

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SPECIAL ALERT FOR RWHAP B PROVIDERS

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is preparing for potential impacts from a hurricane, other weather events, or a declared emergency. We need your help to assure eligible Ryan White Part B (RWHAP B) clients have continued access to medications and services. **Be prepared to serve Ryan White clients from other states.** Please take these action steps:

1. Review your agency's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and update as needed.
2. Educate all staff on your agency's COOP.
3. Educate your clients on your agency's COOP.
4. Visit VDH's HCS web page and VA MAP web page for daily updates, especially for issues related to medication access and use of emergency financial assistance to meet client needs in the aftermath of the storm. VDH is also posting messages on Facebook.
5. Please be ready to accept People Living with HIV who may evacuate from neighboring states or within Virginia. VDH is providing more information about emergency enrollments and forms you can use on our websites below. VDH RWHAP B will work with everyone to assure your agencies have adequate funding to serve any additional clients during the emergency phase and the aftermath for however long clients need services from your agency.

HIV Care Services web page: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/disease-prevention/disease-prevention/hiv-care-services/>

VA MAP (formerly ADAP) web page: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/disease-prevention/virginia-aids-drug-assistance-program-adap/>

If the hurricane or disaster affects your community, **VDH instructs agencies to use your RWHAP B funds to provide allowable services to eligible clients. Your agency may move its funding around to different service categories to meet the clients' needs during this emergency and prior approval is not necessary.** VDH also instructs agencies to allow the following:

EMERGENCY ACCESS TO MEDICATIONS: If no other options exist for the client, agencies can purchase medications currently available on the VA MAP, Ryan White Part B, and ACA insurance formularies using Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) funds. Please review the updated Emergency Financial Assistance for Medication Access in Virginia policy for additional information and steps. **Prior approval is not necessary.** VDH is also working with local health departments to ensure VA MAP clients who get their medications from VDH Central Pharmacy have continued access to medications. Clients should reach out to their medication access sites to get early medication refills. If the local health department where a client accesses VA MAP medications is closed, case managers should instruct the client to go to another local health department to get their medications if they can conveniently and safely do so. If this is not possible, case managers should assist clients get their medications from a local pharmacy using EFA funds. Visit the HCS web page or VA MAP web page for additional information. If you have any questions about medication access, contact your Contract Monitor.

EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR HOUSING/FOOD/GAS: Agencies can use RWHAP B Emergency Financial Assistance funds for the services below. VDH is waiving the “one-time” service use restriction for this service during this state of emergency. **Please lift any caps on these services by your agency if needed for client safety and continuity of care:**

- emergency housing for displaced clients
- food and gas vouchers/fuel cards

FOOD BANK/HOME DELIVERED MEALS: Agencies can use RWHAP B Food bank/home delivered meal funds for the following:

- purchase personal hygiene products
- household cleaning supplies
- water filtration/purification systems in communities where issues of water safety exist

PROCUREMENT: VDH can do modifications or budget reallocations to existing contractual agreements after the event to accommodate budget overages for allowable services.

REPORTING: If your agency serves clients from out of state, VDH requests that you track and report the number of these clients served, service categories used, and expenditures for these services. The tracking form and further information on how to report this to us is on the HCS and VA MAP webpage.