

Local Service Category:	Mental Health Services Targeting Special Populations
Amount Available:	\$100,000 (SS)
Unit Cost	
Budget Requirements or Restrictions (TRG Only):	Maximum of 10% of budget for Administrative Cost.
DSHS Service Category Definition:	<p>Mental Health Services include psychological and psychiatric treatment and counseling services offered to individuals with a diagnosed mental illness, conducted in a family/couples, group or individual setting, based on a detailed treatment plan, and provided by a mental health professional licensed or authorized within the State to provide such services, typically including psychiatrists, psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers.</p> <p>Mental health counseling services includes outpatient mental health therapy and counseling (individual and family/couple) provided solely by Mental Health Practitioners licensed in the State of Texas.</p> <p>Mental health services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Assessment • Treatment Planning • Treatment Provision • Individual psychotherapy • Family psychotherapy • Conjoint psychotherapy • Group psychotherapy • Psychiatric medication assessment, prescription and monitoring • Psychotropic medication management • Drop-In Psychotherapy Groups • Emergency/Crisis Intervention <p>General mental health therapy, counseling and short-term (based on the mental health professional’s judgment) bereavement support is available for family members or significant others of people living with HIV.</p>
Local Service Category Definition:	<p>Individual Therapy/counseling is defined as 1:1 or family-based crisis intervention and/or mental health therapy provided by a licensed mental health practitioner to an eligible person living with HIV.</p> <p>Family/Couples Therapy/Counseling is defined as crisis intervention and/or mental health therapy provided by a licensed mental health practitioner to a family or couple (opposite-sex, same-sex, transgendered or non-gender conforming) that includes an eligible person living with HIV.</p> <p>Support Groups are defined as professionally led (licensed therapists or counselor) groups that comprise people living with HIV, family members, or significant others for the purpose of providing emotional support directly related to the stress of caring for people living with HIV.</p>
Target Population (age, gender, geographic, race, ethnicity, etc.):	<p>People living with HIV and affected family/partners living within the Houston HIV Service Delivery Area (HSDA). PLWH should also be a member of the following special populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transgender persons (emphasizing those who are LatinX/Black and/or under the age of 25),

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individuals who exchange sex for money, and • individuals born outside the US.
Services to be Provided:	Agencies are encouraged to have available to PLWH all modes of counseling services, i.e., crisis, individual, family, and group. Sessions may be conducted in-home. Agency must provide professional support group sessions led by a licensed counselor.
Service Unit Definition(s) (TRG Only):	<p>Individual Crisis Intervention and/or Therapy: A unit of service is defined as an individual counseling session lasting a minimum of 45 minutes.</p> <p>Family/Couples Crisis Intervention and/or Therapy: A unit of service is defined as a family/couples counseling session lasting a minimum of 90 minutes.</p> <p>Group Therapy: A unit of service is defined as one (1) eligible PLWH attending 90 minutes of group therapy. The minimum time allowable for a single group session is 90 minutes and maximum time allowable for a single group session is 120 minutes. No more than one unit may be billed per session for an individual or group session.</p> <p>A minimum of three (3) participants must attend a group session in order for the group session to be eligible for reimbursement.</p> <p>Consultation: One unit of service is defined as 15 minutes of communication with a medical or other appropriate provider to ensure case coordination.</p>
Financial Eligibility:	Income at or below 500% Federal Poverty Guidelines.
Eligibility for Services:	<p>For individual therapy session, person living with HIV or the affected significant other of a person living with HIV, resident of Houston HSDA.</p> <p>The PLWH should be a member of the following special populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transgender persons (emphasizing those who are LatinX/Black and/or under the age of 25), • individuals who exchange sex for money, and • individuals born outside the US. <p>Person living with HIV must have a current DSM diagnosis eligible for reimbursement under the State Medicaid Plan.</p> <p>PLWH must not be eligible for services from other programs or providers (i.e. MHMRA of Harris County) or any other reimbursement source (i.e. Medicaid, Medicare, Private Insurance) unless the PLWH is in crisis and cannot be provided immediate services from the other programs/providers. In this case, PLWH may be provided services, if the PLWH applies for the other programs /providers, until the other programs/providers can take over services.</p>

	<p>Medicaid/Medicare, Third Party Payer and Private Pay status of PLWH receiving services under this grant must be verified by the provider prior to requesting reimbursement under this grant. For support group sessions, PLWH must be either a person living with HIV or the significant other of person living with HIV.</p> <p>Affected significant others are eligible for services only related to the stress of caring for a person living with HIV.</p>
<p>Agency Requirements (TRG Only):</p>	<p>Agency must provide assurance that the mental health practitioner shall be supervised by a licensed therapist qualified by the State to provide clinical supervision. This supervision should be documented through supervision notes.</p> <p>Keep attendance records for group sessions.</p> <p>Must provide 24-hour access to a licensed counselor for current PLWH with emotional emergencies.</p> <p>PLWH eligible for Medicaid or 3rd party payer reimbursement may not be billed to grant funds. Medicare Co-payments may be billed to the contract as ½ unit of service.</p> <p>Documentation of at least one therapist certified by Medicaid/Medicare on the staff of the agency must be provided in the proposal. All funded agencies must maintain the capability to serve and seek reimbursement from Medicaid/Medicare throughout the term of their contract. Potential PLWH who are Medicaid/ Medicare eligible may not be denied services by a funded agency based on their reimbursement status (Medicaid/Medicare eligible PLWH may not be referred elsewhere in order that non-Medicaid/Medicare eligible PLWH may be added to this grant). Failure to serve Medicaid/Medicare eligible PLWH based on their reimbursement status will be grounds for the immediate termination of the provider’s contract.</p> <p>Must comply with the State Services Standards of Care.</p> <p>Must provide a plan for establishing criteria for prioritizing participation in group sessions and for termination from group participation.</p> <p>Providers and system must be Medicaid/Medicare certified to ensure that Ryan White funds are the payer of last resort.</p>
<p>Staff Requirements:</p>	<p>It is required that counselors have the following qualifications: Licensed Mental Health Practitioner by the State of Texas (LCSW, LMSW, LPC, PhD, Psychologist, or LMFT).</p> <p>At least two years’ experience working with HIV disease or two years’ work experience with chronic care of a catastrophic illness.</p> <p>Counselors providing family sessions must have at least two years’ experience in family therapy.</p>

	<p>Counselors must be covered by professional liability insurance with limits of at least \$300,000 per occurrence.</p>
<p>Special Requirements (TRG Only):</p>	<p>The agency must develop collaborative relationships with community partners that serve each of the identified special populations. These relationships should be documented via Memoranda of Understanding. MOUs will be submitted to TRG for review each year. Referrals should be tracked to evidence the success of these MOUs. Referrals will be reviewed by TRG on an annual basis.</p> <p>Staff should be adequately trained and/or experienced with each of the identified special populations. Training and/or experience should be documented. This documentation will be reviewed by TRG on an annual basis.</p> <p>Services are strongly encouraged to be community based where counseling can be provided in a safe and secure location. Services should be provided on days and at times that are conducive for participation of the identified special populations.</p> <p>All mental health interventions must be based on proven clinical methods and in accordance with legal and ethical standards. The importance of maintaining confidentiality is of critical importance and cannot be overstated unless otherwise indicated based on Federal, state and local laws and guidelines (i.e. abuse, self or other harm). All programs must comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) standards for privacy practices of protected health information (PHI) information.</p> <p>Mental health services can be delivered via telehealth and must follow applicable federal and State of Texas privacy laws.</p> <p>Mental health services that are provided via telehealth must be in accordance with State of Texas mental health provider practice requirements, see Texas Occupations Code, Title 3 Health Professions and chapter 111 for Telehealth & Telemedicine.</p> <p>When psychiatry is provided as a mental health service via telehealth then the provider must follow guidelines for telemedicine as noted in Texas Medical Board (TMB) guidelines for providing telemedicine, Texas Administrative Code, Texas Medical Board, Rules, Title 22, Part 9, Chapter 174, RULE §174.1 to §174.12</p> <p>Medicare and private insurance co-payments are eligible for reimbursement under this grant (in this situation the agency will be reimbursed the PLWH's co-payment only, not the cost of the session which must be billed to Medicare and/or the Third-party payer). Extensions will be addressed on an individual basis when meeting the criteria of counseling directly related to HIV illness. Under no circumstances will the agency be reimbursed more than two (2) units of individual therapy per PLWH in any single 24-</p>

hour period.

Agency should develop services that focus on the most current Special Populations identified in the *Houston Area Comprehensive Plan for HIV Prevention and Care Services* including Adolescents, Homeless, Incarcerated & Recently Released (IRR), Injection Drug Users (IDU), Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM), and Transgender populations. Additionally, services should focus on increasing access for individuals living in rural counties.

Must comply with the Houston EMA/HSDA Standards of Care. The agency must comply with **the DSHS Mental Health Services Standards of Care**. The agency must have policies and procedures in place that comply with the standards *prior* to delivery of the service.