



To: IHEDA Partners
From: IHEDA Community Services
Date: January 18, 2024
Re: **HOPWA Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Notice: PN-24-01

HOPWA Conflict of Interest Disclosure

IHCDA was made aware that there is a conflict of interest regarding a volunteer at IU Health's Positive Link (IUHPL) who qualifies for and needs HOPWA assistance. IHCDA is aware of this conflict and has previously disclosed this to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In compliance with [24 CFR 574.625](#), we are working with HUD to determine if an exception to the conflict of interests regulation can be made based on the following factors:

(i) Whether the exception would provide a significant cost benefit or an essential degree of expertise to the program or project that would otherwise not be available;

IHCDA Response: This is not applicable to the situation.

(ii): Whether an opportunity was provided for open competitive bidding or negotiation;

IHCDA Response: This is not applicable to the situation.

(iii): Whether the person affected is a member of a group or class of low- or moderate-income persons intended to be the beneficiaries of the assisted activity, and the exception will permit such person to receive generally the same interests or benefits as are being made available or provided to the group or class;

IHCDA Response: We request an exception under this factor since the person in question is a member of the group/class of eligible persons. This volunteer is living with HIV, resides in the designated geographic region to receive services from their local HOPWA program, and is income eligible for HOPWA services. As disclosed by the Project Sponsor, this volunteer is not able to exercise influence over the HOPWA program in any way.

(iv): Whether the affected person has withdrawn from his or her functions or responsibilities, or the decision-making process with respect to the specific assisted activity in question;



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IHCDA Response: As noted by the subrecipient, we request an exception since this volunteer does not have access to HOPWA records, is not part of the housing process, and does not interact with any aspect of HOPWA service provision, funding, or decision making. As verified by the Project Sponsor, this individual's duties revolve around HIV prevention efforts and not administering housing assistance.

(v) Whether the interest or benefit was present before the affected person was in a position as described in paragraph (b) of this section;

IHCDA Response: The volunteer was a client of IUHPL prior to their volunteer work and as an eligible individual, should maintain the right to access services they are eligible for. The individual has accessed various service categories of the program over a period of several years and has maintained eligibility and increased self-sufficiency because of the services received. The disclosure of the possible conflict of interest was noted at the time of the client's placement into their position.

(vi) Whether undue hardship will result either to the recipient or the person affected when weighed against the public interest served by avoiding the prohibited conflict; and

IHCDA Response: Undue hardship would be placed upon the volunteer as there are no other HOPWA providers in this region of the state and no other HOPWA programs that the individual is eligible to receive services from. Without the ability to apply for assistance, his housing stability is threatened, which would impact both their ability to complete their duties as well as maintain their engagement in their health status. The individual does not have access to any component of the HOPWA decision making process and should therefore remain eligible for services.

(vii) Any other relevant considerations.

IHCDA Response: The individual is a volunteer working on the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative. The volunteer's duties take place at IUHPL but is exclusively prevention and community focused. The disclosure was noted at the time of placement. Additionally, IUHPL and IHCDA are willing to provide additional documentation and answer questions as needed. Moreover, the individual said that they are open to signing a release of information to HUD, in case HUD requires information regarding their level of interaction with housing programs.