

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

The Shelby County Health Department Ryan White Program 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 Meals, 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.

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. The TGA food voucher rate is set at \$65.00 per month for each eligible client.

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

- Alcohol or Tobacco Products
- Lottery Tickets
- Baby Care Products
- Car Care Products, including gasoline
- Household Appliances and Electronics
- Permanent Water Filtration Systems
- Pet Foods and Supplies
- School Supplies
- Toys
- Clothing

The Shelby County Health Department 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.

Documents relating to the provision of food vouchers must be maintained in the client’s file. In addition, client food services must be entered into the TGA CAREWare system.

Compliance

For contract monitoring purposes, service providers will be responsible for ensuring the above listed items are not purchased with food vouchers by collecting and reviewing client food voucher purchase

¹ HRSA PCN 16-02: Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Services: Eligible Individuals & Allowable Uses of Funds available at https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/10/2018/10/HAB-PCN-16-02-Revised-10_22_2018.pdf

receipts monthly. In addition, providers should review food voucher purchase receipts for date of purchase and method of payment.

Clients that do not comply with the TGA Food Voucher policy will be subject to the violation schedule below:

1st Violation ---- Verbal Warning

2nd Violation ---- Suspension from the food service program for 2 months

3rd Violation ---- Suspension from food service program for 6 months/OR up to next grant year

Documentation of food service violations must be documented in the TGA CAREWare system.

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.