

RFP: Supportive Housing for Homeless Persons with SMI or SUD

OVERVIEW

On August 5th, the New York City (NYC) Human Resources Administration (HRA) Department of Social Services released a Request for Proposals (RFP) offering \$65 million over five years for the development of up to 500 new supportive housing units for homeless persons with a serious mental illness (SMI) or substance use disorder (SUD). The development of these units is part of the City's plan to implement 15,000 supportive housing units by 2030.

Applications are due September 7th. A pre-proposal conference for this RFP will be held on August 16th at 2pm at 150 Greenwich Street, 37th Floor, Bid Room, New York, NY. Attendees should RSVP to accoprocurements@hra.nyc.gov. Questions may be submitted to Carin Clary at claryc@hra.nyc.gov.

This RFP is available through the [NYC Health and Human Services Accelerator](#).

Program Funding

Up to 100 total units will be allocated to adult families; the remainder will be allocated to single individuals. Each award must consist of at least 20 units and will include both operating and services funding. Applicants may receive operating funding per unit up to a limit of the annual Fair Market Rent (FMR) as determined by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

- \$1,293 per month for studio apartments;
- \$1,357 per month for one-bedroom apartments;
- \$1,571 per month for two-bedroom apartments; and
- \$2,021 per month for three-bedroom apartments.

These amounts may be increased by 2 percent annually. Additionally, \$10,000 per unit per year will be provided to fund supportive housing services. Contracts will last for five years, starting December 2016, with a four-year renewal option.

Tenants will be required to contribute 30 percent of their gross household income towards rent.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants must be prequalified in a relevant service area in the NYC Health and Human Services Accelerator. They must also have a minimum of one year of experience in each of the following areas:

- Determining eligibility and providing placement services;
- Providing supportive housing services;
- Operating a program to locate and rent apartments; and
- Reporting on outcomes and meeting other evidence-based practice requirements.

A lead agency applying for funding may subcontract with other entities, subject to HRA approval.

Eligible Population

This RFP targets the following populations:

- Chronically homeless single adults with SMI and/or SUD;
- Chronically homeless adult families with family members who have SMI and/or SUD.

Tenant referrals will be provided by a City-designated placement agency, which will approve HRA applications and determine eligibility for the supportive housing category. Contractors should have low-threshold intake criteria for tenants; in particular, they may not require tenants to demonstrate either current sobriety or a recent history of sobriety.

Eligible Projects

Contractors will identify and rent scattered-site apartments located across NYC, with a preference for studio or one-bedroom apartments. Apartments may be located across multiple boroughs.

Contractors will also provide supportive housing services to tenants, including:

- Individualized needs assessments;
- Evidence-based health and wellness services;
- Recovery-oriented case management interventions and services;
- Crisis intervention services;
- Harm reduction services; and
- Referrals to other community services, such as educational opportunities or vocational services.

Contractors must have a staffing plan that will maintain a caseload of at most fifteen tenants per case manager, with an on-call system to ensure that staff are accessible 24/7.

Application

HRA will review applications on the following criteria:

- Eligibility and Placement (5 points);
- Support Services (35 points);
- Program Operations (35 points);
- Staffing Plan (15 points);
- Program Evaluation and Reporting (5 points); and
- Budget Management (5 points).

Awards will be made to the highest scoring applications, in descending order, until all units have been awarded. HRA reserves the right to modify allocations based on the best interests of the City.