



**SOUTHERN AIDS COALITION RYAN WHITE C.A.R.E. ACT
REAUTHORIZATION PRINCIPLES
Unanimously adopted by all Steering Committee Members**

Basic Premise

The Southern AIDS Coalition believes that all persons living with HIV/AIDS across the United States, regardless of their geographic location, must have access to appropriately trained, HIV-specific primary medical care providers, to services necessary to sustain medical care, and to medication formularies consistent with United States Public Health Service guidelines. This goal is consistent with the vision of a compassionate society and contributes to the prolongation and improvement of peoples' lives, facilitates their positive contributions to family and society, and helps to reduce the further spread of this pandemic.

The intent of the Southern AIDS Coalition is to not cause harm to any existing systems of care. Any significant changes in the distribution of resources should be implemented over time to minimize negative impact (should any occur) and maximize effect in a more equitable distribution of Ryan White Funds.

Allocations Formula – HIV/AIDS

The Southern AIDS Coalition is in favor of:

- 1) An allocation formula based on newly reported living HIV and actual reported living AIDS cases;
- 2) An immediate implementation of this new formula with the CDC using estimated counts of new and living HIV cases where necessary; and
- 3) Although code-based systems may never be as accurate as name-based systems, the CDC should move to dialogue immediately with code-based HIV reporting states so that all data can be as complete and comparable as possible with data from name-based HIV reporting states.

Ryan White Care and Treatment

The Southern AIDS Coalition seeks a more equitable distribution of Ryan White dollars. The use of new and living HIV and actual reported living AIDS case data may contribute to this more equitable distribution. Our intent is not to dismantle currently existing systems of care, but to build systems where they do not currently exist. To that end, we also advocate for the use of existing and comparable indices that reflect the cost of access to and the provision of medical care and services by location as well as other relevant indicators of need and availability of services. SAC will research options for Ryan White distribution and conclude by late Fall, 2004.

Multiple Year Awards

We recommend for all formula and supplemental awards a three-year period with annual performance reports and annual adjustments to funding if the change in living and newly reported HIV/AIDS cases warrants. We recommend a limit harm provision to minimize disruption to the existing systems of care.

AIDS Drug Assistance Program

We support the priority that 100% of persons in need of medications without another payer source need to be served through the Ryan White C.A.R.E. Act ADAP program. We favor a 300% federal poverty level as a minimum and concur with formularies that meet the Public Health Services Guidelines for HIV disease care, including Opportunistic Infections.

HIV/AIDS as Medical Entitlement – Institute of Medicine Report

We fully endorse the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommendation to establish a federally-funded, state-administered entitlement program for HIV/AIDS medical care. SAC favors implementation of the IOM recommendations, with the following clarifications:

- Assuring that no one currently eligible for RW services loses access under the new Program - clients may be "grandfathered in" or able to "buy in" to the entitlement;
- Assuring that the most critical supportive services are available and adequately funded through a redesigned RW Program;
- Special consideration needs to be applied that addresses variations in local/state economies such that all those living with HIV disease, without regards as to where they live, have access to the services available under this entitlement program

For additional information or to join the Southern AIDS Coalition, please contact:
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