



Maui A.I.D.S.  
Foundation  
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April 2026

# THE POWER OF EMPATHY IN LEADERSHIP

Leading with Understanding and Compassion

## **Maui AIDS Foundation's Response to the FY27 Presidential Budget**

**By demonstrating empathy, Maui AIDS Foundation's leaders aim to foster a culture of compassion and support. This approach inspires our team members to work collaboratively towards the common goals of advocating for those affected by HIV/AIDS and ensuring access to necessary resources and care.**

# THE IMPACT OF A SAFE SPACE

In the past two years, the Maui AIDS Foundation reported zero new cases of HIV, in line with the State of Hawaii's H20 Project, which aims to eliminate HIV transmission by 2030.



Ho'omana Ola Free Clinic and Harm Reduction Services provide a confidential and safe environment that offers a variety of wraparound services for the community. These services are directly accessible in the clinic, at houseless encampments, at the Maui Community Correctional Center, at Aloha House (addiction treatment), and at the CHAMP Methadone Clinic.



Addressing stigma and barriers to healthcare access in rural areas alleviates the fear of judgment and motivates individuals to pursue testing and treatment, ultimately helping to prevent the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)



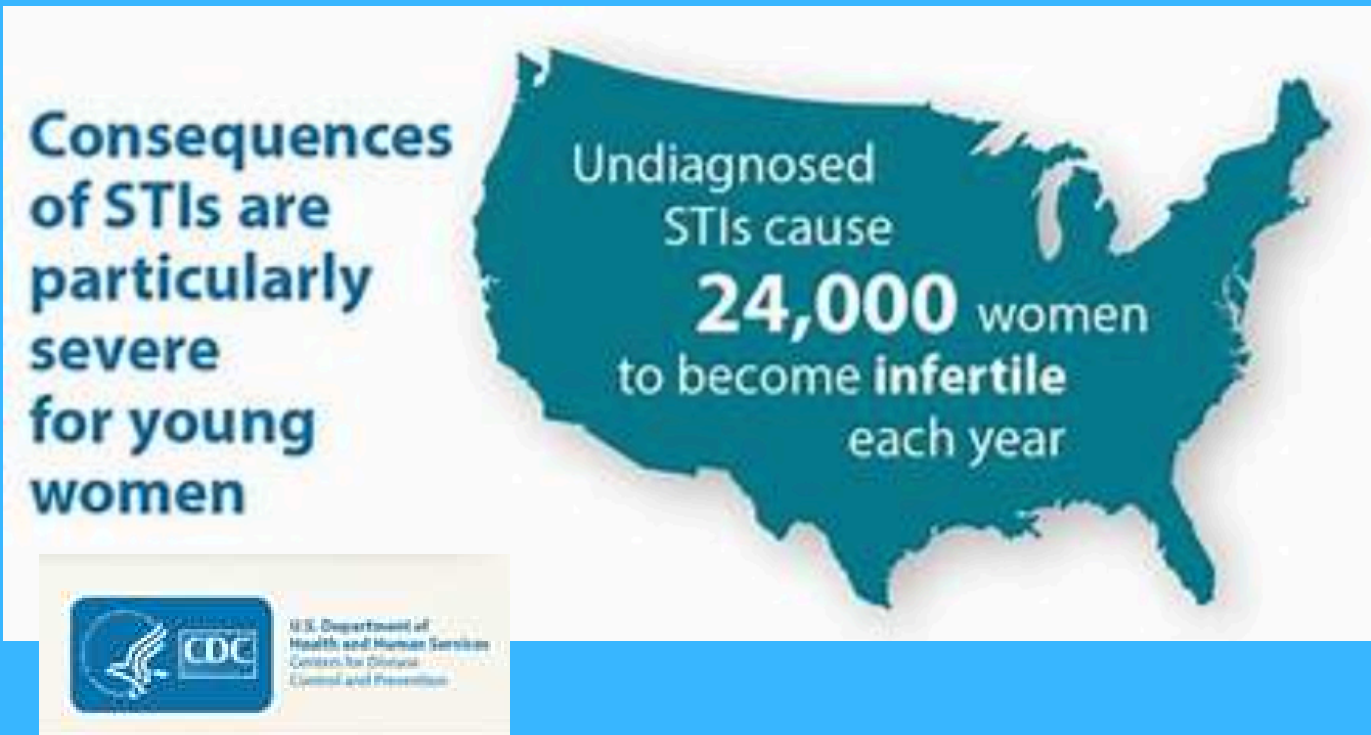
# WHY IT WORKS

Empathy Isn't Just Nice — It's **STRATEGIC**



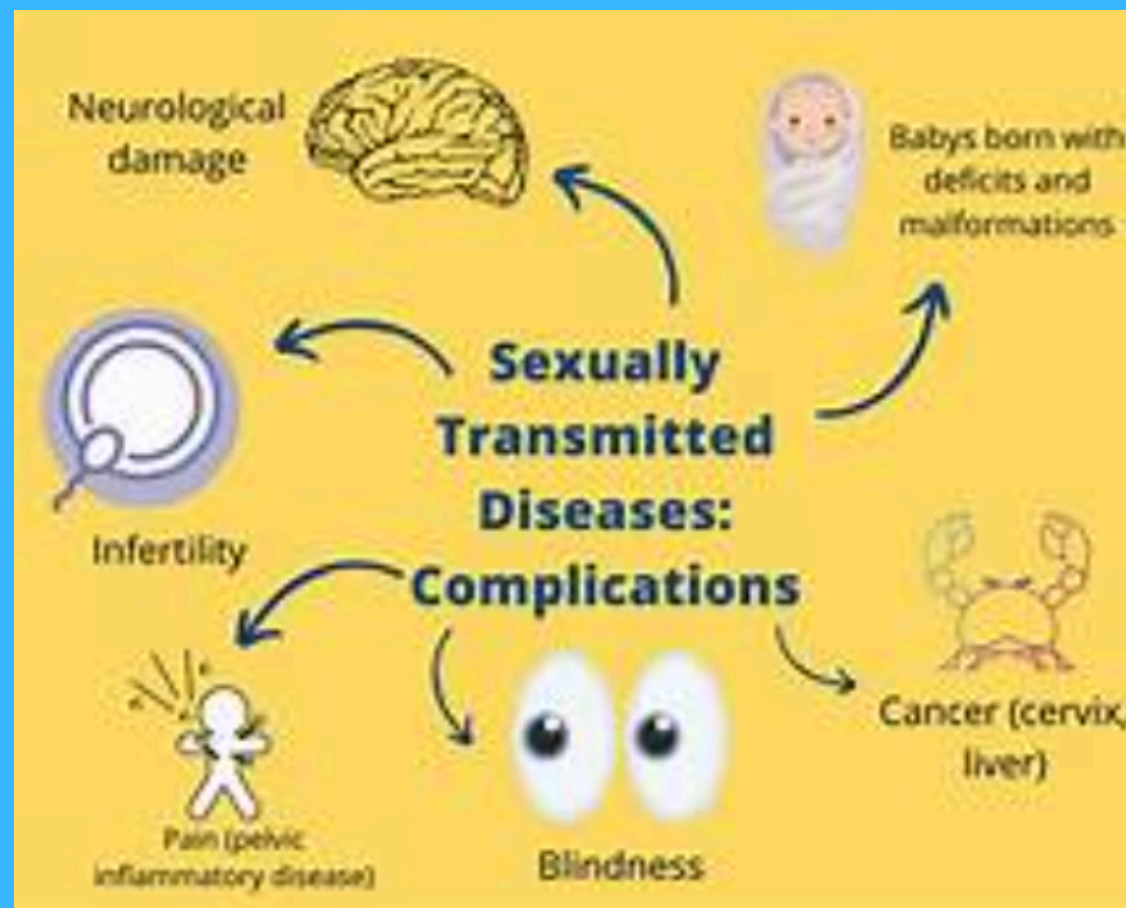
- **Enhanced Engagement:** Employees, clients, and voters feel acknowledged and appreciated.
- **Foundation of Human Connection:** Fosters relationships and deepens understanding of everyone's circumstances.
- **Improved Decision-Making:** Leaders are empowered to make informed, people-focused choices.
- **Stronger Culture:** Cultivates trust, inclusivity, and psychological safety.

# WHY IT MATTERS



## The Ripple Effect

- The **repercussions of untreated STIs** go far beyond individual health, affecting relationships and society at large.
- Untreated STIs can result in **serious health complications**, such as infertility, chronic pain, various forms of cancer, congenital infections in newborns, complications during pregnancy, pelvic inflammatory disease, HIV/AIDS, and even death.
- The psychosocial effects of STIs can lead to **mental health challenges**, including anxiety, depression, social isolation, and difficulties in personal relationships.
- Untreated STIs create a **substantial healthcare burden** due to treatment costs and lost productivity. (Cancer treatment is particularly costly.) This economic impact can strain an already burdened healthcare system and deplete community resources.
- Implementing **effective prevention and harm reduction strategies**, such as education and access to affordable healthcare, is essential in alleviating these ripple effects.



# WHAT PREVENTS STI'S ?



**ABSTINANCE**

**REGULAR TESTING & ALWAYS INFORM PARTNERS**

## Who Should Get Tested for STI's? *CDC's Recommendations*



Everyone 13-64 years of age  
\*Do not wait for symptoms, many STI's do not present at the beginning.



Sexually active individuals



Individuals who are pregnant



Individuals sharing injection equipment



**SAFE SEX KITS**



**VACCINATION FOR HEP A & B**



**VACCINATION FOR HPV**



**Choose sex partners carefully.**



**Avoid alcohol or drugs before having sex.**

**Regardless of age, gender, or background, anyone can acquire a sexually transmitted infection (STI). For all sexually active individuals, testing, diagnosis, and treatment are crucial steps in preventing STIs.**

# AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) AND HOPWA



ADA TITLE 24, SUBTITLE B,  
CHAPTER V,  
SUBCHAPTER C,  
PART 574  
ESTABLISHES THE HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS



**THIS ACT ESTABLISHES THE  
PURPOSE, GENERAL  
AUTHORITY, AND  
AUTHORIZATION OF  
APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE  
HOUSING OPPORTUNITY  
FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS  
(HOPWA) PROGRAM.  
DATE PUBLISHED: NOVEMBER 1990**

**HOPWA: A DISTINCT FEDERAL PROGRAM FOR  
HOUSING SUPPORT PROTECTED BY THE ADA**

**HOPWA IS THE ONLY FEDERAL PROGRAM  
DEDICATED TO ADDRESSING THE HOUSING  
NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS LIVING  
WITH HIV/AIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES. GRANTEES  
PARTNER WITH NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS  
AND HOUSING AGENCIES TO PROVIDE VITAL  
HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO THESE  
RECIPIENTS.**

# WHY SUPPORT HOPWA FUNDING?

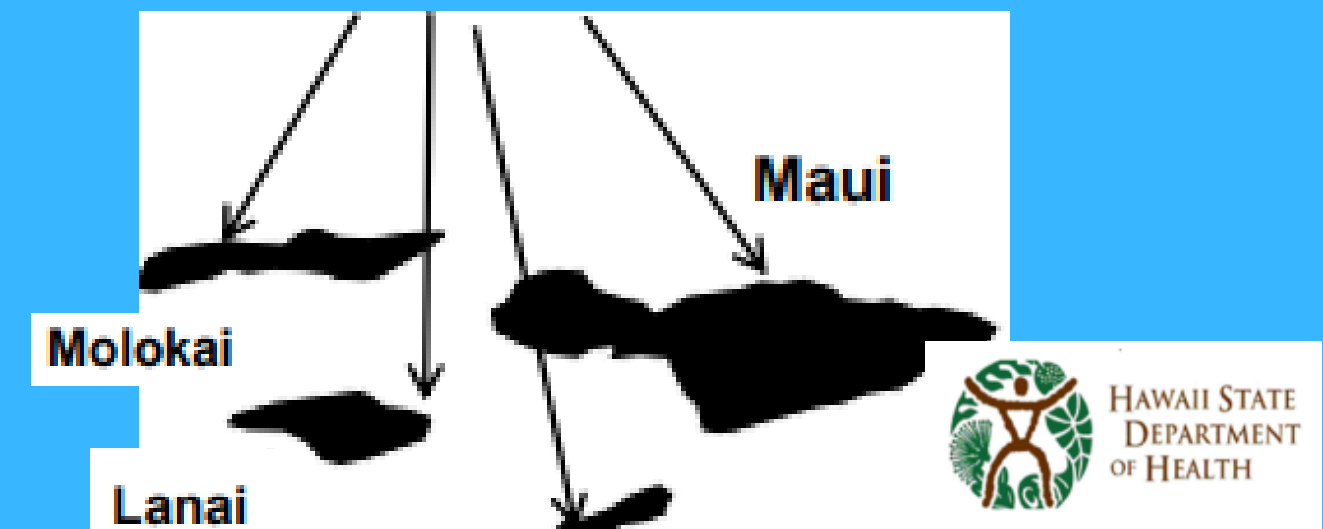
- **FACILITATES STABLE HOUSING: HELPS INDIVIDUALS WITH COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEMS SECURE CONSISTENT HOUSING.**
- **ADDRESSES FINANCIAL CHALLENGES: MANY LIVING WITH HIV FACE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES DUE TO WORK LIMITATIONS STEMMING FROM THEIR CONDITION.**
- **IMPROVES MEDICATION ADHERENCE: STABLE HOUSING ALLOWS CLIENTS TO CONSISTENTLY TAKE THEIR ESSENTIAL MEDICATIONS.**
- **EVEN AFTER CLIENT ACHIEVES HIV UNDETECTABLE STATUS: CLIENTS OFTEN DEAL WITH CHRONIC INFLAMATION DESPITE MEDICATION, LEADING TO ONGOING PAIN AND AN AVERAGE LIFESPAN REDUCTION OF 15 YEARS.**
- **ENSURES SAFETY: FOSTERS A SECURE ENVIRONMENT FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION.**
- **PROMOTES FOOD SECURITY AND REST: OFFERS A SUPPORTIVE ATMOSPHERE THAT ENCOURAGES ACCESS TO FOOD SECURITY AND ADEQUATE REST.**

## Hawaii HIV/AIDS SURVEILLANCE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

HIV infections diagnosed by December 31, 2022,  
and reported through June 30, 2023

### Maui County Cumulative

HIV Infection —497  
Stage 3 (AIDS)— 358



### NEW HIV DIAGNOSIS AT MAF

2022: 7 NEW DIAGNOSES  
2023: 2 NEW DIAGNOSES  
2024: 0 NEW DIAGNOSES  
2025: 0 NEW DIAGNOSES  
2026: 0 NEW DIAGNOSES

### 2026 CLIENT STATISTICS

HIV/AIDS - CASE MANAGEMENT  
ACTIVE CLIENTS: 141

**MAF's Housing Program is rooted in the *\*Housing First\** philosophy, acknowledging that stable housing is essential for the well-being of clients with HIV/AIDS.**

**MAF HOPWA  
HOUSING**

**A FOUNDATION FOR  
MEDICAL WELL-BEING**

### ***A Commitment to Dignity and Confidentiality***

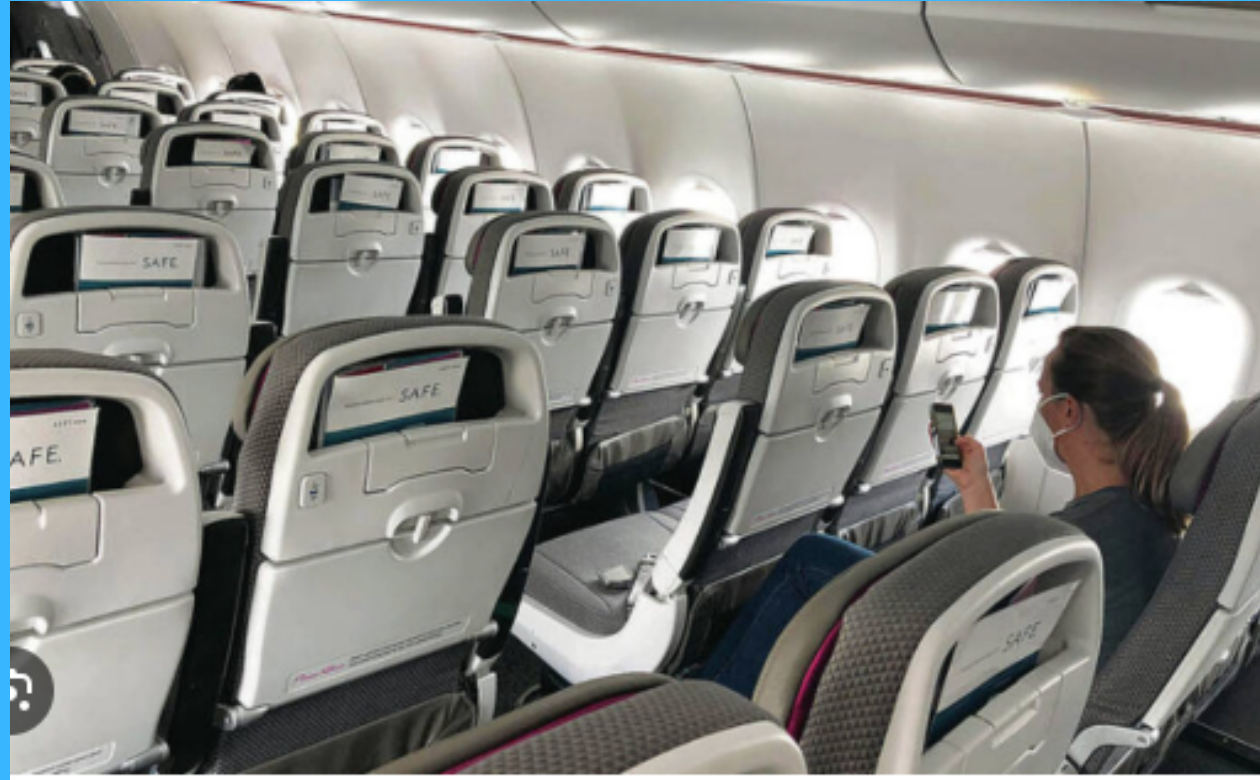
The program emphasizes dignity and confidentiality for each participant, ensuring that services are provided with a focus on the clients' needs and free of discrimination and stigma.

### ***Addressing Unique Challenges on the Neighbor Islands***

The MAF HOPWA Program recognizes the specific challenges faced by residents on the Neighbor Islands—Maui, Lanai, Molokai, Kauai, and Hawaii Island. These islands are characterized by the following challenges to treatment adherence:

- **Extremely high housing costs**
- **Limited employment opportunities**
- **Significant economic pressures due to flooding, wildfires, and the challenges of rural living**
- **Geographic inaccessibilities due to 3-Island Maui County, rural nature of Neighbor Islands**

Through HOPWA housing, collaboration with community partners, and additional grant funding, MAF provides comprehensive wrap-around support for clients that alleviates barriers to treatment and prevents community spread.



### 2020-2022 COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- UNEMPLOYMENT FROM 2.5% TO 40%
- DOWNTURN IN TOURISM
- ESTIMATED COST TO THE USA \$14 TRILLION



### 2023 MAUI WILDFIRES

- LAHAINA TOWN (MAUI'S ECONOMIC ENGINE) DESTROYED
- 2,071 STRUCTURES BURNED
- OVER 100 DEATHS
- ESTIMATED COST AT LEAST 6 BILLION DOLLARS



**MAUI HAS RECEIVED  
A YEAR'S WORTH  
OF RAIN IN MARCH**

### 2026 MAUI COUNTY STORM FLOODS

- ESTIMATED COST \$2 BILLION TO DATE
- 5,500 RESIDENTS DISPLACED IN HAWAII
- 1 DEATH ON MAUI

# MAUI COUNTY HOUSING 3 ECONOMIC DISASTERS IN 6 YEARS

# THE PROPOSED FEDERAL FY27 BUDGET: A SHIFT IN HOMELESSNESS FUNDING

THE PROPOSED FEDERAL FY27 BUDGET AIMS TO EMPOWER HUD BY REQUESTING **(\$73.5 BILLION)** FOR DISCRETIONARY FUNDING, A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS REQUEST OF **(\$43.5 BILLION)**. THIS PLAN INTENDS TO BYPASS STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS, ENABLING THE ALLOCATION OF HOMELESSNESS FUNDING BASED ON A HUD-DEFINED FRAMEWORK INSTEAD OF EXISTING LAWS. DESPITE THIS OVERALL BOOST, THE PROPOSAL **WOULD ELIMINATE OR CONSIDERABLY REDUCE FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL HOUSING PROGRAMS** THAT FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT AND ONGOING OPERATION OF AFFORDABLE AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING.

THIS STRATEGY PLACES A GREATER EMPHASIS ON TRANSITIONAL HOUSING AND MANDATES PARTICIPATION IN SUBSTANCE USE OR MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT AS A CONDITION FOR ACCESSING HOUSING. **IT FAILS TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THOSE WHO ARE DISABLED OR ILL AND THOSE WHO ARE TEMPORARILY NOT ABLE BODIED OR IN RECOVERY.** FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ILL OR DISABLED, THE QUESTION ARISES: **TRANSITION TO WHAT?** THEIR HEALTH REQUIRES **\*\*PERMANENT HOUSING**.

IF THIS PROPOSAL IS IMPLEMENTED, IT WOULD PUT AT RISK DECADES OF BIPARTISAN FEDERAL FUNDING AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENTS THAT HAVE PROMOTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, AND VITAL SERVICES THAT HELP PEOPLE MAINTAIN STABLE HOUSING. **THESE WELL-ESTABLISHED INITIATIVES ARE EFFECTIVE, COST-EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS** THAT ENHANCE HEALTH OUTCOMES AND SUPPORT HOUSING STABILITY ACROSS RURAL, URBAN, AND SUBURBAN COMMUNITIES.

STABLE HOUSING IS CRUCIAL FOR ANYONE'S QUALITY OF LIFE, BUT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH HIV, IT SERVES AS ONE OF THE **STRONGEST INDICATORS OF HEALTH**, CORRELATING WITH A **20% INCREASED LIKELIHOOD OF REMAINING VIRALLY SUPPRESSED**. INDIVIDUALS WHO ACHIEVE **VIRAL SUPPRESSION CANNOT TRANSMIT HIV** AND CAN LEAD HEALTHY, FULFILLING LIVES. HENCE, STABLE HOUSING PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN PREVENTING NEW HIV TRANSMISSIONS AND RESTORING HEALTH.

THIS PROPOSED SOLUTION IS MYOPIC AND RISKY, AS **ONLY 34% OF HOPWA FUNDING IS DESIGNATED FOR EMERGENCY, SHORT, OR MEDIUM-TERM ASSISTANCE**. A SUBSTANTIAL **64% OF HOPWA HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING** OR ARE PART OF THE TBRA (TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE) PROGRAM, WHICH HAS NO TIME LIMIT. INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS REQUIRE PERMANENT SUBSIDIES, AS IT IS WELL-DOCUMENTED THAT **HOMELESSNESS EXACERBATES POOR HEALTH OUTCOMES**.

# BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES MAY 1, 2024- APRIL 30, 2027

MALE	41
FEMALE	11

## AVERAGE SUBSIDIES (BASED ON 52 CLIENTS)

AVERAGE RENT FOR  
STUDIO/1 BEDROOM  
\$1,238.90

## AVERAGE RENTAL PAYMENTS

AGES 61-85 64.53% SUBSIDY  
AGES 61-85 35.47% CLIENT  
(20 CLIENTS)

AGES 46-60 61.05% SUBSIDY  
AGES 46-60 38.95% CLIENT  
(18 CLIENTS)

AGES <46 65.82% SUBSIDY  
AGES <46 34.18% CLIENT  
(14 CLIENTS)

MARRIED 14%

WITH CHILDREN 2%

RELOCATED (ECONOMIC) 6%

DECEASED 8%

PROGRAM	FY24	FY25	FY26	Total Award	Category Svcs
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	74.59%	74.59%	74.59%	1,133,823.00	Direct Service Long-Term Rental Subsidy
Short-Term Rent, Mortgage & Utility (STRMU)	7.06%	7.06%	7.06%	107,354.00	Direct Service Short Term Subsidy
Supportive Services (Case Management)	12.13%	12.13%	12.13%	184,389.00	Case Management Wages
Housing Information	0.39%	0.39%	0.39%	5,987.00	Housing Info
Administrative Support	5.83%	5.83%	5.83%	88,550.00	Admin
<b>Total Award FY24-FY27</b>	<b>506,702</b>	<b>506,702</b>	<b>506,700</b>	<b>1,520,103</b>	<b>3 Year Expense</b>

Tenant Based Rental Assistance program provides payments to make up the difference between the amount a household can afford to pay for housing and the local rent standards.

Short-term limited housing assistance is designed to prevent homelessness and increase housing stability.

# THE POWER OF EMPATHY IN LEADERSHIP



## Maui AIDS Foundation's Response to the FY27 Presidential Budget

STABLE HOUSING IS **THE KEY** FOR RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS, ADDICTION, AND MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES, AS IT OFFERS THE SAFETY, STABILITY, AND SECURITY NEEDED TO TACKLE UNDERLYING HEALTH ISSUES.

SERVING AS A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR HEALING, IT ENABLES INDIVIDUALS TO CONCENTRATE ON TREATMENT RATHER THAN MERE SURVIVAL.

THIS APPROACH NOT ONLY DECREASES RELAPSE RATES BUT ALSO MINIMIZES THE USE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PROMOTES LONG-TERM HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, AND REINTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY.

### **WE KNOW WHO WE ARE & WE ARE PROUD TO SERVE**

FOR THE PAST 40 YEARS, MAF HAS BEEN TAKING A HARM REDUCTION APPROACH TO CLINICAL AND MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

IN ADDITION TO TESTING, VACCINATION AND TREATMENT, WRAP-AROUND SERVICES PROVIDED BY MAF INCLUDE:

- OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT
- CLIENT NEEDS ASSESSMENTS
- TESTING AND TREATMENT OF STI'S AND VACCINATION AGAINST HPV, HEP A & B
- COORDINATION OF SERVICES THROUGH MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT AND CLIENT NAVIGATION
- ADVOCACY FOR THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY
- WRAP-AROUND SERVICES
  - FOOD PANTRY
  - HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT AND MEDICAL COPAY SUBSIDIES
  - TRANSPORTATION TO APPOINTMENTS AND TO RELIEVE SOCIAL ISOLATION
  - SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOR PREVENTION OF COMMUNITY SPREAD
  - DISTRIBUTION OF SAFE SEX SUPPLIES TO ALLEVIATE COMMUNITY SPREAD
  - EMERGENCY FUNDING AND SUPPLIES
  - HOUSING SUBSIDIES
  - SYRINGE EXCHANGE AND NARCAN EDUCATION/TREATMENT
  - UNLIMITED EMPATHY AND COMPASSION FOR OUR CLIENTS



## AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT

MAUI AIDS FOUNDATION (MAF) IS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION ALWAYS STRIVING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MAUI COUNTY COMMUNITY. THIS INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO SERVING: AT-RISK UNDERSERVED RESIDENTS, THOSE INCARCERATED, THOSE LIVING WITH HIV, HCV, AND OTHER STI'S, THOSE AFFLICTED WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, MARGINALIZED LGBTQIA+ AND MĀHŪ POPULATIONS, WOMEN AFFECTED BY DRASTIC CHANGES IN HEALTHCARE, DISENFRANCHISED NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES, AND THOSE WITH MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES. MAF ACHIEVES THIS BY HELPING CLIENTS STRIVE FOR WELLNESS THAT ENHANCES THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.

