



November 15, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

**Subject: Updating SAMHSA HIV Block Grant Criteria for States**

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Leahy, and Vice Chairman Shelby:

The undersigned 39 organizations of the AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition (ABAC), a workgroup of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP), write to request inclusion of critical language in the final FY2023 Labor, HHS Appropriations bill that is necessary to expand our efforts to end the HIV epidemic in the U.S. As you work to finalize the bill, while ABAC continues to advocate for our coalition's FY2023 funding requests, **we urge you to include language that would modernize the way in which states qualify to be eligible for the HIV set-aside of the Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG).**

We are simply asking that instead of using the outdated measurement of *AIDS* cases in order for a state to qualify for the 5 percent HIV set-aside, the number of *HIV* cases in the state be used.

This request was included in the President's FY2023 SAMHSA budget request and the House Labor, HHS appropriations bill (HR 8295). Now as you work to finalize the FY2023 spending bill we urge to you include the following language in final bill:

*Provided further, That for purposes of calculating the HIV set-aside under subpart II of Part B of Title XIX, the rate of cases of HIV shall be used instead of the rate of cases of AIDS.*

Currently, only four jurisdictions (Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and DC) qualify to use 5 percent of their block grant funding on HIV testing, linkage to care and prevention, and other related services. Next year, if this change is not made, only three jurisdictions would be eligible. With the change to HIV cases, it is estimated that at least 20 states would qualify to use a portion of their funding on HIV-related services.

Both the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and the Housing Opportunities Program for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program have modernized their eligibility determinations to use HIV cases instead of AIDS. This simple change, which would not require any additional funding, would expand HIV services as states and grantees address the opioid epidemic and other substance use treatment and prevention needs. The proposed modernization included in the House appropriations bill aligns with our nation's efforts to end HIV.

We thank you for your continued leadership in ending the HIV epidemic. We believe it is critical that SAMHSA modernize its funding opportunities to accelerate and better align its HIV-related efforts across programs.

Should you have any questions, please contact ABAC co-chairs Carl Schmid at [cschmid@hivhep.org](mailto:cschmid@hivhep.org), Nick Armstrong at [narmstrong@tmail.org](mailto:narmstrong@tmail.org), or Emily McCloskey Schreiber at [eschreiber@nastad.org](mailto:eschreiber@nastad.org)

Sincerely,

AIDS ACTION BALTIMORE  
 AIDS Alabama  
 AIDS Foundation Chicago  
 AIDS United  
 American Academy of HIV Medicine  
 amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research  
 APLA Health  
 Appalachian Learning Initiative Inc  
 CAEAR Coalition  
 CARES of Southwest Michigan  
 Cascade AIDS Project  
 Food For Thought  
 Georgia AIDS Coalition  
 Georgia Equality  
 Grady Health System  
 HealthHIV  
 Hennepin County, Minnesota

HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute  
 HIV AIDS Alliance of Michigan  
 HIV Dental Alliance  
 HIV Medicine Association  
 Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, Inc.  
 Housing Works, Inc.  
 Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.  
 Latino Commission on AIDS  
 Latinos Salud  
 Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
 Los Angeles LGBT Center  
 NASTAD  
 National Working Positive Coalition  
 NMAC

North Carolina AIDS Action Network  
PCAF (formerly Pierce County AIDS  
Foundation)  
PrEP4All  
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
San Francisco Community Health Center  
The AIDS Institute  
Treatment Action Group (TAG)  
Vivent Health