

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990 (CARE Act) was passed to address the needs of jurisdictions, health care providers, and people with HIV/AIDS and their family members. The program was administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). In 1999, the Congressional Black Caucus initiated a program now known as the Minority AIDS Initiatives (MAI) that included provision of funds to CARE Act grantees to reduce HIV-related disparities in access to health care and to improve health-related outcomes among racial and ethnic minority populations.

Tennessee's MAI project has a two-pronged approach that focuses on minorities, primarily African-American former Ryan White clients who have dropped out of medical care. The outreach component will consist of one outreach case manager in each of Tennessee's grand divisions (3), whose job duty is to find clients who have dropped out of care. The outreach case managers assist clients in making medical appointments while in the field, and work with Ryan White Medical Care Managers to re-enroll clients in ADAP or any other drug program for which the client is eligible. Grantees provide Outreach services, as appropriate, to targeted African-American and Hispanic populations. Minorities within each region who have fallen out of care or have not received a Ryan White Service in the past twelve (12) months are located and referred to a Medical Care Manager (MCM). The MCM will assist them in returning to medical care and enrollment in the HIV Drug Assistance Program (HDAP).

Grantees also locate newly diagnosed minority patients who have failed to access care and assist them in beginning their care program. Additionally, they provide

appropriate Educational Services to targeted minority populations by providing materials relative to HIV/AIDS treatment and the availability of Ryan White Program services. This includes educating minority individuals about the Ryan White Program and assist as necessary with enrollment in the program, making appointments, etc. Grantees Utilize language

interpretation/translation services, if necessary, coupled with culturally specific educational materials and/or programs, seminars, and/or discussions to increase minority awareness and participation in Ryan White Services.

The education component consists of a Minority AIDS Initiative Coordinator housed in the Central Office. This person works in conjunction with staff from the Office of Minority Health, providing material and educational opportunities, in the form of workshops, seminars and health fairs to minority agencies, churches, and communities in Middle Tennessee. These activities are designed to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of medical care for persons infected with the HIV virus. The goal is to dispel myths, decrease stigma and increase community support for persons with HIV/AIDS.

Early Intervention Services (EIS) is a third component that will be added to the program in FY2010. This will be an extension of services already being performed.