

Two HIV Service Providers Close

Clients of the Minnesota groups were left scrambling.

November 11, 2024 By [Trent Straube](#)

Rainbow Health, a Minneapolis health care service provider for the HIV and LGBTQ communities, shuttered without warning July 19 due to financial problems, reports MinnPost. The loss comes just a few months after the African American AIDS Task Force (AAATF), which served Black Minnesotans, also closed.

Like most HIV service organizations, Rainbow Health and AAATF provided more than HIV testing, treatment and care. They provided food support, housing assistance, financial aid for living expenses, sobriety and mental health care, support groups and even legal support to transgender people who wanted to change their name, to mention just a few of the services they offered.

The closures left people scrambling for assistance. For example, some clients at Rainbow Health faced having their utilities disconnected or even being evicted, according to MinnPost.

Several local organizations are stepping forward to address the crises, including the Aliveness Project, PFund and Interna Mental Health & Wellness. The Aliveness Project, MinnPost reports, is taking over contracts that were held by Rainbow Health, including those funded by the federal Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. What's more, the Aliveness Project has been able to provide financial assistance to many of Rainbow Health's former clients.

"All of us opened extra spots on our schedule to take clients that lost services immediately," Kaylee Bond, MA, LPCC, a cofounder and therapist at Interna, told the newspaper, adding that Interna is "working with Family Tree [Clinic] to cross-refer people who need gender-affirming care or upcoming surgery requests for their gender-affirming care."

The situation may become even more complicated in the future, as the Minnesota Department of Human Services plans to cut its HIV budget by \$9 million, or 30%, next year, reports Sahan Journal.

Matt Toburen, the executive director of the Aliveness Project, said the budget cuts are the result of decreases in federal funding. He and other advocates are urging state lawmakers to provide more funding for HIV services and related programs.

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