

## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D. COMMISSIONER

**TO:** Administrative Agency Administrators and Planners:

**FROM:** Ann S. Robbins, PhD

**DATE:** October 23, 2008

**SUBJECT:** DSHS Guidance on Wait Lists and Denial of Client Services

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Administrative Agency Administrators and Planners:

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has received several calls from clients stating they were denied AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance and/or Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance due to lack of funds, despite several AAs returning Part B service dollars for the 2007/2008 Ryan White fiscal year. Access to medications is critical to enhancing health and prevents mortality and further transmission. DSHS is issuing the following guidance for AAs on managing AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance and/or Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance services in their area. While DSHS expects AAs to ensure client access for all core services, the focus of this guidance is on AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance and Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance.

It is the expectation of DSHS that clients will not be put on wait lists nor will AIDS Pharmaceutical Assistance or Health Insurance Premium and Cost Sharing Assistance services be postponed or denied due to funding. DSHS expects AAs to monitor their sub-grantees for the development of wait lists, postponement and/or denial of services and for sub-grantees to notify their Administrative Agency when funds for either service are low or exhausted so the AAs may take the appropriate steps to ensure adequate funding is available.

We understand that there are local eligibility requirements and service caps across Ryan White Parts that may affect clients' access to these services. We intend to begin a dialogue with all Ryan White partners to chart a course that ensures client access to medications and insurance assistance while addressing the various requirements of each program grantee.

If you have any questions regarding this guidance please contact your assigned DSHS planning specialist.

Respectfully:

Ann Robbins, Ph. D. Manager HIV/STD Comprehensive Services Branch