



# Presentation for HIV Health Improvement Affinity Group

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# Health Services Center Service Area

- 14 Northeast Alabama Counties
- HSC's service area is larger than the District of Columbia, Connecticut, and Rhode Island combined



# HSC Housing for PLWHA

- Shelter (8 beds)
- Rental Assistance Vouchers (approximately 30 vouchers)
- Permanent Housing Placement (first month rent)
- Permanent Housing Units (6 units)
- Specialty short-term housing (1 unit)
- Short-Term Rent, Mortgage & Utility Assistance
- Supportive Services



# Facility-Based Housing



# Outcomes and Lessons Learned

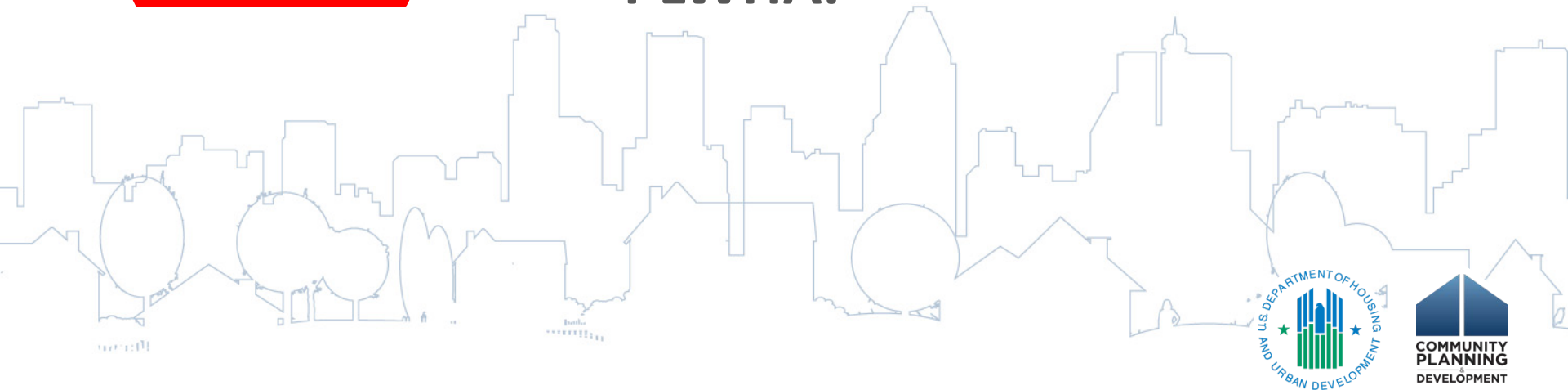
- In 2007, the year HSC started providing housing assistance, approximately 16% of HSC clients (60 of 378) were reported in CareWare as “unstably housed.”
- In 2011, approximately 8% of HSC clients (41 of 470) were reported in CareWare as “unstably housed.”
- In 2012 HSC served 173 people in households living with HIV with direct housing assistance (i.e. a bed).
- There is not enough funding to meet the need, with waiting lists for most programs.



# Why HOPWA?

**50% of  
PLWHA will  
have some  
form of a  
housing crisis  
in their  
lifetime.**

**HIV is a public health risk and a highly communicable disease. Housing is a proven, effective tool in preventing the spread of HIV by improving health outcomes and quality of life for PLWHA.**



# Housing's Impact on HIV Health Outcomes



## Housing Instability

Delayed diagnosis  
Increased risk of acquiring & transmitting  
Delayed entry into care  
Lack of regular care visits  
Delayed use of ART  
Less likely to be virally suppressed



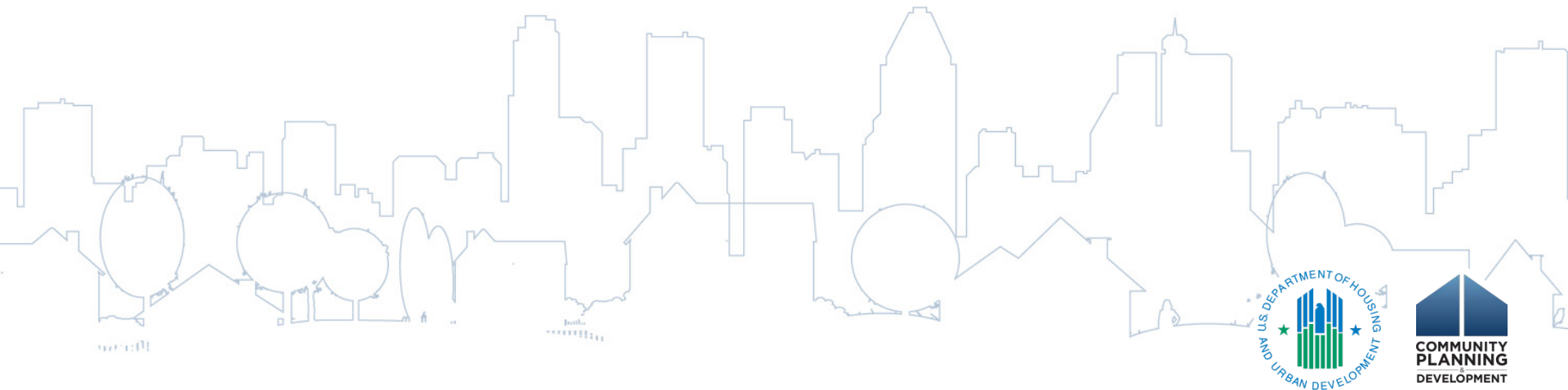
## Housing Stability

Reduced risky behaviors  
Increased rates of care visits  
More likely to return to care  
More likely to receive ART  
More likely to achieve viral suppression  
Reduced use of ER and public resources



# Office of HIV/AIDS Housing Vision

**To elevate housing  
as a structural intervention in ending  
the AIDS Epidemic  
in the United States.**



# HOPWA Program Origin and Purpose

## ORIGIN.....

The Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program was created to address the housing needs of low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Established by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 12901)

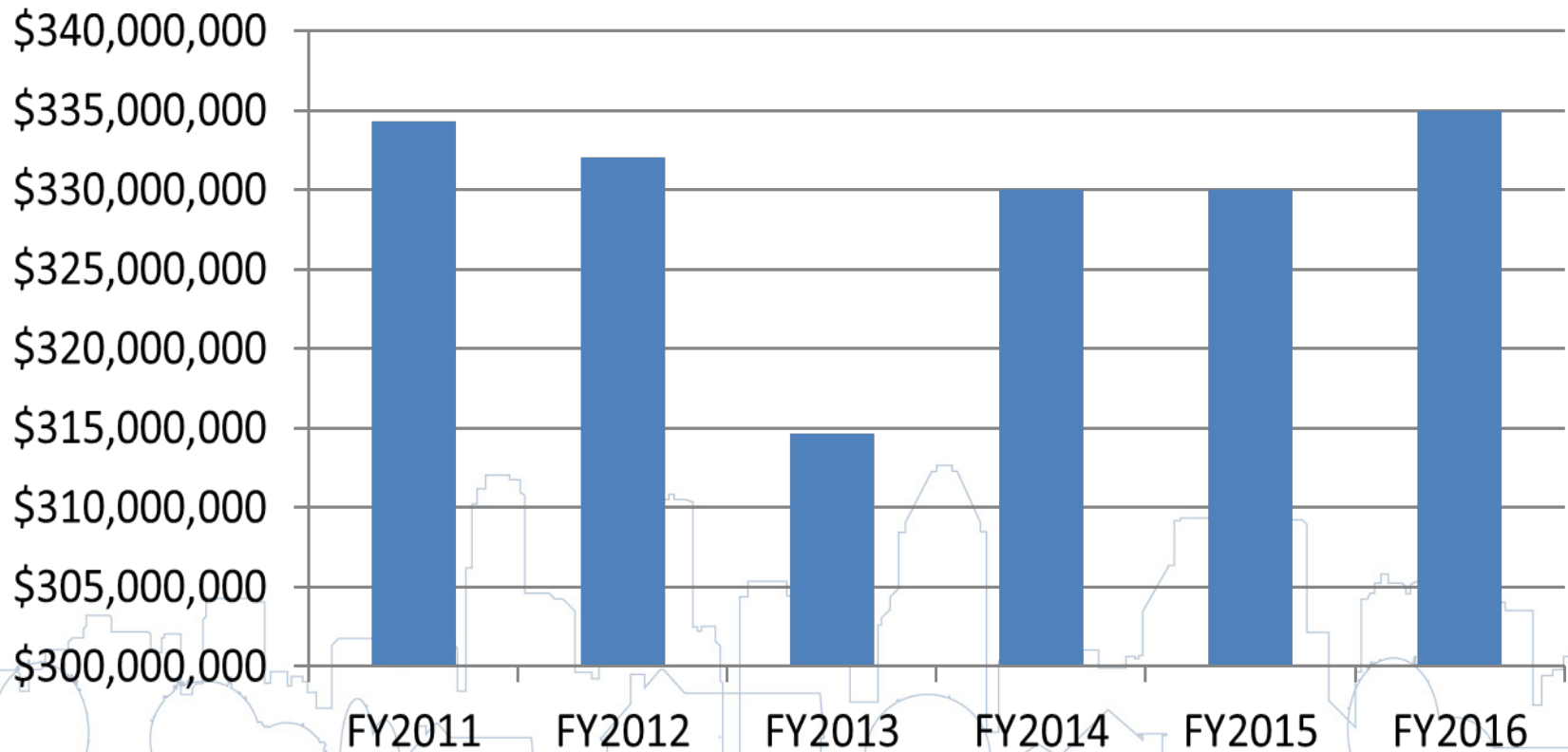
## PURPOSE.....

To provide **state and local governments** with resources and incentives for devising **long-term strategies** to develop a range of housing assistance and supportive services for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS **and their families** to overcome key barriers to stable housing - affordability and discrimination.

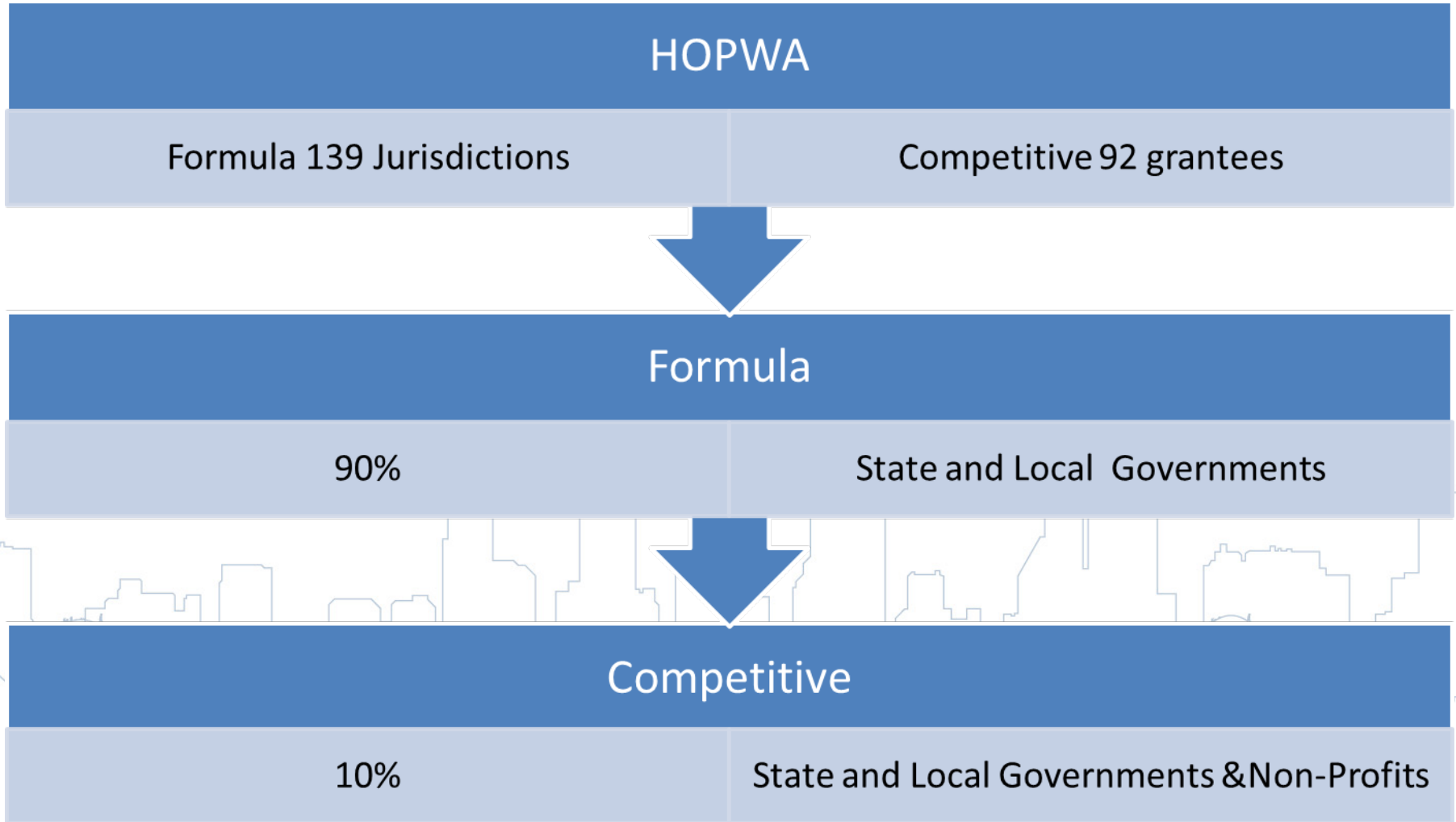


# HOPWA Funding

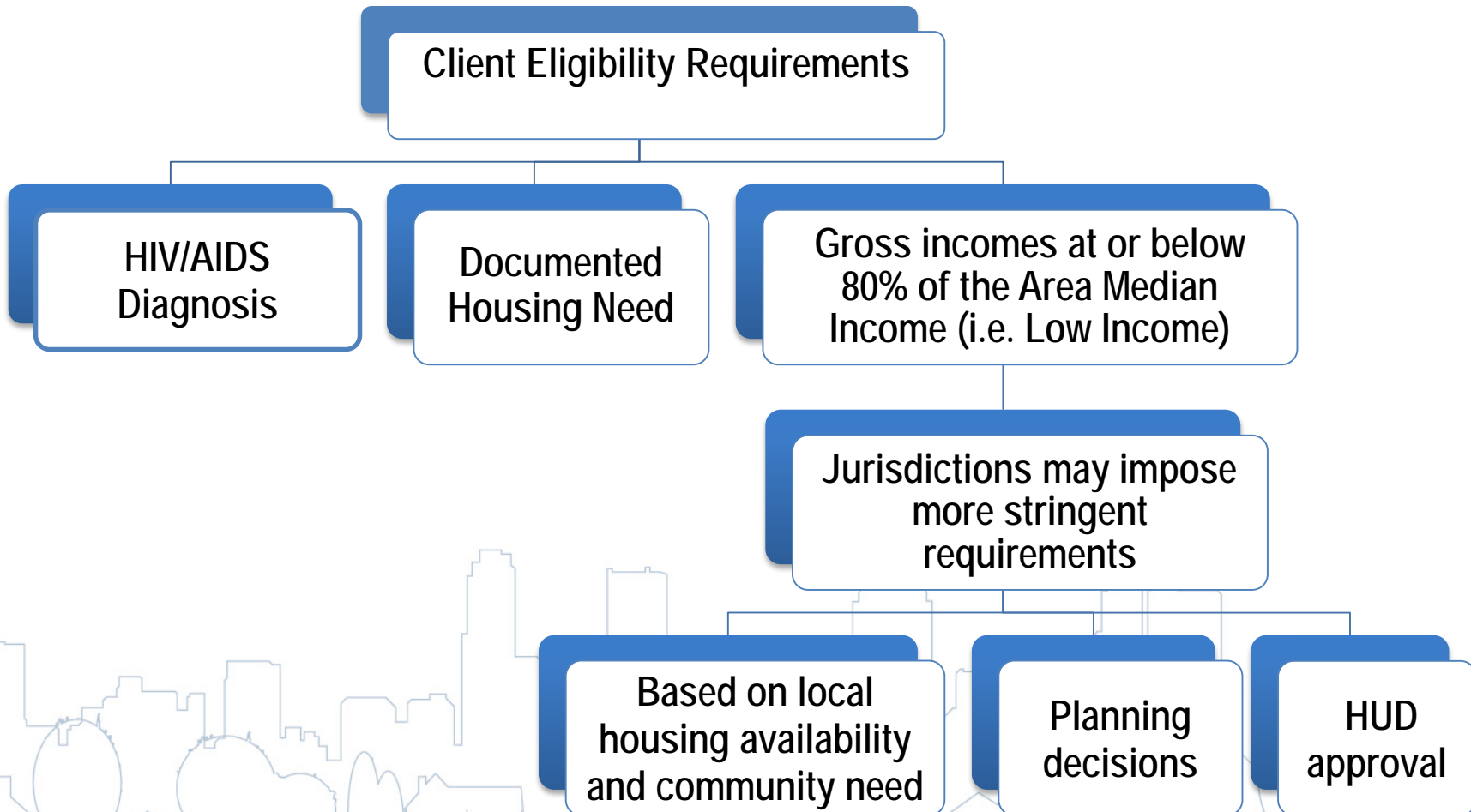
## HOPWA Appropriations for Fiscal Years 2011-2016



# HOPWA Structure



# HOPWA Client Eligibility



# HOPWA Eligible Activities

- Both Facility-Based and Scattered site
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Emergency Housing
- Transitional/Short-term Housing
- Supportive Services

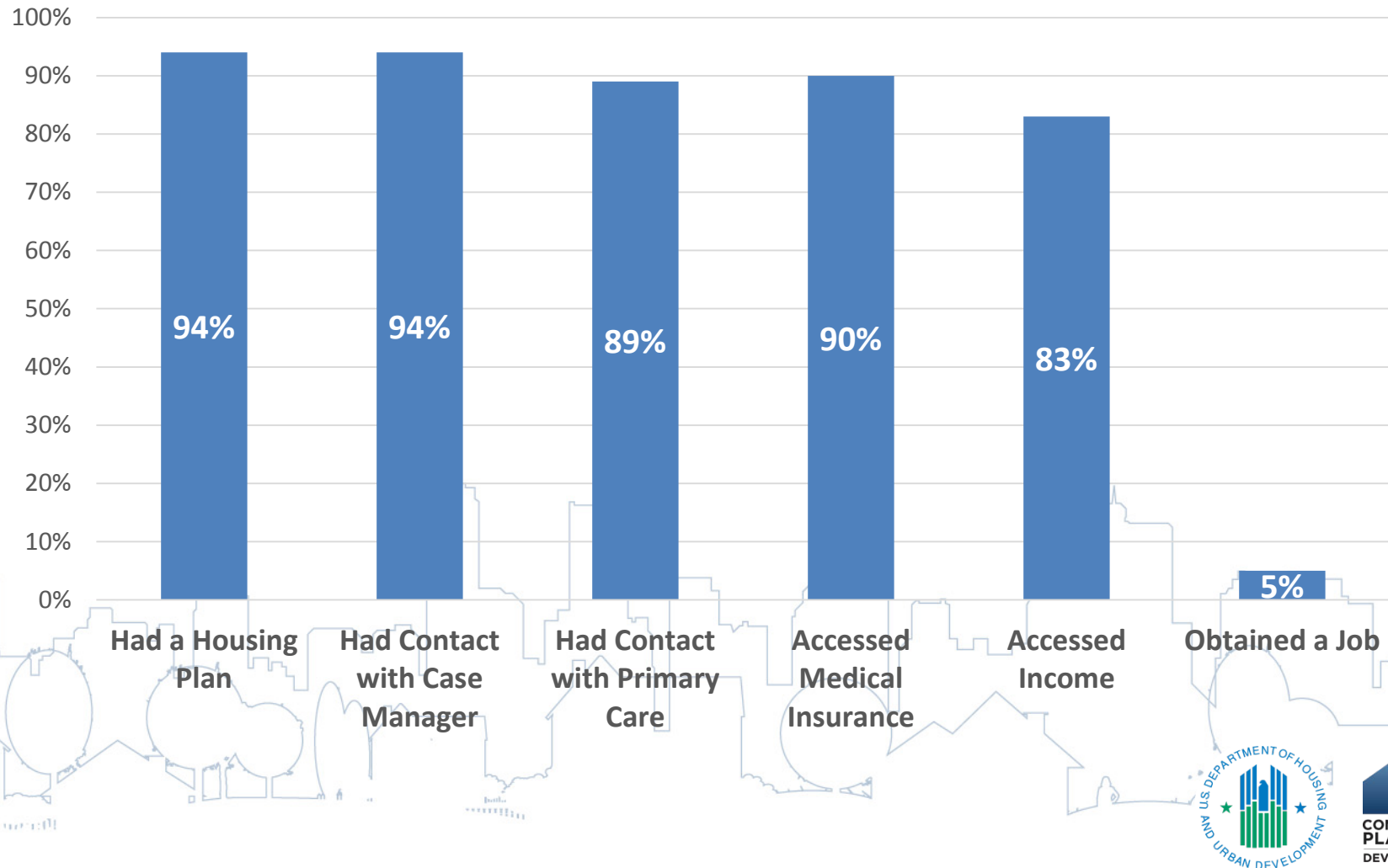


# Who HOPWA Serves

- Approximately **55,000** are provided with housing assistance under the HOPWA program annually.
- **9 out of 10** HOPWA housing beneficiaries are extremely low or very low income.
- Among new clients served last year, approximately **4,400** (18%) were homeless and HIV-positive.
- Over **60%** of the HOPWA-eligible individuals served under the program are male and **more than half** are between the ages of 31 and 50.
- **51%** identify as Black or African American, **35%** identify as White, and **17%** identify as having Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.



# Access to Care and Support



# National HIV/AIDS Strategy

**Released in 2010 and updated in 2015 with 4 major goals:**

- 1. Reduce new infections;**
- 2. Increase access to care and improve health outcomes for people living with HIV;**
- 3. Reduce HIV-related health disparities and health inequities; and**
- 4. Achieve a more coordinated national response to the HIV epidemic.**



# Why is Collaboration Important?

- Need is greater than available resources
- Coordination across funding streams:
  - Leads to more efficient use of funds and prevents duplication of services
  - Results in Improved quality of services and streamlined service delivery
  - Draws upon expertise of various providers (with varying purposes and histories)
  - Allows for a comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS care and services.

# HUD's NHAS Action Items: Cross-Agency Collaboration

- Work with DOJ to identify models of improved service integration among HIV housing providers and sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking service providers.
- Work with HRSA/HAB to identify models for the integration of housing and HIV care data systems
- Continue to disseminate information and encourage usage of the joint HUD/DOL Getting to Work Curriculum



# VAWA/HOPWA Project Demonstration

- 2012 - White House established an interagency working group to explore the intersection of HIV/AIDS, violence against women and girls, and gender-related health disparities – HUD named as member agency
- Resulted in DOJ/HUD collaboration on the “VAWA/HOPWA Project Demonstration”
- Incorporated into the NHAS as HUD/DOJ Action Item



# VAWA/HOPWA Project Demonstration

- Awards announced July 2016 - more than \$9 million to support 8 local programs across the country.
- Grantees will provide housing assistance and supportive services to low-income PLWHA who are homeless, or in need of transitional housing or other housing assistance, as a result of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking.
- Innovative 3-year projects that will work to improve cross-agency planning, resource utilization, and service integration between the two service systems.



# VAWA/HOPWA Project Demonstration

## 8 VAWA/HOPWA Grantees:

State	Grantee
California	Volunteers of America of Los Angeles
California	City of San Jose
District of Columbia	DC Department of Health
Louisiana	UNITY of Greater New Orleans
Missouri	City of Kansas City
New York	Gay Men's Health Crisis
New York	Unity House of Troy
Oregon	City of Portland



# Ryan White/HOPWA Data Integration

Addressing HIV Care and Housing Coordination through Data Integration to Improve Health Outcomes along the HIV Care Continuum Initiative:

- Partnership between HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau and HUD's Office of HIV/AIDS Housing
- Funded under HHS Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Funding (SMAIF)
- Focus on integrating RWHAP and HOPWA data to improve the coordination of services for PLWHA who are unstably housed, or at risk for or experiencing homelessness.



# Ryan White/HOPWA Data Integration

**5** Performance Sites selected for 2.5 year initiative:

- City of Hartford (**CT**) Health & Human Services Department
- Gregory House Programs (**HI**)
- Kansas City (**MO**) Health Department
- Palm Beach County (**FL**) Department of Community Services
- Cascade AIDS Project (**OR**)

RAND Corporation is providing support and capacity building assistance to the five selected sites and conducting the multisite evaluation.



# Ryan White/HOPWA Data Integration

Models of data system integration adopted by the performance sites include:

- Development of external data bridges and interfaces to interconnect CAREWare with HMIS
- Customization of CAREWare or HMIS to incorporate the corresponding data elements from either the housing or HIV care system

Data systems integration efforts are currently underway at each of the 5 sites.



# Ryan White/HOPWA Data Integration

Data integration will lead to more coordinated patient care, supportive services, and housing services for PLWHA. Examples include:

- Dedicating staff or re-organizing staff efforts to coordinate housing and health care services for clients (e.g., care coordinators, coordinated case management, or enhanced peer navigation services);
- Increasing the efficiency of the referral process between Ryan White and HOPWA service providers;
- Streamlining intake and assessment forms to accurately identify unmet needs of clients seeking housing and HIV care services;
- Using integrated data to inform staff efforts to quickly identify and conduct targeted outreach with clients needing additional services or support; and
- Working across the Ryan White and HOPWA programs to find clients that are no longer engaged in care.



# HUD/DOL Employment Curriculum

## Getting to Work: A Training Curriculum for HIV/AIDS Service Providers and Housing Providers

- Jointly developed by HUD/DOL, in collaboration with the National Working Positive Coalition, with input from DOE, DOJ, and SAMHSA
- Recognizes that employment is a key component of serving the whole person and that employment leads to improved health outcomes for PLWHA
- Assists AIDS service providers in understanding HIV/AIDS in the context of employment and the different approaches to helping clients who are ready to work identify and achieve their related goals

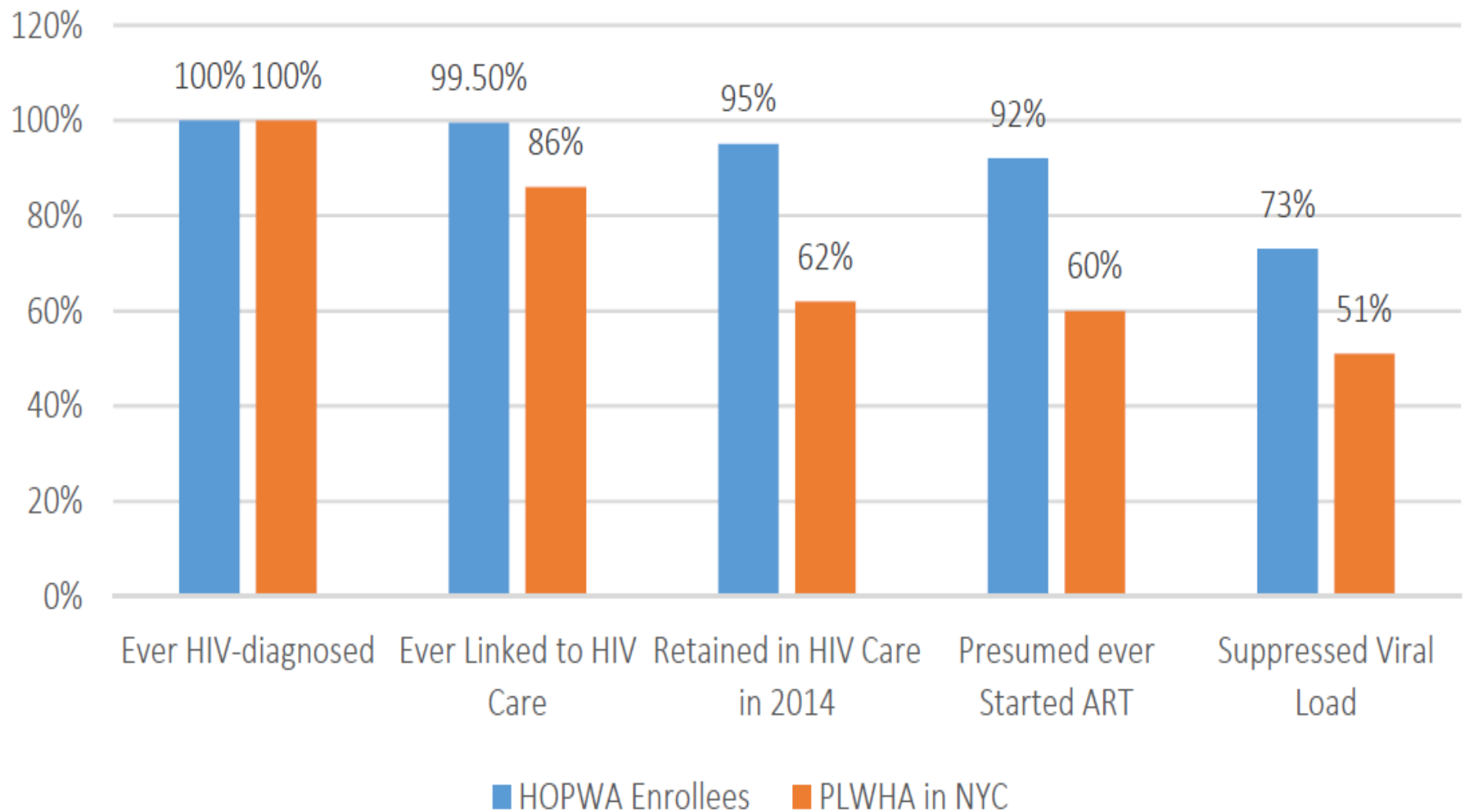


# HIV Housing Care Continuum Initiative

- HIV Care Continuum Initiative and Federal Working Group established by the White House in 2013 (incorporated into NHAS 2015)
- HUD assigned responsibility for a number of action steps including 5.4: HUD and HHS will provide technical assistance and trainings to better coordinate and align the provision of housing services with medical care for PLWHA.
- Based on the 5.4 action step:
  - “HOPWA White Paper” developed and published by the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing – jointly promoted with HRSA/HAB
  - HUD-National AIDS Housing Coalition-Collaborative Solutions, Inc. collaboration on HIV Housing Care Continuum Initiative to increase HOPWA grantees’ ability to measure and track client health outcomes along the HIV Care Continuum



# NYC PLWHA & HOPWA Care Continuum, 2014



# Why Build an HIV Housing Care Continuum?

- Illustrate overall engagement in care and treatment for PLWHA receiving HIV housing assistance.
- Benchmark against national and community-level HIV Care Continuums.
- Identify successes and gaps in care and treatment experienced by PLWHA receiving HIV housing assistance.
- Improve health outcomes by implementing system and/or service enhancements to programs.
- Inform policy-makers on program development.
- Align with national initiatives
  - National HIV/AIDS Strategy (2015)
  - White House HIV Care Continuum Initiative (2013)



# Regional Meetings and Webinars

In 2015, the Office of HIV/AIDS Housing, the National AIDS Housing Coalition, and Collaborative Solutions, Inc., hosted a series of HIV Housing Care Continuum regional meetings

- Brought together teams of grantees and project sponsors, Ryan White providers, and health department surveillance staff to create community strategies for developing and implementing HIV Housing Care Continuums.
- Meetings took place in Chicago, IL, Washington, DC, Atlanta, GA, and Portland, OR.

HIV Housing Care Continuum webinar series and workbook were developed to share the information and resources presented at the regional meetings to a broader audience of HOPWA grantees and providers.

- The resources were designed to help HOPWA grantees develop strategies in their own communities to:
  - Improve ability to measure client health outcomes;
  - Create the strategic partnerships necessary to build a local HIV Housing Care Continuum; and
  - Utilize local data to benefit clients by demonstrating the link between housing and health and engaging in cross-system advocacy efforts.



# Resources

HOPWA webpage (program info and resources, grantee performance profiles, grantee contact information, HOPWA Desk Officers, Ask-A-Question):

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hopwa/>

Getting to Work Curriculum:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/dol-hud-getting-to-work-curriculum-for-hiv-aids-providers/>

HIV Housing Care Continuum Initiative Resources:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hopwa/hiv-housing-care-continuum-initiative/>

