



THE DAVID GEFLEN CENTER  
APLA DENTAL SERVICES  
NECESSITIES OF LIFE PROGRAM  
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San Fernando Valley Wilshire Center

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## The Ryan White CARE Act in California

The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act is federal legislation that addresses the unmet health needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. According to Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the CARE Act reaches over 500,000 individuals each year, making it the federal government's largest program specifically for people living with HIV disease. CARE Act-funded programs are the payer of last resort, filling gaps in care not covered by other resources. Typically, users of CARE Act services include people with no other source of health care and those with Medicaid or private insurance whose care needs are not being met.

The CARE Act was first passed in 1990, reauthorized in 1996 and again in 2000 for a five-year period. It is slated for reauthorization again in September 2005. Community advocates have emphasized that the existing CARE Act Title structure must be maintained to provide the ability to target policies and resources to diverse populations impacted by the AIDS epidemic.

### CARE Act Programs

The CARE Act funds primary health care and support services through states, territories, and other public and private nonprofit entities. Funding is provided through several programs:

**Title I: (Part A):** Provides emergency relief through funding for health care and support services to eligible U.S. metropolitan areas (EMAs) disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. EMAs are defined as those with more than 2,000 reported AIDS cases in the past five years and a population of at least 500,000. There are 51 EMAs in 21 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. In California, the following localities have been designated as EMAs: Los Angeles, Oakland, Orange County, Riverside-San Bernardino, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, and Santa Rosa.

Title I grants are awarded in two parts. The formula portion is based on the estimated number of living AIDS cases in the EMA over the most recent 10-year period. The second or supplemental portion is based on a variety of factors, including the severity of need in the EMA.

Title I funds may be used to provide a wide range of services including outpatient medical and dental care, medication, substance abuse and mental health treatment, case management, and support management.

