



August 8, 2012

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Dear Dr. Wakefield and Dr. Parham Hopson:

Please accept this letter as an expression of utmost concern to the delay in the announcement of funding awards for organizations throughout the U.S. and its territories to provide family-centered primary medical care to women, infants, children, and youth (WICY) living with HIV/AIDS.

As stated in the FOA, the Ryan White Part D 2012-13 program year was to begin August 1, 2012. As of the date of this letter, the Notice of Awards have not been released.

Inasmuch as the entire Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part D was re-competed to respond to the changing HIV epidemiology and the National HIV/AIDS Strategy with the goal of providing comprehensive health care services for the WICY populations, it was believed that HRSA-HAB would be prepared to make these announcements once the application review process was completed, shortly thereafter, and certainly before the August 1, 2012 program start date.

As Part D programs are a critical part of the Ryan White healthcare infrastructure across this country, women, infants, children and youth living with HIV/AIDS rely on the much needed HIV primary care, specialty medical care, and support services provided by these programs. The delay in the announcement of the funding awards to date has undeniably interrupted many of the service continuums established by these programs to care for these most vulnerable populations.

Furthermore, the lack of an official communication from HAB regarding this delay has been most disconcerting to the organizations who have responded to the FOA and the WICY populations they proposed to serve. While it is understandable that bureaucratic measures are unforeseeable it is not clear why HAB has not informed its future and past grantees of their official status.

Therefore, it is hoped that you will respond to the following questions so that we may share that information with our members, colleagues and partners in the field.

1. Can you provide an explanation for the delay and give us a definitive date when the Notice of Awards will be released?
2. For successful applicants, will the Notice of Award be dated August 1, 2012 and will successful applicants (grantees) be allowed to bill for services retroactive from that date?
3. What is the timeframe and dollar amount that will be provided to existing grantees that are not awarded a full-year award for program closeout?

As we turn the corner in this epidemic and work towards realizing the vision of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, I look forward to working with you in partnership to ensure that women, infants, children and youth living with HIV/AIDS have greater access to quality health care through the organizations that serve them.

Sincerely,



Michael Ruppal
Executive Director

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