

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

PART A & MAI GRANTS ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT UPDATE

1. HRA is now fully staffed. Antoinette Hannah is the RWA Lead and Collin Lessing is the EHE Lead.
2. We got permission from HRSA to use the funding that was allocated in carryover funds for FFY23, so the Austin TGA will not be losing those funds.

OTHER HIV RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION GRANT UPDATES

1. HOPWA: 2 contracts executed, 2 routing for signatures
2. Part C: FFY24 2 contract executed, 1 affirming exhibits
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 February

CATEGORY	Budgeted Amount	Expended Amount	Percent Expended
Part A Formula	\$3,374,977	\$3,357,520	99%
Part A Formula Carryover	\$449,918	\$167,654	37%
MAI	\$388,620	\$361,566	93%
MAI Carryover	\$16,925	\$16,925	100%
Part A Supplemental	\$1,774,600	\$1,774,600	100%
TOTAL	\$6,005,040	\$5,678,265	95%

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. 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.

4. CQM Committee Meetings

Last meeting was held on April 11, 2024, where our subrecipients presented their findings on their last QIP Cycle. CQM Committee meetings will be moving from a monthly basis to a quarterly basis. CQM staff will begin meeting with the subrecipients on a monthly basis individually to provide individualized technical assistance.

DATA MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Data Management:

TCT Enhancements and Issues:

1. The data staff at HRA continue to work through TCT 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.
2. The Texas Department of State Health Services continues to make enhancements in TCT. Unfortunately, these enhancements often break existing capabilities.
3. 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. The state is now polling Data Managers across the state about gaps in training.
4. 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 and new client imports. We are working with the TCT Help Desk to address their challenges.

Provide Enterprise

1. The go live date for Provide Enterprise has been delayed. It will likely be June before we go live. This is primarily due to the data received from TCT's developer, Deloitte, which is coded. The TCT Help Desk is not familiar with the codes. Requests for assistance with decoding the data have been submitted to Deloitte.

2. The data initially provided by the state does not include all Austin’s providers or all of the data that was requested. The Data Manager has requested updated data files, so that we can validate all of the data needed for the migration before the go live date.
3. Test users from the subrecipients’ offices have been identified. They are in various stages of getting Provide installed on their computers and getting User accounts created. Training sessions have been scheduled. The first training session for test users from the subrecipients was conducted on April 11, 2024. Some test users with access have already begun data entering in the test environment. Additional training sessions are being scheduled in May.

Data Reports and Projects

1. HRA is in the process of reviewing a draft CQM plan.
2. City of Austin Performance Measures are due April 15, 2024.
3. The Part A Annual Report is due May 29, 2024.
4. HRA is working on the Part A and Part C CAPs both of which are due in July 2024. HRA has not received the official report yet, but we have begun addressing issues identified during the HUD site visit.
5. All the HRA team worked on the EHE Biannual report which was submitted prior to the March 31, 2024 deadline.
6. The Data Manager provided updated data files for Collaborative Research to use for a HIV Care Continuum Dashboard and a Health Disparities Calculator. Collaborative Research is building out the tools.

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.