

Investigating Needs and Scale-Up Costs for RWHAP-Funded Support Services: Food, Financial, Transportation, and Housing

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Introduction & Objectives

- Expanding support services (food, housing, transportation, financial aid) could help improve HIV outcomes
- Lack of data on potential costs and clinical impacts of expanding wrap-around services hampers decision making
- **Objective:** To investigate current barriers, potential opportunities, estimated costs, and anticipated outcomes for expanding socioeconomic support services RW clients

Methods

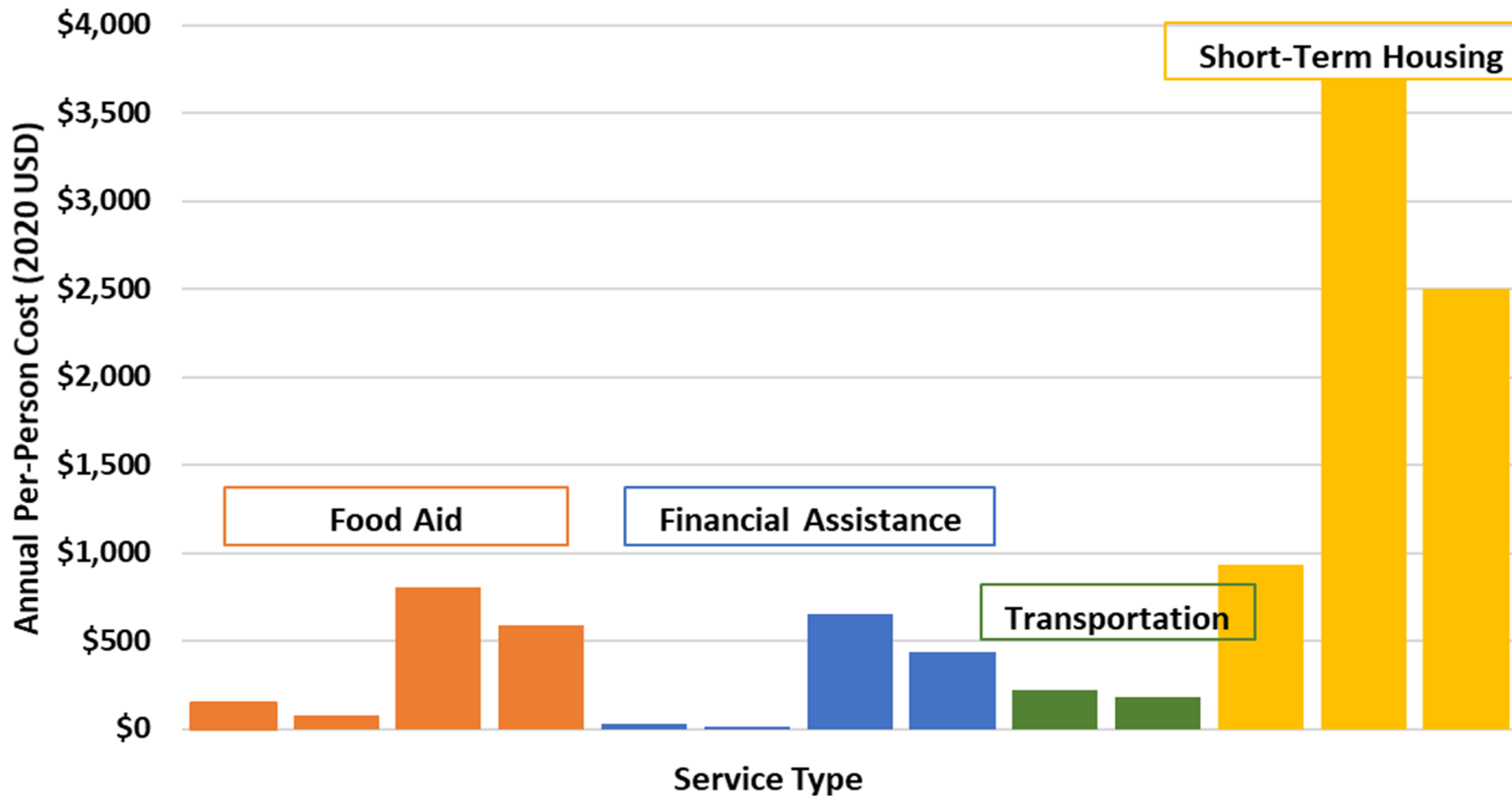
- **Setting:** Medical and community-based organizations in Minneapolis-St. Paul Minnesota who receive RWHAP funding to provide services
- **Interviews:** 11 semi-structured key informant interviews with directors and program managers at 7 organizations
 - Interview notes coded for thematic analysis
- **Cost Estimation:** Mixed methods approach
 - Combined information from interviews, online sources, organization documents, and wages from US Bureau of Labor & Statistics

Results: Barriers

- Client
 - High level of socioeconomic need
 - Complex comorbidity/social history
 - Logistic or language barriers
 - Too many other competing needs in life to prioritize HIV management
 - Stigma, mistrust, or lack of awareness
- Organization
 - Staff challenges (burnout, capacity)
 - Care coordination inefficiencies
 - Ethics of rationing services
 - Operational (out-of-date tech, etc.)
 - Disconnected leadership or lack of leadership support
- Program (RWHAP)
 - Administrative burden
 - Funding caps and restrictions
 - Lack of funding
 - Misalignment of client priorities with program goals/services
 - Disconnected leadership or lack of leadership support
- System
 - Lack of affordable housing options
 - Social unrest and violence in neighborhoods
 - COVID-related challenges
 - Unsafe or insufficient temporary housing options

Results: Costs

Annual Program Expansion Cost Per Total Clients Served



Average Annual Per-Person Costs

- **Transport:** \$196
- **Financial:** \$612
- **Food:** \$650
- **Short-Term Housing:** \$2,498
- **Long-Term Housing:** \$91,250 upfront
\$15,000 annual

Conclusions

- This study provides sense of magnitude for costs to scale-up programs to better meet needs of low-income patients living with HIV
- Understanding potential costs is important for stakeholders when planning budgets and making resource allocation decisions
- Results can be used to inform budget allocation and cost-effectiveness analyses