

i. Project Abstract: HIV Emergency Relief Grant Program Part A: 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: \$27,668,037.

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. The EMA has a population of 5,705,071, which represents 54.7% of the State's population of 10,429,379. Race: White 49.8%; Black 60.3%; Asian 7%; and, other races 5%; 11% of EMA residents are of Hispanic ethnicity.

Epidemiologic and Demographic overview of HIV epidemic: In 2017, the prevalence was 40,038 people, an increase of 1.5% from 2015. Of the 40,038, 80% (31,622) were male, 79% (8,007) were female, 20% were other or unknown; 67% of cases had MSM exposure category, 21% had High Risk Heterosexual exposure, 5.6% had injection drug use exposure; 42.5% were 25-44 and 41% were 45-64, 3.8% were among the 13-24 age group.

Geographic Information: In 2017, 92% of the EMA's prevalent cases were located in the urban core of the EMA with Fulton at 41% (16,544), DeKalb at 24% (9,794), Cobb 8% (3,385), Gwinnett 8% (3,295), Clayton 7% (2,672), Henry 2% (742), and Douglas with 1.4% (578). The HIV epidemic in metro Atlanta is concentrated primarily in one downtown section of Fulton and DeKalb Counties. This area, consisting of 157 census tracts, has 60 percent 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 FY18 including two agencies with Minority AIDS Initiative 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 2017 the EMA served 17,245 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, and child care. These various core and support services are often co-located within the primary care facilities. Minority AIDS Initiative 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: 2017 Ryan White data show 77% of Persons Living with HIV (PLWH) are virally suppressed. Suppression rates among PLWH subpopulations were 63% among Black MSM 13-24, 73% among Black MSM 25-44, and higher among Black Females at 84%.