

**i. Project Abstract:** RWHAP Part A HIV Emergency Relief Grant Program: Atlanta Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA). H89HA00007 Fulton County Government, 141 Pryor Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303. Jeff Cheek, Director. Phone: 404-612-0789, [Jeff.Cheek@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Jeff.Cheek@fultoncountyga.gov) www.ryanwhiteatl.org Funds Requested: \$29,075,338.

**Overview of Atlanta EMA:** The Atlanta EMA is comprised of 20 counties: Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding and Walton covering 6,209 square miles; which is larger than the State of Connecticut. The EMA has a population of 5,705,071, which represents 54% of the State's population of 10,519,475. Race: White 56%; Black 36%; multiple races 2.3%; and other races 7%; 11% of EMA residents are of Hispanic ethnicity.

**Epidemiologic and Demographic overview of HIV epidemic:** In 2018, the prevalence of HIV was 42,563 people, an increase of 12% from 2016. Of the 42,563, 79% (33,685) were Male, 20% (8,420) were Female, 1% (405) were Transgender; 67% of cases had MSM exposure category, 21% had high risk heterosexual exposure, 5% had injection drug use exposure; 43% were 25-44 and 40% were 45-59, 4% were among the 13-24 age group.

**Geographic Information:** In 2018, 82% of the EMA's prevalent cases of HIV were located in the urban core of the EMA with Fulton County at 41% (17,265), DeKalb County at 24% (10,424), Cobb County 8% (3,598), and Gwinnett County 8% (3,499). The HIV epidemic in metro Atlanta is concentrated primarily in the downtown corridor intersecting Fulton and DeKalb Counties. This area, consisting of 157 census tracts, has 60% of the metropolitan area's HIV cases. The prevalence rate within the cluster is 1.34% and is compatible with what the World Health Organization would describe as a "generalized epidemic". The Atlanta EMA funded 18 service providers in FY2019 including two agencies with Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funding. While the majority of service providers are located in Fulton and DeKalb Counties, HIV/AIDS core and support services are geographically dispersed and accessible to HIV/AIDS clients throughout the EMA.

**The Comprehensive System of Care:** During 2018, the EMA served 16,233 Ryan White Part A clients. Funding supports the continuum of care through a comprehensive range of core services including: 1) outpatient ambulatory health services through 23 healthcare facilities; 2) preventative and restorative oral health; 3) medical case management services 4) mental health services and medications; 5) substance abuse services; and, 6) medical nutrition therapy. Other essential support services which facilitate primary care access and retention include: non-medical case management; referrals to health care and support services (including insurance navigation); psychosocial support (including patient navigation); medical transportation; other professional services (for legal services), food, linguistics and child care. These various core and support services are often co-located within the primary care facilities. MAI funds are directed to outpatient ambulatory health services to improve health outcomes for persons of color with a particular emphasis on Black MSM (13-24 and 25-44), and Black Females.

**Overall viral suppression rate:** 2018 Ryan White data show 79% of Persons Living with HIV (PLWH) are virally suppressed. Suppression rates among PLWH subpopulations were 67% among Black MSM 13-24, 71% among Black MSM 25-44, and higher among Black Females at 83%.