



Dear Administrative Agency (AA) and Project Sponsor Staff,

See below for important HOPWA announcements:

- 1) HOPWA: Website Updates
- 2) HOPWA: 2018 Program Form Implementation Date
- 3) HOPWA: Monitoring Tool Updated
- 4) HOPWA: Monitoring Sample Size Guidance
- 5) HOPWA: New Webinars Available on TXTRAIN
- 6) HOPWA: New Service Category

If you have questions about this News Flash, please contact Blade Berkman:

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Thanks!

HOPWA News Flash

***** Please forward this News Flash to your Project Sponsors *****

1) HOPWA: Website Updates

On 12/15/2017, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) HIV Care Services Group updated the following documents on the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) [Website](#) in anticipation of the HOPWA 2018 (02/01/18 – 01/31/19) program year:

- a) 2018 Program Manual and Guides;
- b) 2018 Program Forms in English and Spanish;
- c) A sample program file with completed program forms
- d) Reporting Documents; and
- e) Consolidated Plans, Annual Plans, and Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports.

2) HOPWA: 2018 Program Forms Implementation Date

On 12/15/17, the HIV Care Services Group updated the DSHS HOPWA Program forms to accommodate the new Facility-Based Housing Assistance service category and add new data entry error-prevention mechanisms. Full implementation is required by **02/01/18**. Households enrolled before this date will be grandfathered. The forms are available for download on the DSHS HOPWA Program [Website](#).

3) HOPWA: Monitoring Tool Updated

On 01/08/18, the HIV Care Services Group updated the DSHS HOPWA Monitoring Tool. The tool includes minor changes to account for new program service categories and training requirements and it is available for download on the DSHS HOPWA Program [Website](#). Specifically, the Group substituted the Community Planning and Development Financial Management Curriculum for the HOPWA Financial Management Online Training Course on the Administrative Agency and Project Sponsor Review Tabs and included items for Short-Term Supportive Housing (STSH) and Transitional Supportive Housing (TSH) on the File Review Tab.

Care Services Program News: January, 2018 (HOPWA Update)

4) HOPWA: Monitoring Sample Size Guidance

Starting in the HOPWA 2018 (02/01/18 – 01/31/19) program year, the HIV Care Services Group will adopt the following sample size guidelines for HOPWA file reviews and will require Administrative Agencies to use the same guidelines during their own HOPWA file reviews:

Unduplicated Households	Sample Size Guidelines
1 - 20 =	The lower of the total files or 20 files
21 - 50 =	The lower of the total files or 25 randomized files
51 - 100 =	30 randomized files
101 - + =	40 randomized files

5) HOPWA: New Webinars Available on TXTRAIN

On 01/08/18, DSHS uploaded two HOPWA webinars to the TXTRAIN [Website](#):

a) HOPWA: Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Requirements

TXTRAIN ID: 1074621 – Training Certificate Available

The purpose of this webinar is to review the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Violence Against Women Act regulatory updates and discuss their impact on the Texas Department of State Health Services Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program.

b) HOPWA: Facility-Based Housing Assistance

TXTRAIN ID: 1074689 – Training Certificate Available

The purpose of this webinar is to provide an overview of Facility-Based Housing Assistance under the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program. Facility-Based Housing Assistance encompasses all eligible housing assistance expenditures for or associated with supportive housing facilities including community residences, single-room occupancy (SRO) dwellings, short-term facilities, project-based rental assistance units, master leased units, and other housing facilities approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

6) HOPWA: New Service Category

On 12/15/17, the HIV Care Services Group hosted a webinar that introduced Administrative Agencies and Project Sponsors to a new HOPWA service category called Facility-Based Housing Assistance (FBHA). FBHA is limited to two sub-categories: Short-Term Supportive Housing (STSH) and Transitional Supportive Housing (TSH). The DSHS HOPWA Program will authorize and implement this service category in the HOPWA 2018 (02/01/18 – 01/31/19) program year.

a) STSH provides temporary shelters to households that are homeless as a bridge to permanent housing. STSH may not provide residence to any household for more than 60 days during any six-month period. STSH pays operating or leasing costs, including payments to independent temporary shelter vendors, on a nightly and/or bed-rate basis. For more information about eligible costs under STSH refer to the 2018 edition of the DSHS HOPWA Program Manual on the DSHS HOPWA Program [Website](#).

b) TSH provides up to 24 cumulative months of facility-based rental assistance to households that are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including assistance for shared housing arrangements. DSHS may make exceptions to the 24-month cap on a case-by-case basis, if justified and with advance written approval from DSHS. TSH pays facility-based rental assistance costs (either project-based rental assistance or master-leasing). Unlike tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA), the rental assistance subsidy is attached to a specific building or unit. For more information about eligible costs under TSH refer to the 2018 edition of the DSHS HOPWA Program Manual on the DSHS HOPWA Program [Website](#).