

**ARKANSAS AIDS FOUNDATION TO  
PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SERVICES (MAPS)  
“LIMITED” EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND**

The new Medical Assistance Program Services (MAPS) component of the Arkansas AIDS Foundation (AAF) is due to the generosity of donors that have contributed to the AAF over the past year. As a result, we are pleased to announce our organization's ability to help some individuals with a limited amount of financial assistance regarding HIV/AIDS medical services. **“We are targeting the ones that have been “kicked off” the Ryan White Care Act (RWCA), the ones who were removed from any type of medical care when the Arkansas Department of Health dropped the Federal poverty level, for these individuals in the State of Arkansas, from 500 to 200 percent” stated the Foundation’s Executive Director, Dr. Michael Cannon.** Originally, the Ryan White services program, in the metropolitan area, was hosted by the AAF and provided “full” services, such as physician’s visits, medication, and lab work to all in need. However, when funding was removed from the AAF, by the Arkansas Department of Health and shifted to another source, the Federal poverty level never shifted back to the original 500%; and as a result, a good number of individuals were and still are not eligible for medical assistance even though the cost of some medications are still in the thousands.

At this point, the AAF will only be able to assist 30 individuals in Central Arkansas who are living with HIV/AIDS. In order to ensure that we are able to help as many people possible, the one eligibility requirement for this assistance is that one must be between 200 – 300 percent of the Federal poverty level (an income range of \$21,660 - \$32,490). Individuals making under \$21,660 are already eligible for assistance through other programs. The AAF will provide up to \$1,000 per individual to be used on lab work, medications and physician visits throughout the year.

**“We want to show our donors that we are using their money wisely and providing as much assistance to as many people possible, but more importantly to those who don’t have any other options,” said Board President David Tucker.** Although the AAF lost a major funding source earlier in the year the foundation continues its 20 year history of providing assistance to those in need and continually seeks out other funding opportunities to help all in need.

If you are interested in the program or donating to the program for the HIV/AIDS emergency fund relief; and would like to find out about the other eligibility requirements please contact the foundation at (501) 376-6299 or visit their website at HYPERLINK "http://www.araidfoundation.org" [www.araidfoundation.org](http://www.araidfoundation.org) .