Every Penny Counts Emergency Assistance (EPC) EPC Client # PE Client # __ PO Box 582943 Minneapolis, MN 55458 (for office use only) 7/1/21 - 6/30/22 (612) 331-7733 Metro Area (800) 565-9028 Greater MN Prior forms no longer valid (612) 341-3804 Fax Email - EPC@rainbowhealth.org See attached guidelines/eligibility criteria form. Please complete all information requested on this form. Incomplete applications may not be processed. Legal First Name Middle Name Last Name (Preferred name) Address Apt # County NO Zip (Required) OK to Send Mail City State Birthdate (MM/DD/YY) Phone (s) include area code Case Manager/Social Worker: Phone #: I authorize my Case Manager/Social Worker/HIV provider to exchange information with EPCEA staff regarding financial assistance: (initial) Physician name: Phone # Expected Annual household gross income (wages, SSDI, GA, etc): \$______ Number of people legally dependent on this income (including yourself): ______ You must provide documentation of proof of income for all family members who have income. We cannot provide services to you without documentation of your income. Income verification is needed every 6 months. Place a check next to the option you have chosen below: \Box Option 1 Attach documents showing proof of income such as a copy of: your most recent pay stub (within the last 60 days), a 2020 tax return, certification of zero income form or affidavit, a benefit statement such as a 2021 Social Security award letter, MFIP award letter, a bank statement showing deposit of income, etc. Option 2: If you are on Medical Assistance (MA, IM), MinnesotaCare or Program HH you may send a copy of a MN-ITS printout indicating that you are on MA, MNCare or Program HH as income verification documentation. A copy of your MN Health Care Programs card does not qualify as income verification. Option 3: Zero Income and I have completed and attached the Certification of Zero Income. Unstable Stable/Permanent Temporary Living Situation: Do you currently receive any form of housing subsidy? Yes ___ No __ If you do receive a housing subsidy, what is your portion that you pay toward rent? If you're in the need of housing assistance please contact the MN AIDSLine at (612) 373-2437 for housing resources. You must provide proof of Minnesota residency. Proof of residency is needed every 6 months. Place a check next to the option you have chosen below. Use attached Residency Verification form if homeless, do not have a fixed address or have a fixed address but do not have a driver's license, state ID, utility bill, lease agreement, MN-ITS printout. Current Lease agreement MN-ITS printout Copy of driver's license / MN State I.D. Current Utility Bill Read and sign MAP Residency Verification Form

White African American/Black		Alaska Native		
Ethnicity (Select one): Hispanic/Latino Not Hi	spanic/Latino			
Sexual Orientation (Select one):		·		
Have AIDS	e, not AIDS re, AIDS Status Unknown S diagnosis osis Pending – Pediatrics Only	Charle have halow if data is notice at all		
Date of HIV Diagnosis	Month/Day/Ye	Check box below if date is estimated ear		
Date of AIDS Diagnosis	Month/Day/Ye	ear Estimated date of AIDS diagnosis		
When was your last visit to you	ır HIV doctor/lab date?: (Doctor vis	isit information is needed every 6 months)		
Exposure Category: Men who select one or more Injection	se contact the MN AIDSLine at (612) no have sex with men n Drug Use Blood Recipient sexual Sex Perinatal Transmiss	☐ Hemophilia ☐ Other		
☐ Medicare ☐ Medicare	e Part A/B # e Part D # e Part D w/ LIS – (extra help)	Other VA Insurance/Tricare coverage MN Care No Insurance		
If you have health insurance yo coverage, MN-ITS print out, etc. If you're in the need for health insurance you	Proof of health insurance is needed surance please contact the MN AIDS	SLine at (612) 373-2437 for insurance resources.		
Country of Birth: USA	Other: Specify	Refused Unknown		
Born in Minnesota: ☐ Yes ☐ No If no, date you moved to Minnesota?				
of last resort requirements and co copy of the Rainbow Health Clie	onsent to receive services from Rainlent Bill of Rights, Grievance Procedu	e read and understand the program guidelines, payer abow Health. I also acknowledge I have received a ure and Data Practices Notice. I acknowledge that the bow Health to verify the accuracy of the information		
Signature		Date		

2021-2022 Metro Area Guidelines (11 county TGA) for Every Penny Counts Emergency Assistance (EPC) PO Box 582943 Minneapolis MN 55458 epc@rainbowhealth.org

612-331-7733 1-800-565-9028 (Toll free) 612-341-3804 (Fax)

Every Penny Counts Emergency Assistance (EPC) program is available for low-income (see income guidelines), HIV-positive Minnesotans. Please read these guidelines carefully. Failure to complete the application or provide correct documentation will result in a delay in meeting your emergency need.

- Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) which includes rent, utilities, phone, Food Voucher Assistance and Medical/Dental assistance are all now at 400% FPG and below.
- There three separate categories of funding. Clients will now be receiving EFA funding out of one source of funding, Food Vouchers out of another and Medical/Dental out of another.
- Rent assistance will be limited to 4 months of assistance per funding year.
- Utility/phone assistance will be limited to 6 months of assistance per funding year.
- FYI, starting in 2022 the funding year start date will move to July 1st.

The 3 tier funding breakdown is as follows for Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) rent, utilities, and phone:

Tier 1a: \$600 limit per funding year – for clients regardless of household size receiving any kind of rent subsidy and pay \$300 or less themselves toward rent. Must submit proof of current subsidy amount to receive rental assistance. Need actual amount client pays themself toward the rent.

Tier 1b: \$900 limit per funding year – for clients regardless of household size receiving any kind of rent subsidy and pay \$301 or more themselves toward rent. Must submit proof of current subsidy amount to receive rental assistance. Need actual amount client pays themself toward the rent.

Tier 2: \$2,000 limit per funding year – for single clients, married clients or for families of up to 3 legal dependent members living together.

Tier 3: \$2,600 limit per funding year – for families of 4 or more legal dependent members living together.

**Warning - Any applicant on a subsidy that does not share their subsidy status or any applicant who list more legal dependents than they truly have to receive a greater amount of funding may be suspended or expelled from Every Penny Counts Emergency Assistance program.

EFA-rent, utilities, and phone: Eligible individual whose income is at 400% FPG and below may receive assistance per program year (July 1 – June 30) for the following from EFA funding:

Rent: Applicants must provide a copy of lease or a completed shelter verification form, current subsidy recertification letter, or application fee. Only pay clients portion of the rent when on a subsidy or in a roommate type of situation. *Damage deposits, storage fees, mortgages, pet fees, GRH and foster care/nursing home fees/rents are not eligible for assistance.*

Moving fees: Applicants must provide an invoice for professional movers or U-haul truck rental only.

Utilities: Applicants can apply for fuel oil, propane, gas, electric, or water bill assistance. Applicants must submit a copy of bill/s. *Cannot pay for garbage fees*.

Phone: For bundled services, you must submit a copy of the entire bill. Cable, internet, prepaid cards, prepaid phone plans and pay as you go phone plans are not eligible for assistance.

EFA-Medical/Dental: Eligible individual whose income is at 400% FPG and below may receive up to \$2,000 assistance per program year (July 1 – June 30) for medical. This is separate funding and does not come out of your total funding based on the Tier you are eligible for:

Medical care: Doctor, outpatient hospital visits, clinic visits, mental health visits, home health care, substance abuse care, dental care, dentures, chiropractic care, vision care (including glasses), prescription co-pays, medical co-pays, health insurance premiums and medical transportation bills (ambulance, special transportation services) that are not paid from health insurance or other eligible sources. If requesting dental assistance, must include a copy of dental insurance card along with dental bill. Dental bills will be forwarded to Program HH if client is on HH for payment, if HH is unable to pay the dental bill they will notify EPC and then EPC will assist with it. Any type of inpatient hospital bills and cosmetic surgery are not eligible for assistance.

Food Vouchers: Eligible individual whose income is at 400% FPG and below may receive assistance per program year (July 1 – June 30) for Food Voucher funding. This is separate funding and does not comes out of your total funding based on the Tier you are eligible for:

Food: Food assistance is provided through Cub Foods gift cards. Individuals and families of up to three (3) without a minor child can receive up to \$60 per month for a max of \$720 per funding year. Families of three (3) or more with at least one (1) child can get up to \$100 per month for a max of \$1,200 per funding year. You may call to submit a request for food assistance for a specific month drawing, or request be submitted automatically for each monthly allotment drawing.

Additional Available Assistance:

1st Month Rental Assistance: Up to \$2,600 towards the 1st month's rent when moving into a new rental unit and only for 1st month's rent. The request must be received prior to the move in date on the lease and paid prior to move in date on the lease. The request must be for pending and immediate move in only. Must provide a signed copy of initial lease or letter from management company that includes cost of monthly rent to receive assistance. Assistance only available once during the funding year per household and only pay the clients portion of the rent. It is NOT allowed when client moves from one unit to another within the same building or under their current management company or landlord. Assistance is paid directly to vendor. Clients who receive 1st month rent assistance will **NOT** be able to receive rental assistance from any other Every Penny Counts Program for the 1st month of the lease.

A complete application includes:

- 1. A completed **application form** (both sides) including your most recent **doctor's appointment date**. A new application must be completed for each program year (July 1 June 30). If you request assistance more than once during the program year and have a current application on file, you do not need to complete another application for additional requests.
- 2. **Proof of the income** reported on the application. Eligible documents include copy of most recent paystub (within the last 30 60 days), 2020 tax return, benefit statement (2021 Social Security award letter, MFIP award letter), bank statement showing deposits, certification of zero income form or affidavit, a MN-ITS printout indicating you are on Medical Assistance (MA), MinnesotaCare or Program HH. A copy of your MN Health Care Programs card does not qualify as income verification.
- 3. Proof of Residence such as copy of driver's license, state ID, current utility bill, current lease, MN-ITS printout, or a Residency Verification form if homeless, do not have a fixed address, or have a fixed address without no documentation.
- 4. **Proof of Medical Insurance** such as a copy of current insurance card, written notice of coverage, or MN-ITS printout showing insurance coverage.
- 5. Proof of Dental Insurance such as a copy of current insurance card, written notice of coverage, or MN-ITS if only on MA or MNCare.
- 6. A copy of the bill you want paid, and/or a copy of your lease or a shelter verification form completed by your landlord if requesting housing assistance or moving invoice. Rent & moving fee requests must include a signed Hennepin County Human Services & Public Health Department/DHS Housing Related Assistance Form (Exhibit L). You can get a copy of Exhibit L from a HIV case manager, by contacting Every Penny Counts, or from the Rainbow Health website
- 7. <u>If this is the first time you are applying</u> for assistance, please provide written verification of your HIV-positive or AIDS status signed by a licensed health care professional or a MN-ITS printout indicating you are eligible for Program HH.

EPC must collect updated income verification, proof of residency, proof of medical insurance, and doctor/lab appointment dates from clients every six (6) months. EPC cannot provide assistance without current eligibility documentation.

Procedure

A drawing is conducted on the first business day of the month. Funds for emergency housing, utilities, medical and food assistance are divided evenly by month so that the same total of funding is available each month. Once the allotted monthly funding has been spent on individual requests, no further assistance will be available until the following month. All requests that meet necessary requirements will be submitted to the drawing. **Requests must be submitted by noon of the prior business day of the allotment drawing.** Requests for assistance will **not** automatically be carried over to the next month (except for monthly food allotment requests). If your request was not selected, you must resubmit your request to be considered for the following month's drawing.

Requests for assistance must be for \$20.00 or more. Requests for less than \$20.00 will not be processed (exception is for prescription co-pays, medical insurance premiums & medical co-pays).

If you receive an **eviction notice** and/or a **disconnection notice** before the next allotment drawing, you may submit a copy of the eviction or disconnection notice as well as <u>a payment plan</u> for immediate review and possible processing. Only one eviction or disconnection notice is allowed for immediate processing per client/family per funding year. After that any additional disconnection or eviction notices will be submitted into the regular allotment drawing process.

Every Penny Counts makes assistance payments directly to the vendor. We will contact you by mail if your request will not be paid. EPC cannot reimburse a client for any out of pocket expenses.

To qualify for assistance, applicants must meet all eligibility requirements. This service is funded by the federal Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act, Part B or Part B Rebate and as such is the Payer of Last Resort, so clients must have used any other available funding resources prior to accessing Every Penny Counts

PLEASE NOTE

Please call our voicemail and leave a detailed message if you have questions. We will usually return your call within one (1) working business day. It can take up to five (5) business days (not including the actual drawing day) to process your request if it is selected and mail out checks. The EPC voice mail greeting is updated after each drawing to reflect program's status, funding availability, and the next drawing date. Due to holidays, drawing dates may be changed accordingly.

Food requests selected in the drawing will usually be mailed out around the 15th of each month, any changes to this date will be include on the out going EPC voicemail.

During the grant period/year, program guidelines and the amount of funding allowed individuals is subject to change based on needs and/or the availability of funding. In the event of a program change, a notice will be sent to providers and the EPC voicemail will be updated.

EPC has a grievance policy. Contact the Minnesota AIDSLine (612-373-2437) for further information.

INCOME GUIDELINES FOR EVERY PENNY COUNTS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (effective July 1, 2021)

2021 Federal Poverty Guidelines (400%)

Family Size	Gross Annual Income	Gross Monthly	•
1	\$51,520	\$4,293	
2	\$69,680	\$5,807	
3	\$87,840	\$7,320	
4	\$106,000	\$8,833	
5	\$124,160	\$10,347	
6	\$142,320	\$11,860	
7	\$160,480	\$13,373	
8	\$178,640	\$14,887	

For family units with more than eight members, add \$18,160 for each additional member to annual income. "Family Unit" is defined as all people living together that are **legally dependent** on the income. Income for all members of the "family unit" will be considered for these guidelines and must be submitted with application.

No Income Statement

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.

HIV/AIDS SERVICE AGREEMENT EXHIBIT L

Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department Minnesota Department of Human Services Housing Related Assistance Form (effective 10/1/99; revised 11/03)

The HIV/AIDS Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has established the following policy for the use of Ryan White CARE Act Funds for housing referral services and/or short term emergency housing assistance:

"Ryan White CARE Act funds can only be used for housing referral and/or short term or emergency housing assistance to assist a person or family with HIV/AIDS to gain or maintain access to HIV-related medical care or treatment."

Also, the Ryan White CARE Act must be the payor of last resort.

In an effort to document compliance with this policy, all individuals receiving housing related assistance must have the form below completed by their **CASE MANAGER**, **SOCIAL WORKER or PHYISICIAN**. Housing Related Assistance includes: Emergency Financial and Emergency Housing Assistance services from the Minnesota AIDS Project.

Ι,	Case Manager/Social Worker/Physician Name, Agency/Cl	_ certify that the following conditions inic
ha	ve been met for to rece	ive housing related assistance:
	Client Name	
 Other sources of housing related assistance have been exhausted. For example, City, County, State or Federal Programs and those included on attached Emergency Housing Resources List. A care plan is in place for the above client which includes goals and objectives related to securing long term permanent and stable housing; and The client requires housing related assistance to enable him/her to gain and/or maintain access to medical care. 		
Si	gned:	
Ca	se Manager/Social Worker/Physician	Client
Da	te:	Date:

This completed form should be kept with the client's confidential case management file and updated every six months.

AUTHORIZATION TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION

I hereby authorize	at Rainbow Health to exchange information regarding:
(Name)	
	with
(Name)	(Date of Birth)
(Organization /Individual)	(Phone Number)
(Address)	
NOTE: CLIENT TO INITIAL EACH ITEM INDICATI APPLICABLE	ING AUTHORIZATION OR WRITE "N/A" IF NOT
Services provided by Rainbow Health	diagnosis/information regarding ongoing medical care tlimited to, housing, financial status, hospitalizations, use
Other information to include:	
I have been informed of my right to refuse to allow Rainb I understand that I may revoke this consent upon written is staff named on this release or his/her successor. I understa I understand that when health information is released the and may no longer be protected by federal or state privacy I understand a photocopy or fax of this form is the same a I understand I may have a copy of this form after I have si I understand that information may be exchanged via phon	notice. The revocation will be effective the day it is received by the and that information shared prior to revocation can't be retracted. information could be re-disclosed by the third party that receives it y laws. as the original. igned it.
Name (Please print)	
Signature Date	

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.

DATA PRACTICES NOTICE

This notice is given and/or reviewed with all Rainbow Health clients. For the purposes of this document, clients are defined as those persons receiving reportable services including AIDSLine Quick Connect, case management, CLEAR, ARTAS Linkage, Peer Support, transportation, housing services, legal services, benefits counseling, chemical health services, Every Penny Counts Emergency Assistance, Positive Link/HERR Support, PrEP Navigation and other support services.

As a client of Rainbow Health certain laws including the right to privacy protect you. The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act provides you with rights about data obtained from you. The data we collect at Rainbow Health is, in nearly all cases, considered private data, which means you have access to it. Rainbow Health is aware of the sensitive and private nature of much of the information that is shared between clients and Rainbow Health staff. Rainbow Health as an agency, is committed to maintaining and protecting your confidentiality.

Why Rainbow Health Collects Data

- To assess your individual situation and coordinate services for you. These services may be at Rainbow Health or they may be services you receive from other agencies;
- To assess the effectiveness of Rainbow Health's services;
- To verify to funding sources that Rainbow Health is providing services and the outcome of those services;
- To determine your eligibility for services offered by Rainbow Health and other agencies;
- To make appropriate referrals.

Information about you may be exchanged among Rainbow Health staff and volunteers as needed to coordinate services for you. Additionally, client records may be reviewed for the following reasons:

• Supervisors, agency attorneys or consultants to make sure you are receiving the best possible service;

Clients receiving services funded in whole or part through the Ryan White program will have demographic data about them (including: name, date of birth, race, ethnicity, gender, zip code, income level, insurance and housing status, HIV/AIDS diagnosis dates and related medical information) sent to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Additionally, the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Hennepin County Ryan White Program will have access to information sufficient to carry out payment, treatment and operations as specified by the HIV/AIDS Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Health Resource and Service Administration (HRSA). These organizations maintain this information in a confidential manner and do not share your name with any other entities.

Right to Refuse and Consequences of Refusal

You have the right at any time to refuse to share information about yourself with Rainbow Health staff. Generally this will not affect the services you are receiving. However, in some cases, there is the possibility that Rainbow Health will be unable to provide some type of service to you unless we have certain information. Rainbow Health staff will let you know if your refusal to share information will affect the services that can be provided.

Rainbow Health provides information to agencies and government offices that provide funding to Rainbow Health. The Minnesota Department of Health HIV/STD Services Division, federal and state program compliance auditors, the Minnesota Department of Human Services HIV/AIDS Division Programs, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Hennepin County Adult Services, Hennepin County Public Health and Human Services, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and the City of Minneapolis, Centers for Disease Control and other persons or entities authorized by law to collect data may also review client records to monitor the services provided by Rainbow Health. The same law that gives you privacy prohibits these persons or entities from releasing information about you once they have received it.

Rainbow Health staff are mandated reporters meaning there are circumstances when they are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect, threats to others or self, or suspected abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults to social services or law enforcement. Other than these circumstances and as outlined above, Rainbow Health cannot use or release information without your express written or verbal permission.

My signature below means that I have read this document and have also been offered a copy of this information				
Client Signature	Date			
(Staff initial and date if no client signature)				
This document is available in alternate formats upon request.				



Rainbow Health MN 2577 Territorial Road St Paul, MN 55114

Residency Verification		
Client Name:	Date of Birth:	
Only for clients who:		
(a) Do not have a fixed address or are homeless; or(b) Have a fixed address but no documentation		
(a) No fixed address/homeless	(b) Fixed address/no documentation	
☐ I do not have a fixed address	☐ I have a fixed address and am unable to provide documentation	
I am residing in the city of: I most often stay at the following locations:	Please explain why you are unable to provide the required documentation (residing in transitional housing, not on a rental agreement, etc.)	
	Residential address:	
Mailing address:	Mailing address (if different from residential):	
I am a resident of Minnesota and all statement understand that false or misleading information are Act funded programs offered by Rainb termination from them.	ion affects my eligibility for Ryan White	
Client signature	Date	



Rainbow Health Client Bill of Rights

As a client of Rainbow Health, you have the right to:

- 1. Be treated with consideration and respect by staff, volunteers and interns of Rainbow Health. You have the responsibility to treat Rainbow Health staff, volunteers and interns in a similar manner.
- 2. Quality services without discrimination regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender or disability.
- 3. Confidentiality of information we collect about you. No identifying information about you will be shared outside of Rainbow Health without a release of information dated and signed by you listing individuals and agencies with whom you have agreed to have us share information by fax, phone, email or meeting and that all releases will be renewed if needed, on an annual basis. **Any exceptions are outlined in the data practices guidelines.** All records and files pertaining to the services you receive at Rainbow Health will be kept in locked filing cabinets and/or secure
- computer files when not in use.
- 4. Review all private information in your file and obtain a copy of this information. If you request a copy, the request must be in writing and signed by you. We will not give or send a copy of your file to any other person without a signed release from you except if we receive a valid court order.
- 5. Expect reasonable assistance to overcome language, cultural, physical or communication barriers. This means for example, that upon request Rainbow Health will provide interpreters for the deaf and for those who do not speak English.
- 6. Prompt and reasonable response to your questions and requests.
- 7. Participate in developing your service plan including developing service goals that meet your needs.
- 8. Prompt information on how to make complaints and pursue a grievance if you are having difficulties or are dissatisfied with the services you are receiving.
- 9. Refuse services or recommended services and to discontinue services at JustUs Health.Rainbow Health
- 10. Receive timely notice and explanation of changes in program guidelines including changes in eligibility criteria and funding availability.

If you have questions about Rainbow Health services, or would like to make a suggestion, you may do so with your service provider, the program manager, or the director of programs.

Specific Rainbow Health programs or services may have additional rights and responsibilities that will be made available to you upon entry into the program.

As a provider of services, Rainbow Health will:

- Determine your eligibility to receive and to continue services.
- Assign the staff, volunteers or interns who will work with you.



Rainbow Health GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 1. Any person receiving services from Rainbow Health may voice comments, concerns, or grievances directly to the staff person they are working with or to that staff person's supervisor.
- 2. If your comment, concern or grievance was not addressed to your satisfaction, you may arrange a meeting with or submit a written statement to the Program Director of the service your grievance is connected to. The Rainbow Health staff person you talked with will provide the contact information including the name, address and phone number of this Director. Your written statement or request for a meeting must be received within two weeks of the date you last addressed this issue or concern with the staff person or their supervisor
- **3.** You will receive a written response within 30 days after we with you receive your written statement. This written decision is the final decision of Rainbow Health.
- 4. Some programs offered by Rainbow Health are funded through contracts with various government agencies that will also accept your grievance if your concern or grievance has not been settled to your satisfaction. Information with the appropriate name and contact information at each agency is available upon request or will be mailed to you within one working day of your written or verbal request for it.

This document is available in **alternate formats** upon request.