

Introduction:

Music

Videos of People (Men, Women and Children)

Today, in America, more than one million people live with HIV/AIDS.

And, along with thousands of Floridians living with this disease, they are benefiting from a program called Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, commonly referred to as the State HOPWA Program.

HOPWA is a federal program that provides funds to state and local governments to help them develop a range of housing assistance for the low- income families of persons living with HIV and AIDS.

Everyday, all across our state, in community based organizations, AIDS services organizations and county health departments, State HOPWA staff work tirelessly to secure funding and provide housing to eligible State HOPWA clients. Whether they are case managers or administrative staff, housing specialists or housing advocates, these State HOPWA workers are committed to helping their clients' secure, safe and affordable housing.

Craig Reynolds: Opening Remarks:

We must embrace the fact that you cannot be successful as a patient, taking meds, adhering to doctor's appointments, staying on top of your labs if your housing situation is unstable.

Debbie Tucci: Opening Remarks:

The good news is people are living longer! The medications are working. We've just come so far and so long term housing and a long term plan is really what is necessary.

Scott Pridgen: Opening Remarks:

There are a lot of problems in our country - homelessness, affordable housing, lack of housing-but HOPWA is a success story. I have yet to see a client and landlord not come away from this feeling good about it!

Craig Reynolds: One of the greatest gifts I believe we can give someone is the opportunity to become self-sufficient or to move into a direction of independence.

Music

HOPWA Orientation

This HOPWA Orientation is designed primarily for new State HOPWA employees including case managers, housing specialist, administrators, and other interested social services agency staff.

It is not a training course on how to work with clients to secure housing, nor is it training in the required policies, procedures, forms and necessary paperwork.

That type of “nuts and bolts” HOPWA training will be developed in the near future and include:
Module 1: Short Term Housing Services
Module 2: Long Term Housing Services
This Orientation is an instructional and interactive on-line presentation;

It is approximately 1½ hours;

Includes Section I which covers the State HOPWA Infrastructure
and
Section II which covers Client Services and the Housing Continuum.

It requires only a notepad for notes, and attention to the on-line instructions required to navigate the presentation.

There are no pre- or post-tests.

However, there are reviews in each section.

The Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of HIV/AIDS has created a State HOPWA Website to provide staff with on-going and useful information specific to Florida’s State HOPWA Program.

Go to <http://www.floridaaids.org/care/hopwa.html> if you want to research a specific subject.

Five Orientation Objectives

By the time you complete this orientation:

- #1 You should have a better understanding of the State HOPWA Program’s history, purpose and objectives, and the clients served by HOPWA
- #2 You will be aware of the state and federal laws and policies that govern the state HOPWA Program as administered by the Department of Health, Division of Disease Control, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, and particularly federal regulation 24 CFR 574.
- #3 You will have a better understanding of the homeless, and why stable housing is critical for persons with HIV/AIDS to ensure appropriate patient care and treatment.
- #4 You will understand why front line staff’s knowledge and expertise are important to the State HOPWA client, as staff and client work together as a team to explore and maintain stable housing options and eventual client independence from HOPWA assistance.
- #5 And finally, you will become familiar with helpful HOPWA terms, the short-term and long-term housing services available to State HOPWA clients depending on their housing need, and the importance of a well-developed Housing Continuum in each locality.