



President Obama's FY2016 Budget Proposal to Consolidate Ryan White Parts C & D

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Ryan White Part D provides life-saving family-centered primary and specialty medical care and support services, women, infants, children and youth living with HIV/AIDS. The Ryan White program has invested resources to ensure women have access to quality, culturally competent, linguistically appropriate core medical and support services so that they can enjoy healthy, meaningful and productive lives.

As the only AIDS Service organization in the District of Columbia solely dedicated to providing direct services for women living with and at risk for HIV, and their families, The Women's Collective is concerned the President's FY 2016 budget proposes to consolidate Part C and Part D of the Ryan White with program. If implemented the proposed consolidation will dismantle the solid infrastructure Part D providers have built up in urban and rural geographic areas where the HIV infections among women and co-morbidities are rapidly escalating.

In the District of Columbia (DC) women account for 27% of the HIV epidemic, with heterosexual sex as predominant mode of transmission; The HIV prevalence for black women (93%) was nearly 5 times greater than that of Hispanic women and nearly 25 times greater than that of white women. Now is not the time for this Administration that has made so much progress on HIV/AIDS to dismantle the Part D program. The Women's Collective serves women of color in the District and beyond. When clients walk through The Women's Collective doors they are thinking about much more than their HIV care. Sadly, the Administration neither sought input nor informed partners before the proposal was included in the FY 2016 budget. What steps will the White House, in in coordination with HRSA, take to explain the rationale for the consolidation to grantees and external community stakeholders?

The Women's Collective is advocating for the preservation of Ryan White in its entirety. Should the proposed budget move forward, we demand assurances of sustained investment of Ryan White dollars in existing Part D grantees, as well as deliberate and specific language protecting Part D funds transferred to Part C, so that these monies continue to be dedicated solely to women, children and youth. A soon to be released Women's Collective White Paper will outline policy priorities, informed by the voices of the women we serve, to guide healthcare access policy for women living with HIV. Recommendations will consider new needs assessment data and address emerging needs that continue to be rooted in and perpetuated by racial, ethnic and gender based health inequities. We strongly urge HRSA/ HAB to consider our recommendations, and to meaningfully engage the diverse community of women, service providers, activists and policy advocates who are on the frontlines and serving and representing women who have rely on the Ryan White program.

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