

September 14, 2018

Family Health earns grant to assist Ryan White program

MOBILE, Alabama — From the beginning of the Ryan White Program, Part C Early Intervention Services (formerly Title III) have been squarely focused on primary care services. Although its core mandate has remained intact over the years, Part C has experienced important changes as the services that Part C-funded agencies provide have evolved along with the epidemic.

Family Health, the primary care division of the Mobile County Health Department, has received \$150,000 from the HIV Planning and Capacity Development grants program from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This follows Family Health receiving a perfect score during the Ryan White Part B and C site visit in 2017.

The Planning and Capacity Development grants program provides time-limited resources to help public and private non-profit agencies lay the groundwork for high-quality HIV care. Planning grants were added in 1996 and capacity development grants in 2000 to increase the pool of HIV care providers in communities with limited or no access to care. Both programs focus on agencies in rural or urban underserved areas along with communities of color.

Family Health staff working with the Part C Early Intervention Services provided care to more than 784 individuals living with HIV/AIDS through Ryan White Part B and C funds in 2017. The University of South Alabama's Infectious Disease providers provide specialty care for consumers, while Alta Pointe Health Systems and Catholic Social Services continue to offer additional case management services. The Family Health program met its goal of 80 percent in helping consumers remain in care last year.

Part C grants are made directly to the funded entities, which include a wide range of primary care sites. Many of these primary care sites receive other Federal funds as Community and Migrant Health Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, hemophilia diagnosis and treatment centers, clinics for the homeless, and family planning providers. Early intervention services include:

- HIV counseling and testing;
- monitoring of disease progression;
- treatment of HIV;
- diagnosis and treatment of related infections;
- case management and assistance accessing other Federal, State, and local programs that could provide needed health and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS.