



Department
of Health

Homes and
Community
Renewal

Office of Alcoholism
and Substance Abuse
Services

Office of Children
and Family
Services

Office of Mental
Health

Office for the
Prevention of
Domestic Violence

Office of Temporary
and Disability
Assistance

Office for People With
Developmental
Disabilities

Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI)

Overview

September 24, 2019

Introduction to ESSHI

- Component of Governor's Housing Plan
- Interagency initiative
- Five-year goal of developing more than 6,000 units of supportive housing over five years for persons identified as homeless with special needs, conditions or other life challenges.
- RFP awards based primarily on Need and Impact: HUD Continuum of Care reports or other local data; and how the proposal meets the gap that is identified.
- Up to \$25,000 per unit annually in services and operating funding is available

Interagency Workgroup

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) serves as the lead procurement agency for the ESSHI RFP under the guidance of the interagency workgroup. Although the OMH is the lead, proposals are not restricted to mental health purposes

Workgroup agencies:

- Department of Health (DOH) including the AIDS Institute;
- New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR);
- Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS);
- Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS);
- Office of Mental Health (OMH);
- Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV);
- Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA); and
- Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Key Events/Time Line

- RFP Release Date 8/16/19
- Bidder's Conferences 9/3 and 9/5/19
- Questions Due (must be received by 2:00 pm) 9/11/19
- Questions Posted on Website (Tentative Date) 9/18/19
- Proposals Due (must be received by 2:00:00 pm) 9/25/19
- Conditional Award Notifications (Tentative Date) 11/6/19
- Contract Start-Date TBD

Scope of Project

- Funding must be linked to a housing development project that will create new supportive housing units through new construction, the adaptive reuse of non-residential space, or the repurposing of vacant residential units.
- No capital funding available through ESSHI. Applicants receive CONDITIONAL awards and must leverage capital funding for the project within 12 months.
- Intended to expand supply of permanent supportive housing (not for emergency or transitional housing, or to supplant/enhance existing projects).
- Typically used for rent subsidies, services staff, and other project and program expenses. Applicants should propose an operating subsidy sufficient to cover the projected operating costs of the assisted units minus the amount of rent that will be paid by the assisted households.
- The ESSHI contract will be between the not-for-profit awardee and State Agency(s) responsible for providing oversight of the permanent supportive housing services to the population(s) to be served.

Homeless Definition

In order to be considered homeless for the purposes of this RFP, an individual must meet one of the following criteria:

1. be an un-domiciled person (whether alone or as a member of a family) who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing without special assistance. This includes those who are inappropriately housed in an institutional facility and can safely live in the community and those young adults, survivors of domestic violence, and individuals with I/DD who are at risk of homelessness;
2. be a youth or young adult who left foster care within the prior five years and who was in foster care at or over age 16, and who is without permanent and stable housing;
3. be an adult or young adult reentering the community from incarceration or juvenile justice placement, who was released or discharged, and who is without permanent and stable housing; or
4. be a young adult between the ages of 18 and 25 years of age without a permanent residence, including those aging out of a residential school for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability.

Eligible Applicants

- The submitting organization must be eligible to apply. This funding opportunity is only open to NFPs that are properly incorporated or organized under the laws of New York, and Tribal Organizations, with demonstrated experience in one or more of the following areas:
 - Housing for homeless families, individuals, and/or young adults;
 - Housing for families, individuals, and/or young adults with an unstable housing history;
 - Housing for families, individuals, and/or young adults who are at risk of homelessness;
 - Housing for families, individuals, and/or young adults that have health, mental health, intellectual or developmental disability, and/or substance use disorders;
 - Housing for youth/young adults with significant histories of mental health, foster care or criminal/juvenile justice involvement; and
 - Providing services and supports to help families, individuals, and/or youth/young adults that have disabling conditions or life challenges as identified in Section 1.4 that require specialized support services to become and remain stably housed.

Eligible Target Populations

- The eligible target populations to be served under this program are individuals and families who are both homeless AND have one or more disabling conditions or other life challenges, including:
 - SMI;
 - SUD;
 - Persons living with HIV or AIDS;
 - Victims/Survivors of domestic violence;
 - Military service with disabilities (including veterans with other than honorable discharge);
 - Chronic homelessness as defined by HUD (including families, and individuals experiencing street homelessness or long-term shelter stays);
 - Youth/young adults who left foster care within the prior five years and who were in foster care at or over age 16;
 - Homeless young adults between 18 and 25 years old;
 - Adults, youth or young adults reentering the community from incarceration or juvenile justice placement, particularly those with disabling conditions;
 - Frail Elderly/Senior: Any person who is age 55 and older, who is enrolled in Medicaid, and requires assistance with one or more activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living. Eligible persons are referred from a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), or identified as homeless by a Health Home, hospital, Managed Care Organization (MCO), medical respite, Managed Long-Term Care (MLTC), Performing Provider System (PPS), or shelter); and
 - Individuals with I/DD.

