



Housing is Healthcare: Improving Housing Stability & Supportive Services for Homeless & Low-Income Persons Affected by HIV/AIDS in DeKalb County

Mission & History

Status: Home's mission is to provide affordable, supportive housing for metro Atlanta's most vulnerable, particularly those living with or impacted by HIV.

Status: Home's work is grounded in the foundational belief that housing is healthcare. The organization was established in the late 1980s during the height of the AIDS epidemic, when individuals living with HIV/AIDS often faced severe stigma, homelessness, and financial hardship. In 1989, Atlanta's civic leaders opened the original Status: Home facility in DeKalb County as a single residence serving five individuals dying from AIDS, providing a safe and dignified place to live during a time of widespread crisis. Since that time, extensive research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has demonstrated that housing stability is a critical social determinant of health.

Stable housing is directly linked to improved HIV treatment adherence, higher rates of viral suppression, reduced transmission risk, and longer life expectancy. Nationally, viral suppression rates for people living with HIV average approximately 65%, while individuals experiencing housing instability have significantly lower outcomes. These findings reinforce the importance of permanent supportive housing as a core component of effective HIV care. Today, Status: Home serves more than 450 adults and children annually through a continuum of permanent supportive housing and services and provides more than 70% of the permanent supportive housing available to its priority populations. **And while our geographic footprint has grown across the Metro Area, 45% of all housing and services are provided to residents of DeKalb County and this funding will be restricted to serving those residents.** Stable housing provides residents with the security necessary to manage their health, while comprehensive case management supports access to medical care, HIV treatment, mental health services, and other essential resources. This coordinated approach improves continuity of care, strengthens medication adherence, and reduces health-related complications.

Request

Grant funds will be used to support staff salaries essential to program delivery, cover program operations related to permanent supportive housing and services for individuals and families impacted by HIV/AIDS, and offset critical agency operations and administrative costs not covered by government funding, exclusively in support of our DeKalb programs. **Timeline:** These funds will help sustain our continuum of housing, health resources, and supportive services aimed at improving health and quality of life for low-income and homeless individuals and families in DeKalb County over the next six months.

Status: Home operates a comprehensive, housing continuum designed to meet individuals and families where they are and support long-term stability, health, and self-sufficiency. Each program combines affordable housing with case management, and access to wraparound supports grounded in the belief housing is healthcare. During the duration of the grant, our project program and activities will include:

1. **Supportive Housing:** This program provides the most intensive level of support for adults with the greatest health and housing needs. Residents live in one of our six multifamily properties owned and operated by Status: Home and receive structured, person-centered services, including health care coordination, behavioral health support, medication adherence assistance, and frequent case management. This level of care stabilizes residents facing complex medical and social challenges.

2. **Community-Based Housing:** Through partnerships with apartment communities across Metro Atlanta, residents live independently in the community while receiving ongoing case management. While residents live independently, each resident still has a dedicated case manager and receives wraparound support for medical, behavioral or other needs. Residents work closely with staff to strengthen financial stability, maintain housing, and remain engaged in healthcare and supportive services.
3. **Tenant-Based Rental Assistance:** This program supports individuals and families who are ready for greater independence by providing rental assistance while residents hold their own lease in the private market. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance promotes autonomy, dignity, and long-term housing stability while maintaining access to case management and supportive services as needed.

To promote long-term housing stability and improved health outcomes, our comprehensive case management services will include:

- **Housing Support:** Assistance in securing furniture and housing supplies, understanding tenant rights and responsibilities, and providing crisis intervention for at-risk residents. Our goal is to ensure stable living conditions as a foundation for future success.
- **Medical and Health Support:** Coordination of healthcare and mental health services to improve overall well-being and support individuals in managing their health for long-term stability.
- **Life Skills and Financial Literacy:** Support with employment readiness, budgeting, financial planning, and household management. We aim to equip individuals with the skills needed for self-sufficiency and financial independence.
- **Food and Nutritional Support:** Access to healthy food resources to enhance overall well-being and ensure that individuals and families can thrive, not just survive.
- **Legal and Financial Assistance:** Referrals for assistance with legal matters, support or referrals for basic needs, and guidance on accessing income support, such as applying for disability or other benefits. Our approach ensures individuals are equipped with the knowledge and resources to navigate critical systems.
- **Family and Child Support:** Assistance with family support, childcare services, and education resources for children, such as tutoring or other learning tools. By investing in the future of families, we help break the cycle of poverty and build a brighter future for the next generation.

By implementing a program model that integrates stable housing with resident-centered wraparound support, Status: Home plays a vital role in promoting and strengthening consistent access to care for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. Safe, stable housing enables clients to prioritize their health, adhere to treatment regimens, and engage in preventive care, all key factors in improving viral suppression rates and reducing the risk of transmission. Through our wraparound services, clients are connected to medical providers, mental health support, nutritional assistance, and other essential resources that address the social determinants of health, breaking down the barriers that often prevent people from accessing and sustaining care. The long-term impact of our work extends beyond individual clients. As residents achieve greater stability and self-sufficiency, they contribute to healthier, more resilient communities. Children raised in stable housing environments experience improved educational outcomes, while parents can focus on employment and long-term planning. By reducing homelessness, preventing costly hospitalizations, and supporting positive health outcomes, Status: Home creates a ripple effect that benefits the entire public health system. Our model proves that investing in housing as a form of healthcare is not only compassionate but is also transformative, sustainable, and essential to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in DeKalb County and beyond.



Budget Details

Request Amount: **\$50,000**

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Total Cost</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Staff Salary Support | \$30,000 |
| Supportive Services | \$10,000 |
| Office Space | \$10,000 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>\$50,000</i> |