

Memphis TGA Ryan White Part A and MAI Medical Food Vouchers Policy

The Shelby County Government Ryan White Program, within the Division of Community Services, is the recipient of Ryan White Part A and Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) funding for the Memphis Transitional Grant Area (TGA). This area includes the following counties: Shelby, Tipton, and Fayette (TN); Crittenden (AR); and Desoto, Marshall, Tate and Tunica (MS). The purpose of the Ryan White funding is to provide core medical and supportive services to people living with HIV/AIDS who have no other means to pay for these services.

The Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the funding source for Ryan White, requires that all individuals who are provided services, including Food Bank/Home Delivered, with Ryan White Part A and MAI funding meet eligibility criteria established in the Ryan White legislation and that documentation of client eligibility be maintained by the service providers. In addition, Ryan White legislation requires that recertification for client eligibility is completed every 6 months.

Food Vouchers

Food vouchers are an acceptable alternative to providing actual food items in the Memphis TGA. Food vouchers are exclusively for the purchase of food items, personal hygiene products, and household cleaning supplies. Purchases related to water filtration/purification systems are also allowable if water safety issues exist in the TGA. Food vouchers must be for an establishment for the person living with HIV can purchase both food and personal hygiene items.

HRSA defines unallowable costs for this service category as “household appliances, pet food, and other non-essential products.”¹ Below is further developed list of unallowable costs for food vouchers.

1. Alcohol or Tobacco Products
2. Lottery Tickets
3. Baby Care Products
4. Car Care Products, including gasoline
5. Household Appliances and Electronics
6. Permanent Water Filtration Systems
7. Pet Foods and Supplies
8. School Supplies
9. Toys
10. Clothing

The Shelby County Government Ryan White Program encourages people living with HIV to make healthy food and beverage choices, and there are not specific requirements regarding the nutritional value of items purchased with food vouchers. For contract monitoring purposes, service providers will be responsible for ensuring the above listed items are not purchased with food vouchers.

Each provider of Food Services is required to have a policy and procedure in place at their organization for the provision of these services. Nothing in the organization’s policy can contradict this policy or the Food Bank/Home Delivered Meals Standards of Care for the Memphis TGA.

¹ http://hab.hrsa.gov/affordablecareact/service_category_pcn_16-02_final.pdf, page 16.