

RFA: Rapid Transition Housing Program

OVERVIEW

On May 24th, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Rapid Transition Housing Program (RTHP). This program, previously known as the Nursing Home to Independent Living program, offers funding for organizations to provide rental subsidies and supportive housing services for high-cost, high-need Medicaid members.

Awarded organizations will be expected to transition high-utilizing Medicaid members into supportive housing and provide rental subsidies, community transitional services (CTS), benefit enrollment, life skills, tenancy services, and other services necessary to encourage successful community living. Up to \$35 million in total funding will be available over five years to support this program.

The full RFA is attached and is available on Grants Gateway. Applications are due on June 29th.

FUNDING

This RFA will allocate a total of \$7 million per year to up to three organizations to provide rental subsidies and supportive housing services. Two projects will receive \$2.5 million annually each to maintain and expand rental subsidies and supportive housing services for existing program participants. The existing programs are (1) 125 subsidies in Onondaga County and (2) 102 subsidies in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. One project will receive \$2 million annually to establish a rental subsidy program in a new area of the state that is currently underserved. Applicants must choose to apply for one of the following arrangements:

- One of the established program areas (Onondaga County, or Nassau and Suffolk Counties);
- A new program area;
- One of the established program areas and a new program area; or
- Both of the established program areas and a new program area.

Rental subsidies must adhere to the Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Market Rents (FMR) standards. Participants will pay 30 percent of their income towards rent. Proposals must include budgets in which at least 50 percent of program funding pays for rental subsidies. At most 10 percent of total direct cost may go towards administrative expenses. Programs are expected to network with local hospitals, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), medical respite, Performing Provider Systems (PPSs), and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) to obtain high-utilizer referrals to the program.

Contracts will last for five years beginning December 1st.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must be not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agencies or government agencies authorized to provide applicable services in New York State. Applicants must also have at least three years of experience with the following:

- Housing of homeless individuals or those coming from a SNF;

- Providing housing services to help individuals remain stably housed; and
- Connecting individuals to benefits and care.

In addition, applicants must identify and submit at least one letter of support from a hospital, MCO, medical respite, PPS, or SNF from the proposed service area.

TARGET POPULATION

The target population for rental subsidy and supportive housing services include participants currently enrolled in the program in Onondaga County and/or Nassau and Suffolk Counties or individuals who:

- Are currently enrolled in Medicaid;
- Are age 18 years or older (may also include families with minors under 18 years old);
- Have one or more documented chronic physical disabilities and two or more chronic conditions, such as asthma or substance use disorder (SUD);
- Are either homeless or referred from a SNF; and
- Are identified as a high-utilizer by a hospital, MCO, medical respite, or PPS.

Priority must be given to eligible participants who are awaiting an organ transplant and are in need of emergency housing to meet waitlist requirements.

APPLICATION

Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Statement of Need (5 points)
- Applicant Organization (15 points)
- Program Design and Activities (40 points)
- Work Plan (20 points)
- Budget (20 points)

Proposals with the highest overall scores based on the above criteria who demonstrate a need for services and sufficient geographic coverage will receive funding through this RFA. In the case of a tie, the proposal with the highest score on the Program Design and Activities section will be ranked higher.

Timeline

Proposals are due on June 29th. There will be an optional Applicant Conference via webinar on June 1st and interested parties may register [here](#) by May 30th. A maximum number of two representatives from each organization are permitted to attend the conference.

Questions may be submitted to MRTSupportiveHousing@health.ny.gov by June 6th with a reference to the relevant RFA section and paragraph number in the body of the email. Responses will be posted on June 11th.