

LEGAL ASSISTANCE
(Year 21 Service Priority #13)

This service provides **Legal Assistance** to individuals living with HIV or AIDS who would not otherwise have access to these services with the goal of maintaining clients in health care. Services include assistance with access to benefits and health care-related services.

A. Program Operation Requirements: Funds may be used to support and complement pro bono activities. All legal assistance will be provided under the supervision of an attorney licensed by the Florida Bar Association. Only civil cases are covered under this Agreement. Therefore, the service provider will assist eligible Ryan White Program clients with civil legal HIV-related issues which will benefit the overall health of the client and/or the Ryan White care delivery system in the following areas:

- Collections/Finance – issues related to unfair or illegal actions by collection agencies related to health care debt (e.g., bankruptcy due to health care debt).
- Employment Discrimination Services – issues related to discrimination while at work, unfair terminations, unfair promotion policies, or hostile work environment as related to HIV diagnosis or status.
- Health Care Related Services – issues related to ensuring that the client is treated in a fair manner, and issues relating to breach of confidentiality by divulging HIV status or other confidential medical/income information without client consent.
- Health Insurance Services – issues related to seeking, maintaining, and purchasing of private health insurance. Issues may also relate to refusal of coverage based upon “pre-existing conditions.”
- Government Benefit Services – issues related to obtaining or retaining public benefits which the client has been denied and is eligible to receive, including but not limited to Social Security Disability and Supplemental Income Services benefits, Unemployment Compensation, as well as welfare appeals, and similar public/government services.
- Rights of the Recently Incarcerated Services – issues related to a client’s right to access and receive medical treatment upon release from a correctional institution.

Providers should demonstrate experience in providing similar services and the ability to meet the multi-lingual needs of the HIV/AIDS community.

- B. Rules for Reimbursement:** The unit of reimbursement for this service is *one hour* of legal consultation and/or advocacy provided by an attorney or paralegal at a rate not to exceed \$90.00 per hour.
- C. Additional Rules for Reporting:** Monthly activity reporting for this service will be on the basis of *one hour of legal consultation and/or advocacy* provided by an attorney or paralegal.
- D. Special Client Eligibility Criteria:** A Ryan White Program Certified Referral or an Out-of-Network referral (accompanied by all appropriate supporting documentation) is required for this service and must be updated annually. Providers must also document that HIV+ clients receiving Ryan White Program Part A-funded legal assistance are permanent residents of Miami-Dade County and have a gross household income that does not exceed 200% of the 2011 Federal Poverty Level (FPL).