

2023

Housing Projects for People Living with HIV

BUREAU OF HIV/STI PROGRAMS

Katie Macomber, Bureau Director

Detroit Focused

- Driven by End the Epidemic Plan and input from community focus groups, housing for PLWH was identified as a significant need in Wayne Co.
- Additional community engagement conversations were facilitated and the need for additional engagement with housing providers more broadly.
- Reviewing epi data, case managers helped narrow possible locations and identified the priority populations.
- Network #9.8, the one with disproportionate impact on trans women of color



Ruth Ellis Clairmount Center

In September 2022, the Ruth Ellis Center opened the Clairmount Center, a supportive housing project focused on serving LGBTQ+ individuals, including those at disproportionate risk of exposure to HIV. As of February 2023, the Clairmount Center Clinic (CCC) is open and offering HIV testing, PrEP, gender-affirming hormone therapy, primary health care, and navigation. Clients also receive onsite case management and mental health and substance use disorder services.

- All 43 units in the Clairmount Center are occupied, including the four units funded by MDHHS
- Status neutral care is provided at the CCC and build upon the practices already implemented at REC's Health and Wellness Center

Additional Resources:

- [Ruth Ellis Center Website](#)
- [Detroit News- New affordable housing, health care center opens for LGBTQ+ youth in Detroit \(Oct. 2022\)](#)



Clairmount Center Clinic: Now Open

Ruth Ellis Clairmount Health and Wellness Center

Services Offered:

- STI Testing and Treatment
- PrEP for HIV prevention
- HIV treatment
- Gender Affirming care
- Primary Care

Located in the NEW
Ruth Ellis Clairmount Complex

61 Clairmount Ave. Detroit

Contact: 313-484-5888

Ruth Ellis Center HENRY FORD HEALTH



A comprehensive health
hub centering
LGBTQIA+ young people
in partnership with

HENRY
FORD
HEALTH

Ruth Ellis Center

Ruth Ellis Clairmount Health
and Wellness Center
61 Clairmount Ave.
Detroit, Mi, 48202
ph: 313-484-5888

For more information about
services at our other
locations visit
www.ruthelliscenter.org
or call
313-365-3338



Ruth Ellis Center

Clairmount
Health and
Wellness

Medical Services



MDHHS

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Interdisciplinary Collaboration & Partnerships

Strengthening collaboration within Henry Ford

Expanded access to status neutral services via partnerships with CCC & HWC

REC & Henry Ford & BHSP

SYNC Poster



Housing, healthcare, and a status neutral approach to serve people living with HIV or at disproportionate risk of exposure to HIV to improve health outcomes and address health disparities

Chelsea Martin, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Bureau of HIV/STI Programs
Lansing, Michigan

BACKGROUND

The Ruth Ellis Center (REC), founded in 1999, is a Detroit-area community-based organization that provides trauma-informed services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) youth and young adults, with an emphasis on young people of color.¹ Core services offered by REC include the drop-in center that provides comprehensive support services including hot meals, clothing, showers and toiletries, food boxes, computers, and housing case management.

Approximately 800 people access REC services each year.¹ Demographics include:

- 80% aged 18-24 years
- 96% African American or multiple ethnic identities
- 55% gay/bisexual men
- 10% lesbian/bisexual women
- 30% transgender (TG) women

The center is located within walking distance from Palmer Park in Detroit, a central gathering place for the LGBTQ+ community and one of the primary hubs for commercial sex work in the city.

RATIONALE

Housing instability impacts retention in HIV care, adherence to antiretroviral therapy, as well as the ability to access HIV prevention services. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the demographic characteristics significantly associated with HIV prevalence were age, education, annual household income, poverty level, employment, and homelessness.² The most common unstable housing situation experienced by people living with HIV (PLWH) were living with family/friends in a home that the participant did not consider their home (76%), living in a public or private shelter (24%), and living on the street (20%).²

Through community conversations, LGBTQ+, men who have sex with men (MSM) between the ages of 18-26, and transgender persons were identified as priority populations to provide intensive housing and navigation services through new programming. Epidemiologic data showed that 904 PLWH were out of care in the cities of Detroit and Highland Park.³ Severe trauma, unfavorable credit, substance use disorders, inadequate income, and criminal history were identified as barriers to stable housing.¹

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Reduce disparities for high-risk persons, MSM, and TG persons who experience service disruptions in HIV care and treatment or HIV prevention services by addressing housing insecurities
- Decrease barriers to healthcare access by providing expanded access to healthcare services
- Increase integrated and simultaneous efforts to decrease the risk of poor health outcomes for young black PLWH, specifically MSM and trans-women, and MSM and TG persons at disproportional risk of HIV exposure
- Improve, increase, maintain, and achieve viral suppression among MSM and TG persons living with HIV
- Improve, increase, and maintain access to HIV prevention services (including PrEP) for MSM and TG persons

METHOD & MODEL

Since 2019, MDHHS has worked with the partners at REC and Henry Ford Health (HFH) to achieve the bold targets for Ending the HIV Epidemic. MDHHS and REC have a history of collaborating with HFH to provide interdisciplinary medical care including HIV care, prevention service, primary care, and gender affirming services.

In September 2022, REC opened the Clairmount Center, a supportive housing project in focused on serving LGBTQ+ individuals. The project includes housing units on the upper levels and a "street level clinic", onsite pharmacy, and community space on the main floor. This synergistic opportunity will expand the network of healthcare and supportive services available to tenants and members of the surrounding community.



By leveraging funding from the Ending the HIV Epidemic, Ryan White, and supplemental sources, the Clairmount Center Clinic (CCC) can provide status-neutral care and build on the practices put in place at an already established clinic, the Health and Wellness Center (HWC), co-located at the REC drop-center. Clients who age out of eligibility at HWC can continue care at the CCC, ensuring continuity of care, but without age or HIV status restrictions.

The CCC offers HIV testing, PrEP, gender-affirming hormone therapy, primary health care, and navigation. Clients also receive onsite case management and mental health and substance use disorder services. Because the CCC is located within a neighborhood, provides status neutral services, and is at the street-level of the building, it offers a less stigmatizing and more approachable opportunity to access healthcare.



CONCLUSION



MDHHS proudly funds four out of the 43 housing units within the Clairmount Center, which have been leased to provide temporary supportive housing to both Ryan White clients, as well as individuals at disproportionate risk of exposure to HIV. The strategies and components used in the development of the Clairmount Center aim to reduce barriers to care and improve health outcomes.

Working with organizations that are already implementing some of the identified strategies builds trust between a respected community-based organization and state health departments, which is a major key to success. The Ruth Ellis Center set out to create the Clairmount Center, and through existing relationships and trust, MDHHS was invited as a partner to layer in status neutral housing and healthcare services.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This project was created and executed fully by the Ruth Ellis Center, with the support of Henry Ford Health and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.



REFERENCES

1. "Who We Are" Ruth Ellis Center, accessed November 18, 2022, <https://www.ruthelliscenter.org/>
2. Paul Denning and Elizabeth DiNenno. "Economically Disadvantaged." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, December 11, 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/poverty.html>
3. Bureau of Population Health and Epidemiology. "Epidemiologic Profile of HIV in Michigan," Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 2018. PDF.

Images:
"Ruth Ellis Clairmount Center, Detroit, MI" Landon Bone Baker Architects (LBBA), accessed November 18, 2022, <https://www.lbba.com/work/ruth-ellis-clairmount-center/>

CONTACT

For more information, contact: Chelsea Martin,
CMartin21@michigan.gov

Our W.O.R.K. Housing Project

Wayne State University and the Sinai Grace Specialty Care Clinic have created a temporary supportive housing project titled Our Women Organizing Resources & Knowledge (WORK). The project aims to engage women and children with HIV ages 19 to 30 who are pregnant or have children that are experiencing housing instability.

Services provided:

- Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services
- Mental Health Services
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals
- Housing Case Management
- Psychosocial Support Services



Other Housing Projects

The HOPWA program is a federal program dedicated to the housing needs of people with HIV/AIDS. Under the HOPWA program, HUD makes grants to local communities, states, and nonprofit organizations for projects that benefit low-income people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. There are currently six HOPWA-funded service agencies in our state and more information can be found here: [HOPWA Service Agencies in MI](#)

Services provided:

- Housing Case Management & Security Deposit
- Short Term Assistance: Rental & Utility
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance

Special Projects collaborative efforts with the HOPWA Specialist:



**RW HOPWA
Collaborative Group**

**HIV and Housing
Summit**

**Housing Training
Workshop Series**

Housing Navigation Network

The Housing Navigator at the **Detroit Health Department** works to build a network of housing navigation services to support clients and case managers by identifying resources and facilitating referrals. The Detroit Housing Alliance is a collaboration of HOPWA and Ryan White funded programs located in Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland Counties along with the Detroit Health Department. These agencies work together to strategize and support eligible clients by maximizing resources and solutions to housing issues across the HIV community.



The **Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLHSA)** promotes housing stability through the development of a housing plan for moving eligible clients from a homeless or unstable housing situation into a stable housing situation, or through stabilizing an eligible client in their current housing.

Questions?

