

# Guiding Principles for Allocations Decisions

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In keeping with the guiding principles of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB), the paramount purpose of the Ryan White program is to address the health needs of persons living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) “by funding primary health care and support services that enhance access to and retention in care.”

While recognizing that all services are inter-related, not all service categories are created equal. The ultimate goal is to provide an expansive continuum of care, containing an ideal mix of core and support services that assists PLWHA in the Phoenix EMA to achieve optimal health, wellbeing, and self-determination.

The Phoenix EMA may face, at some future time, scenarios, which place powerful stresses on the HIV continuum of care. Scenarios may include, but are not limited to, increases or decreased federal funding, level federal funding with increased PLWHA demand for services, and the increased cost of providing high quality care.

To best make decisions and maintain funding levels that align with the principals of HRSA/HAB and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006, the Phoenix EMA Planning Council commits itself to the following Guiding Principles as described in the broad headings below.

## **Service Categories**

The Council realizes that restricted funding may necessitate changes to the mix and variety of services available through the Ryan White program. As such, the Council commits itself to the following Principles:

- No eligible PLWHA should be denied access to Ryan White-funded primary health care.
- It is a valid practice to rank service categories in order of importance.
- Funding for higher ranked categories should be preserved before lower ranked categories.
- Funding for service categories will be reduced/ eliminated by priority from the bottom up.
- Regardless of the amount of federal grants or the demands on services, certain service categories must be fully funded in order to preserve the health of PLWHA in the Phoenix EMA.

Those categories include, but are not limited to:

- Outpatient and ambulatory health services
- AIDS Drug Assistance Program treatments
- Oral health care
- Early intervention services
- Health insurance premium and cost sharing assistance for low-income individuals
- Medical nutrition therapy
- Medical case management, including treatment adherence services
- Mental health services
- Substance abuse outpatient care
- Medical transportation

## **Decision Making**

The Council commits itself to making the wisest allocation decisions possible. In order to accomplish this goal, decisions will be grounded in reliable data that includes, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- Service utilization
- Epidemiology and demographics
- Population increases
- The cost of providing service
- Health care economics
- Inflationary forces
- Availability of other funding