



For Immediate Release: February 5, 2015

Contact: Linda H. Scruggs at lscruggs@rcg3.com or 202-299-7832

President's Budget Continues to Disregard Women & Youth Living with HIV

The President's FY 2016 Budget Repeats Last Year's Defeated Proposal to Consolidate Ryan White Program Parts C and D

Women living with HIV, Ryan White Part D providers, and national advocacy organizations for both constituencies once again express their disappointment with the proposed consolidation of Ryan White Program (RWP) Parts C and D contained in the President's FY 2016 Budget.¹ The 30 for 30 Campaign hopes that the President and the federal agency, Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), that administers the RWP are not taking the same "never say die" attitude of the House of Representatives regarding its actions to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) – actions which are woefully out of step with the American people.

ACA implementation is underway, and systems of care are in transition. Before making changes to the RWP, it is imperative that we assess the impact of the ACA and determine how the RWP can most effectively complement ACA implementation to meet the care, treatment, and support needs of people living with HIV (PLHIV). The National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) outlined four goals: 1) increase retention in care, 2) improve health outcomes, 3) reduce HIV-related health disparities and 4) improve coordination and collaboration across federal agencies.

RWP Part D programs are uniquely situated to help achieve NHAS goals. They provide expert life-saving primary and subspecialty medical care and support services to the women, infant, children and youth living with HIV and AIDS (WICY). Additionally, RWP Part D programs have been instrumental in preventing mother-to-child transmission, ensuring women and youth have access to quality HIV care and improving health outcomes for WICY. It should also be noted that the potential loss of Part D expertise and subspecialty medical care could potentially lead to the destabilization of existing comprehensive care models for WICY resulting in a resurgence of perinatal infections and subpart care for women living with HIV.

On behalf of our constituencies, we demand that HRSA provide the data that drove a repeat of this recommendation. As stated by C. Virginia Fields, Chair for the 30 for 30 Campaign Steering Committee, "It has become clear with this second proposed consolidation of RWP Parts C and D that HRSA is in the midst of restructuring the Ryan White Program. This being the case, we demand that HRSA begin open and honest dialogue with the HIV community. HRSA can start by sharing its data justifying this proposed consolidation and its impact on the WICY population. The 30 for 30 Campaign in turn will continue to remind HRSA that women and children have unique needs that require expertise. The elimination of the only component of the RWP that is focused on women and youth should not be dismantled; it should be enhanced."

The 30 for 30 Campaign is a national coordinating body of HIV and reproductive health organizations from every region of the country working to ensure that the needs of women living with and affected by HIV.

¹AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth and Families: President's Proposed FY 2015 Budget Eliminates Ryan White Part D Programs for Women, Infants, Children & Youth (March 5, 2014); Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition: Statement on Proposal to Consolidate Ryan White Part D Funding into Part C Program (March 25, 2014); 30 for 30 Campaign Letter to Dr. Laura Cheever, Associate Administrator, HRSA, HIV/AIDS Bureau (March 21, 2014); Positive Women's Network – USA: Services for Women are Not Disposable! PWN-USA Responds to President's Budget Proposal to Eliminate Ryan White Part D (March 26, 2014).