

LATOYA CANTRELL, MAYOR
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Dear Providers,

Every day, our residents living with HIV/AIDS are faced with stigmatizations. The City of New Orleans is working to address the stigma that our residents deal with in employment, healthcare, and housing.

The City is continuing to progress with re-designing housing programs funded with the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Grant in keeping with the change known as HOPWA Modernization. As of July 29, 2016, the formula for allocating funding changed as a result of the signing of the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act (HOTMA). The Office of Community Development (OCD) has been working with the project sponsors, community organizations and stakeholders to develop a new modernized model that provides the best possible outcomes for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

In June, the City will award a total of \$1,888,737 to six project sponsors. These sponsors have all worked thoroughly to improve their programs and have shown a commitment to serving the HIV/AIDS community. These improvements are based on current data and best practices such as Housing First and Harm Reduction principles. As a result, I expect to see the following improvements:

1. An increase in permanent housing to those with HIV/AIDS;
2. Improved cost- effective housing and services that meet the needs of our citizens; and
3. Project sponsors who are improving and revising their programs to better meet the needs of clients who are living longer and healthier lives.

The Modernization Act (HOTMA), has not changed regarding the allocation of funding. The City will see a reduction in funding phased in over a five-year period as projected by the United States Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). With the changes being made, the City will be better positioned for the expected grant reduction.

Information regarding the HOPWA grant is located on the City's website and may be accessed using the following link: <https://www.nola.gov/community-development/hopwa-modernization-en/>. Let's continue to work together to maximize the available resources to better serve our residents and meet them where they are.

I look forward to working with you as we continue to move *Forward Together*!

Sincerely,



LaToya Cantrell
Mayor
City of New Orleans

