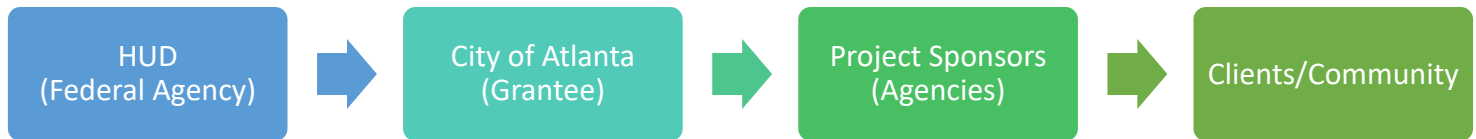




City of Atlanta HOPWA Special Conditions Fact Sheet

What is HOPWA?

The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program is the only Federal program dedicated to the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Under the HOPWA Program, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) makes provides a grant to the City of Atlanta for projects that benefit low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. The City of Atlanta currently receives approximately \$23 million per year through the HOPWA Program. The HOPWA Program is overseen by senior staff in the Office of the Mayor.



What are special conditions?

Special conditions are rules that a Grantee (City of Atlanta) must follow to continue receiving a federal award due to a history of failure to comply with the general or specific terms and conditions of a Federal award, or when a Grantee is not otherwise responsible.

What was the conclusion of HUD's review of the City of Atlanta's management of the HOPWA Program?

In February 2020, HUD found that the City of Atlanta has a pattern of **inadequate financial management systems; inadequate internal controls and lack of oversight of project sponsors; failure to comply with multiple program-specific statutory and regulatory requirements; failure to document compliance with program requirements; inadequate or inaccurate reporting; gross inadequacies with the City of Atlanta's financial system and processes**. HUD determined the City of Atlanta has demonstrated an inability to effectively implement HOPWA statutory requirements, has a history of failure to comply with program requirements, and is not otherwise responsible.

What are the HUD-imposed special conditions for the City of Atlanta?

The **six (6)** HUD-imposed special conditions are as follows: **(1)** The City of Atlanta must submit a staffing plan to HUD for approval showing proper staffing needed to administer the HOPWA Program; **(2)** The City of Atlanta must submit updated policies and procedures to prevent and remedy data breaches to HUD for approval. The City of Atlanta must also provide proof of training all staff, contractors and project sponsors; **(3)** The City of Atlanta must submit a HOPWA Program Policies and Procedures Manual to HUD for approval. The City of Atlanta must also prove proof of training all staff, contractors, and project sponsors; **(4)** The City of Atlanta must submit a plan for the repayment of Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) leasing rent overpayments to HUD for approval. The City of Atlanta must also provide evidence that repayments to assisted households (clients) have been initiated; **(5)** The City of Atlanta shall not incur any new obligations (fund any new programs or services) under its HOPWA grants until given permission to do so by HUD; **(6)** The City of Atlanta can only receive HOPWA grant payments on a reimbursement basis after submitting detailed documentation and an attestation to its accuracy under penalty of fraud, false statements, false claims, or otherwise to HUD for approval. **The deadline for the City of Atlanta to satisfy the HUD-imposed special conditions is Monday, May 4, 2020.**

What are TBRA leasing rent overpayments?

The City of Atlanta trained all Project Sponsors (Service Providers) how to calculate a HOPWA Client's portion of rent payments in the TBRA Program. Unfortunately, the City of Atlanta's training was not accurately aligned with HUD guidance and regulations, resulting in the overpayment of rent by HOPWA clients across all service providers. HUD is requiring the City of Atlanta to refund the overpayments to HOPWA clients as a special condition of continuing to receive the HOPWA grant.

What is the current status of the HOPWA Service Delivery in Atlanta?

Currently, there are no active services being provided to new HOPWA clients by any service provider in Atlanta, and current clients have started to receive notice of pending program termination due to the City of Atlanta's failure to provide timely reimbursements and contracts to project sponsors; **the largest reported outstanding agency reimbursement is for \$1.9 million for services provided starting in July 2019.** COVID-19 supplemental funding is not expected to reach project sponsors until late June/early July 2020 at the earliest.

How can I provide input or voice my concerns about the City of Atlanta's management of the HOPWA Program?

You can call or text a community sponsored line at **(404) 965-4058** or send an email to ATLHOPWAinput@gmail.com.