

RFA: Naturally Occurring Retirement Community Expansion

OVERVIEW

On November 9th, the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for eligible not-for-profit organizations to operate up to 13 new Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) programs for adults aged 60 years and older who reside in qualifying neighborhoods. Organizations may apply to operate one of two types of NORC programs:

- A Classic NORC, which is an apartment building or housing complex; or
- A Neighborhood NORC, which is a residential dwelling (or group of residential dwellings) in a geographically defined neighborhood (or group of contiguous neighborhoods), not originally built for older adults but now home to a significant proportion of older adults.

NORC programs facilitate and integrate existing health and social services available in the community and coordinate additional needed services that enable older adults to remain at home. Priority services that must be provided through NORC programs include case management, information and assistance, healthcare management, and healthcare assistance.

The RFA is attached. Applications are due on February 1, 2019.

FUNDING

NYSOFA will award up to six organizations a maximum of \$200,000 annually for the operation of a Classic NORC program. NYSOFA will additionally award up to seven organizations a minimum of \$60,000 annually for the operation of a Neighborhood NORC program. Organizations will have 18 months to spend the initial annual award. Subsequent annual awards must be spent during that program period's twelve-month term, and carryover funds will not be permitted. A maximum of 15% of the award may be used for administrative purposes related to the program.

Organizations will be required to provide total matching funds of at least 25% of the award. Matching funds can be in the form of cash, in-kind services, or a combination. For Classic NORCs, at least 50% of the total matching funds required must be contributed by the housing development governing body, or other owners or managers and residents of the apartment buildings and housing complexes. For Neighborhood NORCS, at least 50% of the total matching funds required must be contributed by community organizations located in and/or the residents of the geographical area in which the project is proposed.

Contracts will last for five and a half years beginning on July 1, 2019.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants for funding through this RFA are not-for-profit organizations who specialize in housing, health, or other human services and who serve the community within which the proposed NORC is located. Applicants who have already received NYSOFA funding to operate a NORC in the same service area are not eligible for funding. In addition, the applicant's proposed service area may not overlap with any service area that already receives funding from NYSOFA for the operation of a NORC.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS

For a Classic NORC, the proposed service area must be an apartment building or housing complex which meets the following criteria:

- Was not predominantly built for older adults;
- Does not restrict admissions solely to older adults;
- At least 40% of the units have an occupant who is an older adult, and at least 250 residents (if an apartment building) or 500 residents (if a housing complex) are older adults; and
- A majority of the older adults to be served are low or moderate income, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

For a Neighborhood NORC, the proposed service area must be a residential dwelling or group of residential dwellings in a geographically defined neighborhood or group of contiguous neighborhoods (the boundaries of which are clear and create an identifiable program) meeting the following criteria:

- Was not predominately developed for older adults;
- Does not predominately restrict admission to older adults;
- If the service area is non-rural, at least 30% of the residents are older adults (at least 20% if rural) or 30% of the units have an occupant who is an older adult (at least 20% if rural); and
- Is made up of low-rise buildings (six stories or fewer) and/or single or multifamily homes. If the service area is rural, apartment buildings and housing complexes may be included.

Organizations may apply to operate both a Classic and Neighborhood NORC or more than one of each type; however, a separate application must be submitted for each proposed project.

APPLICATION

Applications will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Community Information (30 points)
- Partnership and Governance (26 points)
- Organizational Structure (18 points)
- Staffing (10 points)
- Service Delivery and Programming (36 points)
- Budget (30 points)

Applicants must obtain a minimum total score of 105 to be considered for funding through this RFA. In the event of a tie, the applicant with the higher score on the Budget section will be selected for funding.

In order to ensure an adequate geographic balance in the distribution of NORC programs, NYSOFA plans to fund the two highest scoring applicants from Classic and Neighborhood NORC programs who are located in rural areas and the two highest scoring applications from Classic and Neighborhood NORC programs located in medium-density areas. The remaining awards will be distributed across the state based on the highest scores.

Timeline

Applications must be submitted by February 1, 2019. Awards are expected to be announced on April 1, 2019.

Questions regarding this RFA should be submitted to Jennifer Unser at Jennifer.Unser@aging.ny.gov by November 28th with a reference to the RFA section, page, and number to which the question refers. A summary of all questions and answers will be posted on NYSOFA's [website](#) by December 14th.