

## RFP: Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) Round Three

### OVERVIEW

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), under the guidance of the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) Interagency Workgroup, released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for not-for-profit organizations to provide permanent supportive housing and services for vulnerable populations experiencing homelessness. As part of Governor Cuomo's five-year plan to ensure that New Yorkers have access to affordable and safe housing, this third round of the ESSHI will provide service and operating funding for at least 1,200 supportive housing units.

The full RFP is available [here](#). Applications are due on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

### FUNDING

New York State will provide operating funding of up to \$25,000 per unit annually to support services for residents within housing opportunities. No capital funds are available through this RFP, so funding for actual development of units must be secured from other sources. Applicants are expected to obtain adequate capital funding within 12 months of receiving a conditional award for operating funding through this RFP.

Possible sources for capital funding include:

- New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR);
- The Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP) administered by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA);
- Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) capital funding;
- Predevelopment funds in the form of a construction grant from OMH for organizations providing services to individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI); or
- Predevelopment funds from the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) for organizations providing services to individuals with Substance Use Disorder (SUD).

Operating contracts will last for five years and will begin from the date of that the project's operating certificate is secured, or when residents are able to move into housing.

### ELIGIBLE COSTS

Funds awarded through this RFP must be used to provide support for eligible target populations to ensure that they have access to safe and stable housing. Examples of permissible use of funds for support services include:

- Rental subsidies and other occupancy costs;
- Costs associated with services and/or staff that help the tenants remain stably housed, including program supervision, housing counselors or specialists, and employment counseling;
- Services or staff to identify and locate eligible individuals that need housing;
- Eligible services designed to assist eligible families, individuals, and young adults to live independently and remain stably housed.

Funds awarded through this RFP may **not** be used for:

- Administrative and overhead expenses budgeted at more than 15% based on the Consolidated Fiscal Reporting (CFR) requirements;
- Expenses considered as non-allowable per Appendix X of the CFR Manual;
- Any costs associated with existing projects;
- Any costs associated with capital development of the project (e.g. construction costs);
- Non-permanent (transitional or emergency) housing costs; and
- Bond Debt service.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must be not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agencies who have 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; or
- Providing services and support to help families, individuals, and/or young adults that have disabling conditions or life challenges that require support services to become and remain stably housed.

## TARGET POPULATION

Housing programs and services developed under this RFP are available to families with a qualifying individual, individuals, and/or young adults who are both homeless and who are identified as having an unmet housing need, **and** have one or more of the following conditions or situations:

- Serious mental illness (SMI);
- Substance use disorder (SUD);
- Persons living with HIV or AIDS;
- Victims/survivors of domestic violence;
- History of military service with disabilities;
- Chronic homelessness;
- Youth/young adults who left foster care within the past 5 years and were in foster care at or over age 16;
- Homeless young adults between 18-25 years old;
- Adults, youth, or young adults reentering the community from incarceration or juvenile justice placement;
- Frail or disabled seniors; and
- Individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Multiple eligible target populations may reside within an individual supportive housing project. Projects with at least 15 ESSHI qualifying individuals that have 30 or more dwelling units will be required to set aside 25% of designated ESSHI units for individuals who are high-cost, high-need Medicaid users.

## APPLICATION

The ESSHI Interagency Workgroup will review applications on the following criteria:

- Need (35 points)
- Impact (30 points)
- Readiness (10 points)
- Cost Effectiveness/Budget (25 points)

Applicants must receive a minimum average score of 70 to be considered for this RFP. Final award determination will be based on the applicant's ability to secure capital funding for the development of the housing project.

## Timeline

Proposals are due on June 19<sup>th</sup>. No letter of intent is required. OMH and ESSHI plan to notify successful applicants by August 7<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a webinar on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 1pm providing a comprehensive overview of this RFP. Interested parties may register for the webinar [here](#). Additional questions may be submitted via email to Carol Swiderski at [Carol.Swiderski@omh.ny.gov](mailto:Carol.Swiderski@omh.ny.gov) by May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Responses will be posted on the OMH website by June 5<sup>th</sup>.