<u>Virginia Ryan White Part B GY25 Funding Reduction Frequently Asked Questions for</u> Consumers

General Information

1. Why did VDH cut funding to Ryan White Part B service providers?

The Ryan White Part B program is currently facing funding uncertainty due to multiple factors.

The Ryan White Part B program is funded by two major sources: a grant from the federal government and voluntary rebates from pharmaceutical companies. During the grant year that ended on March 31, 2025 (GY24), VDH did not receive the volume of rebates expected. In addition, for the current federal grant year (GY25) which began on April 1, 2025, VDH has received only a partial grant award and does not have information about when the balance will be received. The combination of these factors has resulted in fewer available resources for the program.

2. What changes have been made due to provider funding reductions? What services will VA RWHAP B support this year?

The first priority for the program is to ensure continued access to lifesaving HIV medication. Therefore, the program had to reduce funding for other services. In early May, VDH staff notified agencies of reductions or terminations of funding for the Ryan White Part B program.

VDH will continue to fund several agencies to provide Core Medical Services (Outpatient Ambulatory Healthcare Services, Oral Health (for emergencies only) and Medical Case Management) and select support services including Non-medical Case Management, Medical Transportation, Outreach, and Psychosocial Support Services.

When determining funding priorities, the team considered data about services clients used the most that support access to HIV medication, staying in care, and virologic suppression as well as location of providers and other available resources to serve clients. Funding decisions focused on providing the services that support the primary purpose of the Ryan White program, HIV medication access.

3. How soon will these changes go into effect?

VDH notified service providers of funding reductions in early May and changes to funding for services are effective for the current grant year (April 1, 2025-March 31, 2026). Funding reductions varied by provider, so some providers had to make immediate changes while others will make more gradual changes.

4. Where can I find out what agencies are funded to provide services in Virginia?

The list of providers and allowable services for GY25 (April 1, 2025-March 31, 2026) is provided below.

Additional information about Virginia service providers is available at <u>Unified Eligibility Assessments – Disease Prevention</u> or through the Virginia Medication Assistance Program (VA MAP) Call Center at 1-855-362-0658.

Please also contact your provider for more information about the services they will be able to provide. We encourage you to also ask them about other community resources that may help you get the services you need.

Providers	Allowable Services for grant year 25
	Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Oral Health Care
	(for emergencies), Medical Case Management, and Non-
AIDS Response Effort	Medical Case Management
	Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Oral Health Care
	(for emergencies), Medical Case Management, Non-Medical
	Case Management, Medical Transportation, and Psychosocial
Council of Community Services	Support Services
	Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Oral Health Care
	(for emergencies), Medical Case Management, and Non-
Daily Planet	Medical Case Management
	Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Oral Health Care
	(for emergencies), Medical Case Management, Non-Medical
	Case Management, Medical Transportation, and Psychosocial
Eastern Shore Health District	Support Services.
Fredericksburg Area Health and	Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Medical Case
Supportive Services	Management, and Non-Medical Case Management
	Medical Case Management and Non-Medical Case
Health Brigade	Management
	Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Medical Case
INOVA	Management, and Non-Medical Case Management
	Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Medical Case
Mary Washington Healthcare	Management, and Non-Medical Case Management
	Non-Medical Case Management and Psychosocial Support
Minority Health Consortium	Services
	Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services and Non-Medical
Nationz Foundation	Case Management
Northern Virginia Regional Commission	
(does not provide direct services or	Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Medical Case
conduct UEAs, but can refer to	Management, Non-Medical Case Management, Outreach
subcontracted providers)	Services, and Psychosocial Support Services
	Non-Medical Case Management, Outreach Services, and
NovaSalud	Psychosocial Support Services
	Medical Case Management, Non-Medical Case Management,
Serenity	and Medical Transportation

	Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Oral Health Care (for emergencies), Medical Case Management, Non-Medical Case Management, Medical Transportation, and Psychosocial
Three Rivers Health District	Support Services
	Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Oral Health Care
	(for emergencies), Medical Case Management, and Non-
University of Virginia	Medical Case Management
	Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Medical Case
Virginia Health Options	Management, and Non-Medical Case Management

5. Will these funding cuts affect HIV prevention or testing services in my community?

Ryan White Part B does not fund HIV prevention. Some HIV testing is allowed by Ryan White Part B through Outreach Services. The HIV & Hepatitis Prevention (HHP) team in the Division of Disease Prevention (DDP) can help you with any questions about testing or prevention. Please call the VDH Disease Prevention Hotline at 1-800-533-4148 or visit the website at https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/disease-prevention/testing-hepatitis-hiv-and-stds/ for more information.

6. Are there any changes to who can receive Ryan White Part B services?

Not at this time. We will continue to offer services to all eligible Ryan White Part B Program clients. If there are any changes to eligibility in the future, VDH will inform both clients and providers.

7. Are there other programs or funding sources that can help me get the services I need that my Ryan White Part B provider no longer offers?

Other resources may be available in your community. There are agencies including nonprofits that provide a variety of medical, health, and social support services including utility assistance, housing, and transportation. VDH is sharing information about some of these resources with Ryan White Part B providers and has posted to the <u>VA MAP website</u>. Some agencies that are no longer getting Ryan White Part B funding still have funding to provide services through other Ryan White programs (Part A or C) and through other federal funding sources. Please check with your HIV care provider for further information.

Additional services offered by other community partners include:

- a. https://www.vafreeclinics.org/clinics-in-virginia serves as a safety-net of health care organizations providing medical, dental, pharmacy, vision and/or behavioral health services.
- b. <u>Virginia Dental Association Foundation</u> The Donated Dental Services (DDS) at the Virginia Dental Association Foundation provides free, comprehensive dental treatment to our state's most vulnerable older adults, individuals with disabilities, and individuals

who are medically fragile. These are people who cannot afford necessary treatment. The program operates through a volunteer network of dentists, oral surgeons, and dental labs across the State of Virginia.

- c. <u>211-Virginia</u> provides resources throughout Virginia for utility assistance, housing, food and meals, aging & disability, education & employment, family & community support, healthcare, income support & assistance, government and information services, legal/consumer/public safety, mental health & substance use disorder services, and transportation/clothing/household needs.
- d. <u>NeedyRx.org</u> helps people in need find affordable healthcare. Their services include a directory for affordable health clinics offering medical, dental, behavioral health, and substance use disorder treatment services; locators for programs that help with costs associated with a specific diagnosis; Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs) for free or discounted medicines for people who are unable to afford them; and coupons/rebates/savings cards, free trial offers, and free samples.
- e. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' listing for Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs) for medications searchable by drug: <u>Find a Pharmaceutical Assistance Program for the drugs you take.</u>

Access to Medications through the Virginia Medication Assistance Program (VA MAP)

1. Will I lose access to my current HIV medication?

VDH is prioritizing HIV medication access for all clients served by Ryan White programs in Virginia. Clients need to keep their eligibility up to date. Please read all mail and answer phone calls you get from VDH or contracted providers for Ryan White Part B (especially Benalytics) so you can stay informed about VA MAP and its services.

2. Will I have to change my medication because of funding?

Your healthcare provider determines what medications to prescribe. At this time, there are no changes to the medications provided through VA MAP for either insured or uninsured clients.

3. Will these changes affect my health insurance that Ryan White Part B pays for?

If any changes will be made to how VA MAP helps with your medication or how it pays for your health insurance plans, such as Virginia Marketplace Insurance or Medicare Part C/D, VDH will inform you as soon as possible. Please read all mail and answer phone calls you get from VDH or contracted providers so you can stay informed about VA MAP and its services.

4. How will I know if I'm affected by any changes?

If you said "yes" to getting mail from VDH, we will send you letters. If you did not say "yes" to mail, we may call you. All changes will also be shared on the <u>VA MAP Website</u>. Please read all mail and answer phone calls you get from VDH or Ryan White B providers so you can stay informed about VA MAP and its services.

Provision of Unified Eligibility Assessments (UEAs) and other Funded Services

1. Can I still see all my doctors and other medical providers?

Our priority is to preserve patient-provider relationships. Unfortunately, some services will no longer be offered this grant year. Some of the agencies not being funded through the Ryan White Part B Program have Ryan White funding through Part A or C, or other funding to provide HIV care. Please talk with your provider.

Co-pay assistance may not be available for some services. You may need to choose another Ryan White Part B provider for the services or pay out-of-pocket to see certain providers. Additionally, your clinic might make changes to staffing or operations that could affect which provider you see. Your provider can offer specific details about any changes at their location and can also provide referrals to low- or no-cost options, if available.

2. What should I do during this transition if I need to be referred to other agencies for needed services?

A list of providers and services in each health region of Virginia is posted to the HCS website here (<u>List of VA RWHAP Part B providers 06-06-2025.xlsx</u>). This list includes those providers not currently funded by Part B that provide HIV prevention, care and treatment services. This list also includes services funded by other RW Parts in Virginia.

Please speak with your provider to help you find a new provider if needed. The current site should help you <u>transfer</u> your Provide Enterprise® profiles to the new site once you have updated your informed consent. For HIV medication access through VA MAP, any new prescription for clients enrolled in the <u>direct medication access program</u> should be sent to a Walgreens pharmacy as part of the new medication access model. You may learn more about that model here: https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/disease-prevention/2024/12/13/vamap/

3. How will UEAs be completed?

Clients needing updated UEAs or new UEAs will be referred to agencies providing UEAs. This list of UEA providers is on the <u>VA MAP website</u>.

4. Will I still be able to get my dental work done?

Oral health services will be available for emergency care only using VA RWHAP B funds. If you have an active oral health care plan with your provider, please check with them for options on completing your dental work.

5. How will this affect transportation assistance or food pantry services?

There will be no food pantry assistance available to individuals through VA RWHAP B. Medical transportation will be limited at the provider level based on funding. There are other community resources to help with food/pantry and transportation needs. Please ask your service provider to help you find these resources.

6. Will support groups or mental health counseling still be available?

Mental health counseling funded by the Ryan White B Program will not be available this grant year. However, this does not mean that your clinic will stop providing the service to you. Please ask your service provider for information and a referral, if needed.

7. Who can I call to get updates or ask questions about how this affects me directly?

Please check with your service provider(s) directly, as changes may differ between agencies. VDH will also post information to the <u>VA MAP website</u> and we will be working with the Virginia Consumer Advisory Committee (VACAC) to share information with clients.

8. How will individuals who are newly diagnosed be affected?

There are still services to help newly diagnosed people get into care. Please check with your service provider(s) directly, as changes may differ between agencies.

9. Is this going to impact the housing services I receive through Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) or other housing programs?

No, these funding reductions apply to housing funded through the Ryan White Part B program only. Please check with your HIV care provider(s) for any recent updates on availability.

10. What else should I do?

Please try to keep your scheduled appointments for care. Some agencies are taking on more clients so it may take longer to get a new appointment. If you need to see a provider to get a new prescription, please try to make your appointment well in advance so they can get you in.

Support/Advocacy

1. What steps are being taken to restore the funding?

VDH is hopeful that we will get the rest of our federal grant award. The program has also applied for additional federal grant funding, but we won't find out about this funding until fall 2025.

2. Will VDH still hold the Statewide Consumer Quarterly Calls?

Yes, VDH will still hold the statewide calls. However, no CVS or DoorDash vouchers will be provided for participants.

We understand that changes to your health care can cause anxiety and stress. If you would like to talk with a counselor for support, please call the DDP Disease Prevention Hotline at 800-533-4148, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.