



FY2012 HIV/AIDS – RYAN WHITE CARE ACT, NIH AND ADAP FUNDING

The Problem

HIV/AIDS remains a national crisis, particularly among gay and bisexual men and in communities of color. We must make combating HIV/AIDS a national priority by harnessing all possible resources to prevent new infections, provide meaningful access to quality care and treatment, and boost research to find a cure.

The Solution

Ryan White CARE Act programs provide access to life-saving treatment and care, including primary medical care and critical support services, for over half a million low-income Americans with HIV/AIDS. During its last session, Congress reauthorized the CARE Act for another four years, committing an additional \$2.5 billion to this critical federal effort to fight the epidemic. The President's Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 proposes an \$88 million increase for Ryan White programs. However, years of being underfunded and growing demands on its programs mean that the CARE Act still desperately needs more federal dollars to fulfill its critical role.

NIH Research: As people living with HIV/AIDS around the world hope for the development of crucial preventative and treatment options – and one day a cure – it is critical to support research efforts. The President's Budget for FY 2012 proposes a \$74 million increase for HIV/AIDS research at NIH.

Ideological Restrictions to Effective Prevention: In the last session of Congress, lawmakers finally ended two long-standing barriers to effective prevention efforts. First, Congress stopped funding abstinence-only sex education efforts and redirected those dollars to proven, science-based programs focused on preventing teen pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases. Second, it lifted the ban on federal funding for syringe exchange programs, which have been widely proven to reduce HIV transmission without increasing drug use.

Catholic Support

Catholic Charities of numerous U.S. dioceses have accepted millions of dollars of Ryan White Care Act funding since its inception in 1991 for support of case management, psychosocial services, transportation, etc.

Catholic Talking Points

- As Catholics, We are called to care for the sick and comfort the infirmed.
- The Ryan White Care Act includes broad religious exemptions and does not apply to our church, nor any of our privately funded church organizations and programs.

Catholic Social Teaching and Scripture

"As members of the Church and society, we have a responsibility to stand in solidarity with and reach out with compassion and understanding to those exposed to or experiencing this disease. We must provide spiritual and pastoral care as well as medical and social services for them and support for their families and friends." U.S. Catholic Conference, "The Many Faces of AIDS: A Gospel Response," 1987.

Catholic Constituent Faces of HIV/AIDS: Available upon request