



County of Los Angeles – Department of Public Health

Division of HIV and STD Programs

*Transitioning Ryan White Supported Clients to Healthy Way LA  
Frequently Asked Questions*



Topic	Question	Answer
<b>1115 Waiver</b>		
	1 What is the 1115 Waiver?	The 1115 Waiver is a tool the federal government makes available to states so that they can tailor their federally supported health programs to better meet the needs of their residents. In November 2010, the federal government authorized a new waiver for California that significantly changes how health care is delivered to certain low-income individuals. As part of this waiver agreement, California was given approval to create the new Low Income Health Programs (LIHPs).
	2 Why is the 1115 Waiver also called the “bridge to reform”?	The 1115 Waiver is commonly referred to as California’s “bridge to reform” because it contains elements that prepare California for full implementation of health care reform in 2014. For example, the creation of the Low Income Health Programs attempts to move uninsured individuals into temporary medical coverage so that it will be easy to transition them to Medi-Cal when they become eligible in 2014.
<b>LIHP</b>		
	1 What is a Low Income Health Program (LIHP)?	The Low Income Health Programs, or “LIHPs”, are new county-based programs that are designed to extend health coverage to uninsured adults with limited incomes. LIHP eligibility and coverage varies county-by-

			county. In Los Angeles County, the LIHP is called “Healthy Way LA”.
	2	What is the purpose of the Low Income Health Programs?	As a component of the 1115 Waiver, the LIHPs give California the opportunity to prepare for the implementation of federal health care reform by establishing new health programs for uninsured adults. The intent of the LIHPs is to help counties identify their uninsured populations and move them into care. Persons who are eligible for LIHP coverage today will be eligible for Medi-Cal when coverage is expanded under health care reform in 2014.
	3	How are the LIHPs funded?	The LIHPs are funded by 50% county funds and 50% federal matching reimbursement.
<b>HWLA Eligibility</b>			
	1	What is Healthy Way LA?	Healthy Way LA is Los Angeles County’s new Low Income Health Program that went into effect on July 1, 2011. Healthy Way LA was also the name of a healthcare initiative that existed in LA County prior to July 2011. The former version of Healthy Way LA has been replaced with a newer version with expanded coverage.
	2	Who is eligible for Healthy Way LA?	An individual must meet the following criteria to be eligible for Healthy Way LA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Los Angeles County Resident,</b></li> <li>• <b>Age 19-64,</b></li> <li>• <b>Income &lt;133% FPL (\$14,484 yr/individual),</b></li> <li>• <b>US Citizen or Legally Residing in the US 5+ years,</b></li> <li>• <b>Not eligible for Medi-Cal or Medicare.</b></li> </ul>
	3	Does coverage under Healthy Way LA cost anything?	No, coverage under Healthy Way LA is free.

			There are no out- of- pocket costs associated with medical care or prescription drug coverage.
<b><i>HWLA and coverage for persons with HIV</i></b>			
	1	Will persons with HIV be required to enroll in Healthy Way LA?	Persons with HIV who want coverage for medical care and prescription drugs will be required to enroll in Healthy Way LA if they are eligible. Individuals who are eligible for Healthy Way LA will not be permitted to continue to have their care paid for by Ryan White or ADAP.
	2	Who paid for HIV care before Healthy Way LA was created?	HRSA is the federal agency that administers the funds used to provide medical care to uninsured persons with HIV. These funds are also known as Ryan White grants. ADAP is also funded by a Ryan White grant. In Los Angeles County, the Department of Public Health, Division of HIV and STD Programs (formerly OAPP) is the local grantee who administers Ryan White funds that pay for HIV related outpatient medical care. The California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS administers the Ryan White grant that funds ADAP.
	3	Who decided that eligible persons with HIV are required to transition to Healthy Way LA?	In August 2011, HRSA sent a letter to all Ryan White grantees informing them that Ryan White payer of last resort rules mandate that persons with HIV who are LIHP eligible (Healthy Way LA) will no longer be eligible to access Ryan White funds to pay for medical care or

			medications that are covered by the LIHP.
	4	Explain what “payer of last resort” means?	Payer of last resort is a provision of the Ryan White law that requires that persons with HIV access other “payers” before using Ryan White funds for care. Other potential payers of HIV medical care are Medi-Cal, Medicare, private insurance, and now Healthy Way LA.
	5	When will enrollment in Healthy Way LA be mandatory for persons with HIV?	The exact date has yet to be determined. The Division on HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) is working closely with Healthy Way LA to ensure that the program is prepared to provide medical care and medications to persons with HIV. We are also working with ADAP to coordinate this transition. DHSP will notify the HIV provider community when the transition is to begin as soon as a date is established. At this time, we are estimating that the process will begin in early 2012. <b>Refer to topic: “Screening and Enrollment”</b>
	6	What happens to individuals who <u>do not</u> meet the Healthy Way LA eligibility requirements?	Persons with HIV who do not meet all of the Healthy Way LA eligibility requirements will continue to receive their care as it is currently provided: Ryan White funded medical outpatient care and ADAP for medications.
	7	What happens to persons with HIV who do not want to enroll in Healthy Way LA?	Enrollment in Health Way LA is voluntary. <b>However</b> , if a Healthy Way LA eligible individual does not enroll in Healthy Way LA, they will have no coverage to pay for their medical care and for their medications. Ryan White and ADAP funds are not permitted to be used to pay for care for a person who is eligible for Healthy Way LA or any other payer. <b>Refer to this topic, #3</b>
	8	What happens to undocumented individuals?	Undocumented individuals are not eligible for

			Healthy Way LA. Undocumented individuals will continue to receive their care and medications as they currently are provided (Ryan White and ADAP).
<b>Healthy Way LA Coverage</b>			
	1	What is covered under Healthy Way LA?	Healthy Way LA is a comprehensive health program that covers a significant number of services. Included in the list of covered benefits: Doctor/Clinic visits, Hospital, Emergency Room, Urgent Care, Medications, Medical Specialty, Laboratory and Tests, Medical Equipment and Supplies, Certain Mental Health Services, Physical Therapy, Radiology, Women's Health Screening, Some Medical Transportation and a 24 Hour Nurse Advice Line.
	2	What are the differences in Ryan White funded medical care and Healthy Way LA?	<p>Ryan White funded care is limited to HIV related outpatient medical care only. Healthy Way LA provides comprehensive care for HIV and for any other health conditions that the individual might have.</p> <p>Example: If a person with HIV were to fall and break their leg, under Ryan White they would not have coverage for this injury. Under Healthy Way LA, the individual would have coverage for an ER visit, hospitalization and surgery, coverage for pain medications and visit with a specialist.</p>
	3	Is Healthy Way LA the same as having insurance?	No. For many technical reasons, Healthy Way LA is not considered to be the same thing as an insurance policy. Healthy Way LA is considered to be a temporary low-income health program.
	4	Does Healthy Way LA provide coverage for HIV medical care?	Yes. Healthy Way LA covers HIV related medical

			care and treatment, including medical specialty visits, labs and HIV medications. <b>Refer to topic: "Healthy Way LA Provider Access"</b>
	5	Will Healthy Way LA cover health problems that are <u>not</u> related to HIV?	Yes. Healthy Way LA provides comprehensive health coverage regardless of whether the individual's condition is related to HIV or not.
	6	Does Healthy Way LA pay for medical care anywhere?	No. Healthy Way LA coverage is limited by geography and by provider. With the exception of emergency room care (for true medical emergencies), individuals must receive care within Los Angeles County from a Healthy Way LA network doctor or hospital.  A summary of the Healthy Way LA network can be found at the following site: <a href="http://www.ladhs.org/wps/portal/HWLA">http://www.ladhs.org/wps/portal/HWLA</a>
<b>Healthy Way LA Provider Access</b>			
	1	Will individuals be required to change doctors and/or clinics when they enroll in Healthy Way LA?	Healthy Way LA's goal is to avoid the need for HIV patients to change healthcare providers when they transition from Ryan White to Healthy Way LA. Therefore, all current Ryan White medical providers and clinics have been invited to join the Healthy Way LA network. Some providers/clinics have signed up and others are pending.  Individuals should check with their providers/clinics to see if they have signed a Healthy Way LA contract, or if they plan to.

	2	What is a “medical home”?	A medical home is the primary care doctor or clinic assigned to provide or coordinate all of a person’s medical care needs. The type of doctor that typically serves as the medical home provider is a general physician or an internist. In an effort to ensure as much continuity as possible, Healthy Way LA will permit persons with HIV to designate their HIV clinic as their medical home and their HIV doctor as their primary care doctor.
	3	How does an HIV clinic become designated a “medical home”?	The clinic must sign a contract that Healthy Way LA has prepared and offered to them. <b>Refer to this topic, #1</b>
	4	Does Healthy Way LA cover visits with medical specialists?	Yes. Healthy Way LA has been working closely with the Division of HIV and STD Programs to ensure that Healthy Way LA has a comprehensive medical specialty network that will best meet the needs of persons with HIV.
	5	Does Healthy Way LA consider HIV doctors to be primary care doctors or medical specialty doctors?	Persons with HIV may designate their HIV doctor as their primary care doctor and their HIV clinic as their medical home (as long as both have signed up to be a part of the HWLA network). <b>Refer to this topic, #1.</b>
<b>Prescription Drug Coverage</b>			
	1	Does Healthy Way LA offer prescription drug coverage?	Yes. Healthy Way LA offers a comprehensive list of covered medications.
	2	Does Healthy Way LA have a drug formulary or list of covered drugs?	Yes. Healthy Way LA has a formulary of pre-approved covered drugs. If an individual needs a medication that is not on the formulary their medical provider may provide evidence

			justifying why an individual needs to access a medication that is not on formulary.
	3	Are HIV medications on the Healthy Way LA formulary?	Yes. HIV medications are covered.
	4	If a person is eligible for Healthy Way LA, will they stay enrolled in ADAP?	No. Individuals will be disenrolled from ADAP once they are fully enrolled in Healthy Way LA because Healthy Way LA offers broader coverage than what is available through ADAP.
	5	What are the differences in ADAP and drug coverage under Healthy Way LA?	Healthy Way LA covers significantly more drugs than ADAP. Healthy Way LA also allows medical providers to appeal to have non-formulary drugs covered. ADAP does not.
	6	Does Healthy Way LA have a pharmacy network? Where do individuals go to pick-up their medications?	Yes, medications must be dispensed by a Healthy Way LA network pharmacy. In an effort to offer as much continuity as possible, Healthy Way LA is developing an HIV pharmacy network. This network will include HIV clinic pharmacies and some community pharmacies.
	7	Will clients who are transitioning from ADAP to Healthy Way LA have to change pharmacies?	Possibly. The Healthy Way LA HIV pharmacy network is not expected to be as broad as what is currently available under ADAP. For this reason, it is expected that some clients will have to change pharmacies. More details about Healthy Way LA's HIV pharmacy network will be available in future editions of this document.
	8	Will individuals be required to go to a county hospital pharmacy to pick up prescriptions covered by Healthy Way LA?	By choice only. The county pharmacies will be one option. HIV clinics and some community pharmacies will also be options for individuals to pick up their medications.
<b>Enrollment and Screening</b>			
	1	How will a person with HIV enroll in Healthy Way LA?	Screening and enrollment will be completed at the time of the individual's ADAP re-certification (or initial application). This is

			typically the individual's birth month. ADAP Enrollment Workers will be cross-trained to be able to process Healthy Way LA applications. Individuals will be able to complete the entire Healthy Way LA application in a familiar setting (HIV clinic or service organization).
	2	How many people are expected to transition from Ryan White and ADAP to Healthy Way LA?	The Division of HIV and STD Programs estimates that approximately 5000 clients will transition from Ryan White/ADAP to Healthy Way LA.
	3	Will ADAP Enrollment Workers receive specialized training to be able to process Healthy Way LA applications?	Yes. The Division of HIV and STD Programs and Healthy Way LA are developing a comprehensive training for ADAP Enrollment Workers. Training is expected to take place in January 2012.
	4	Is the Healthy Way LA application complicated?	No. The Healthy Way LA application is very similar to what is currently being used in for ADAP. There is no disability determination so applications are processed fairly quickly.

Los Angeles County HIV care providers may submit questions to the following e-mail address:

[hwlaproviderquestions@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:hwlaproviderquestions@ph.lacounty.gov)

Responses to submitted questions will be included in updated versions of this Frequently Asked Questions document.

Please check our website for current versions of this document:

[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/aids/HealthcareReform.htm](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/aids/HealthcareReform.htm)

Update #1