



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 5, 2005

Press Contact:

Claudia Forestieri, (305) 416-2181

cforestieri@ci.miami.us.gov

City of Miami to Re-Open Waiting List for Program Offering Housing Assistance to Persons with AIDS

Mayor Manny Diaz and Community Development Director Barbara Gomez-Rodriguez will open the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) waiting list for the second time in 16 months.

MIAMI, FL -- (January 5, 2005) -- After successfully placing all the eligible applicants from the last waiting list, the City of Miami Mayor Manny Diaz and Community Development Director Barbara Gomez-Rodriguez announced the re-opening of the list for the City of Miami's Housing Opportunities for Persons With Aids (HOPWA) Long-Term Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (LTRA) Program today. Applications will be accepted beginning January 6, 2005 and applicants will be placed on the waitlist by random lottery.

The list was last opened in September of 2003 and 100% of the eligible applicants (400) were successfully housed within 12 months. The City of Miami's HOPWA program is currently servicing over 1,200 people. The City of Miami HOPWA LTRA Program provides long-term rental subsidy assistance to low income persons with a Ryan White AIDS diagnosis.

According to a housing needs survey conducted by the Housing Committee of the Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership, Miami-Dade residents living with AIDS on fixed income or with modest means spend nearly 80 percent of their income on rent or mortgage and utilities. For this reason, the HOPWA LTRA Program, which provides long-term rental subsidy assistance to low income persons with an AIDS diagnosis, can be of great assistance to those with AIDS. The program permits eligible applicants to contribute usually no more than 30 percent of their net income for rent. The goal of the LTRA Program is to help people living with AIDS improve their lives, avoid homelessness and in turn, improve their access to, and engagement in, HIV/AIDS treatment and care.

The opening of the LTRA waitlist has been a community-wide effort, spearheaded by the City of Miami Department of Community Development and the Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership. Individuals and their families are eligible for this program if they have received a Ryan White AIDS medical diagnosis and are low income. If eligible, applicants must fill out and sign a HOPWA LTRA Application form and have their physician fill out and sign a Medical Verification of AIDS Diagnosis form.

-next page-

HOPWA LTRA Waitlist Page 2 of 2:

The LTRA Application Packages can be picked up at: Ryan White-funded agencies, HOPWA-funded agencies, branches of the Miami-Dade County Public Libraries, Miami-Dade Team Metro Locations, City of Miami NET Offices, City of Miami Clerk's Office, and the City of Miami Department of Community Development office. Applications can also be downloaded at the City of Miami Community Development website at <http://www.ci.miami.fl.us/communitydevelopment/>.

To be considered for the Waitlist Lottery, application packages must be postmarked by February 28, 2005, and mailed to:

**HOPWA LTRA
P.O. Box 012376
Miami, FL 33101**

A random lottery process will be utilized to select applicants for placement on the HOPWA LTRA Program Waitlist. Only those application packages postmarked by the February 28, 2005 deadline will be placed into the lottery pool for the random drawing.

The independent accounting firm Rachlin Cohen & Holtz is responsible for management of the applications upon delivery, conducting the random lottery, and producing the final LTRA HOPWA Program Waitlist. Once placed on the Waitlist, the applicant's AIDS diagnosis and household income will be independently verified when the applicant's waitlist number comes to the top of the Waitlist.

For more information, applicants should contact Ray Louis at the City of Miami Department of Community Development at 305-416-2092.

###