

## PURPOSE OF TITLE II CONSORTIA IN OHIO

**Role of Consortia:** "Consortia funded by Title II of the CARE Act exist to support and facilitate the provision of coordinated, comprehensive health and support services to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS."

**Purpose of Consortia:** "Consortia are groups that are organized by the State to use Title II funds for the planning, development and delivery of comprehensive outpatient health and support services for individuals with HIV disease. They may provide such services directly or through agreements with other entities. Title II legislation does not require the State as grantee to establish consortia."

Source: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Ohio has established HIV Care consortia for purposes of the Ryan White program. Based on established, existing community-based service networks as well as case incidence in the State of Ohio, the implementation of a city/county consortia model ensures HIV-infected individuals within the state will receive the quickest access to community-based, essential health care and support services. The strengths of the city/county consortia are:

- a. They allow for the delivery of central community-based services to individuals and families with HIV-related diseases in both rural and urban areas.
- b. They encourage cooperation within the selected city/county agencies.
- c. They better acknowledge and address city/county area-specific resources, unique characteristics and problems of the HIV-infected individuals.
- d. They recognize unique planning needs of each area within the state. Consortia receive planning and evaluation dollars to conduct area needs assessments, develop work plans, develop comprehensive service planning, undertake quality improvements and evaluate the consortium itself. The Ohio Department of Health is available to assist consortia in these areas.

### Legislated Responsibilities of Consortia

#### Consortia are required to:

- In partnership with the state, conduct a needs assessment within the geographic area served. The assessment is to be done in collaboration with public health and community-based providers of HIV-related services and with the participation of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).
- Develop a plan to meet identified service needs, with the participation of PLWH. In establishing service plans, consortia must demonstrate they have consulted with the public health agency or other entities providing HIV-related health care in the area, at least one community-based AIDS service provider and Title IV grantees or organizations with a history of serving children, youth, women and families with HIV disease.

- Promote coordination and integration of community resources and services and address the needs of all affected populations. The consortium is required to address service needs through the coordination and expansion of existing resources before new programs are created, and to ensure access to a continuum of care.
- Assure the provision of comprehensive outpatient health and support services.
- Periodically assess its own success and cost effectiveness in responding to service needs.