



Austin Transitional Grant Area (TGA)
Administrative Agent (AA) Report to HIV Planning Council
March 2024

PART A & MAI GRANTS ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT UPDATE

1. We have hired a Funding Specialist for RW Part A and for EHE. We anticipate these two new employees will start employment with APH on 4/8/24. Tameka Houston was hired to be the Funding Specialist for HOPWA. She began work with our unit on 3/11/24. Once the 2 new employees begin, we will be fully staffed.
2. One agency that received carryover funds did not get their amended grant agreement signed by the end of the grant year, due to an oversight by the agency. Approximately \$280k of funds carried over from FFY22 went unspent and are lost to our community. The oversight was examined with the agency and adequate measures were put into place to ensure this doesn't happen again.

OTHER HIV RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION GRANT UPDATES

1. HOPWA: 2 contracts executed, 2 routing for signatures
2. Part C: FFY24 1 contract executed, 2 under negotiation
3. EHE PS20: Both contracts are executed and will be receiving a 2-month extension
4. Part A/MAI: All FFY24-25 contracts are under negotiation
5. HRSA EHE: All FFY24-25 contracts are under negotiation

PART A & MAI FISCAL UPDATE

1. Expenditures Through January

CATEGORY	Budgeted Amount	Expended Amount	Percent Expended
Part A Formula	\$3,374,977	\$3,054,161	90%
Part A Formula Carryover	\$449,918	\$167,654	37%
MAI	\$388,620	\$280,267	72%
MAI Carryover	\$16,925	\$16,925	100%
Part A Supplemental	\$1,774,600	\$1,734,823	98%
TOTAL	\$6,005,040	\$5,253,830	87%

- Correction made in Part A Formula Carryover Expenditures from last report.
- Will be processing final claims by end of March.



CLINICAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT

1. CQM Plan Development and Next Steps: The CQM plan is currently being revised to include EHE and Part C activities, monitoring and evaluation. HRA team will meet with HRSA to review CQM Plan prior to finalization.
2. CQM Performance Measures: CQM performance measures for Part A/MAI, Part C and EHE have been drafted and shared with the CQM Committee. Performance measures will be finalized after review from the HRSA TA.
3. Newly Diagnosed Linkage to Care presentation: Staff from Collaborative Research provided a presentation to our subrecipients on March 14th, during the CQM Committee meeting which focused on linkage to care for newly diagnosed clients within the TGA. The focus was to begin examining improvement efforts to prevent clients from being lost to care.
4. Subrecipient Site Visit Monitoring Report: Staff from Collaborative Research provided a site visit monitoring presentation to our subrecipients on March 14, 2024 that focused on high level findings, strengths and recommendations.
5. Quality Improvement Projects: Recipients will be beginning a new round of quality improvement projects that will be focused on data quality and improvement in viral load suppression. This will be a six month PDSA cycle ending in December 2024.

DATA MANAGEMENT UPDATE

TCT Enhancements and Issues:

- a. The data staff at HRA continue to work through TCT (Take Charge Texas) issues with subrecipients and the TCT Help Desk. HRA meets with the TCT Help Desk weekly. There have been additional meetings with data managers across the state to address enhancements identified by the data managers and providers.
- b. The Texas Department of State Health Services continues to make enhancements in TCT. Unfortunately, these enhancements often break existing capabilities.
- c. The need for additional training has been identified and discussed with the subrecipients. The Data Manager has been submitting training needs and requests with the state.
 - i. BVCOG is hosting a regional in depth ADAP training April 16 and 17, 2024 from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM.
- d. All providers have some data in TCT. One provider started importing some service categories this past fall. This was their first successful attempt to get their data into TCT. This provider has since faced challenges moving forward with importing medical imports. We are working with the TCT Help Desk to address their challenges.

2023 RSR

- a. Austin AA accepted all 2023 RSR Reports that were generated from TCT. One provider that used their own EMR to generate their RSR is still working on addressing data quality. The final deadline for submitting the 2023 RSR is March 25, 2024.



Provide Enterprise

- HRA staff are data entering in a test Provide Enterprise environment to identify issues and items that do not match submitted data dictionaries.
- Providers will have access to the test environment prior to Provide going live. User guides and trainings will be provided before the migration is completed.
- Tentatively planning to go live with Provide in April or May 2024 depending upon receipt of complete data file from the state.

Data Reports and Projects

- EHE CAP was submitted in the EHB. HRA continues to provide feedback and update to the EHE CAP. HRA continues efforts to address the Part A and Part C CAPs by their deadlines in July 2024.
- The Data Manager provided data files for Collaborative Research to use for a HIV Care Continuum Dashboard and a Health Disparities Calculator.
- HOPWA Monitoring Visit: HUD selected the Austin AA to monitor March 18 – 22, 2024.

CLIENT COMPLAINTS

No client complaints have been received by the AA

AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

AUSTIN, Texas - Rising numbers of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Austin-Travis County have officials urging individuals to use local FREE or low-cost testing and treatment resources to prevent the spread of infection.

“Anyone can get an STI, but many don’t show symptoms,” said Austin-Travis County Public Health Authority Dr. Desmar Walkes. “At the same time, many STIs can be treated, and early detection can prevent major complications and spread. With the rate of infection rising nationally and locally, we urge everyone to get tested regularly and treat any infections as soon as possible.”

Rates of infection increasing in Austin-Travis County

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the levels of many STIs including gonorrhea, syphilis and chlamydia have increased across the nation, and Austin-Travis County is unfortunately following suit. The most current data available from the Texas Department of State Health Services show some alarming statistics including:

- The number of new chlamydia infections per person remains stable but still high at 614.8 cases per 100,000 population in 2020.
- The rate of new cases of gonorrhea per person for Travis County has been steadily increasing with a 50 percent increase from 2015 to 2020.
- In 2015, the number of new primary and secondary syphilis cases per person in Travis County was 15.7 per 100,000 population. By 2020, cases increased by 30 percent to 20.7 cases per 100,000 population.
- The new infection rate for HIV has been declining in Travis County since 2015, but there are still disparities. Black women in Travis County have the highest rate of new HIV diagnoses compared to women of other races and ethnicities.



Common STIs may not have symptoms

Many STIs, including chlamydia, human papillomavirus (HPV) and HIV may not show symptoms. Individuals may have an infection without knowing and unwittingly pass that infection on to their partner or partners. Infected people with an untreated STI may also develop other health concerns or complications like pelvic inflammatory disease, cancer, infertility, heart disease, organ failure or chronic pain.

Get tested and treat STIs to protect yourself and others

A critical step to prevent the spread of STIs is to get tested regularly, even if you don't have symptoms or don't think you were exposed. Early treatment can prevent complications from STIs and keep you from passing one to someone else. You can also get vaccinated against HPV and start PrEP to prevent contracting HIV.

City of Austin offers FREE or low-cost resources for STI testing

Anyone in Austin or Travis County can take advantage of FREE or low-cost resources for STI testing and treatment, including:

- 3rd Annual [LGBTQIA+ Health and Resource Fair](#) – Dec. 9, 2023, 12 - 5p.m., Permitting and Development Center, 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive, Austin, TX 78752, free parking available with validation. This public event offers STI/HIV testing, valuable resources from community organizations, entertainment and more.
- [RBJ Sexual Health Clinic](#) – 15 Waller St., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., and 1 - 5 p.m., appointments recommended. \$20 for testing and treatment of common STIs, including chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and HIV.
- [Red Ribbon program](#) – FREE testing for HIV as well as chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis throughout the City by appointment or at the mobile clinic.