

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 www.ryanwhiteatl.org Funds Requested: \$29,642,324.

Overview of the 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. The EMA has a population of 5,601,492, which represents 54% of the State's population of 10,297,484. In the EMA, race is distributed as follows: White alone 47%; Black alone 34%; multiple races alone 2%; and other races alone 6%. Hispanic ethnicity (of any race) constitutes 11% of the EMA population.

Epidemiologic and Demographic overview of HIV epidemic: In 2019, the number of persons living with HIV (PLWH) in the EMA was 50,918, an increase of 27% from 2017. Of these 50,918 persons, 79% (40,291) were Male, 20% (10,073) were Female, and 1% (497) were Transgender; 56% (28,460) of PLWH had MSM exposure, 24% (11,943) had high risk heterosexual exposure, 11% (5,401) had injection drug use exposure; 40% (20,283) were 25-44, 40% (20,212) were 45-59, and 3% (1,633) were among the 13-24 age group.

Geographic Information: In 2019, 80% of the EMA's PLWH were located in the urban core of the EMA; with Fulton County having 39% (19,740) of the total PLWH, DeKalb County 24% (12,411), Cobb County 8% (4,274), and Gwinnett County 9% (4,549). 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 63% of the EMA's PLWH, and a prevalence of 1.8% which is compatible with what the World Health Organization would describe as a "generalized epidemic". The Atlanta EMA funded seventeen service providers in FY2020 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 2019, the EMA served 16,349 Ryan White Part A clients. Funding supports the continuum of care through a comprehensive range of core services including: outpatient ambulatory health services through 23 healthcare facilities; preventative and restorative oral health; medical case management services; mental health services and medications; substance abuse services; Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance; and 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 health insurance navigation); psychosocial support (including patient navigation); medical transportation (including ride-share); other professional services (for legal services), food bank/home delivered meals, emergency financial assistance, linguistics and child care. These various core and support services are often co-located within the primary care facilities. Services for disproportionately impacted subpopulations supported by MAI funds are directed to outpatient ambulatory health services to improve health outcomes for minority populations with a particular emphasis on Black MSM (13-24 and 25-44), and Black Females.

Overall viral suppression rate: 2019 Ryan White data shows 81% of PLWH are virally suppressed. Suppression rates among PLWH subpopulations were 72% among Black MSM 13-24, 76% among Black MSM 25-44, and higher among Black Females at 83%.