouchers will make every effort to purchase quantities that provide for discounts.
5. Within each agency every client should receive an equal number of food vouchers each month.

C. Limitations

1. Nutritional Assessment and Nutritional Counseling services are not a part of the Food Services Program.
2. Food Services are designed only as a supplemental or partial augmentation to other food sources available to clients.
3. Funds may not be used to purchase household appliances, pet foods or products.
4. Maximum of \$60 per client per month (can be combination of vouchers and food bags).

III. Service-Specific Staff Qualifications

There are no prescribed staff qualifications specific to Food Services. *Please refer to the Common Standards of Care for general staff qualification requirements.*

IV. Exceptions and Emergent Need

Please refer to the Common Standards of Care for guidance concerning exceptions and Emergent 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.