

RFP: Scattered Site Supportive Housing for Adults with Serious Mental Illness Reentering the Community from Prison

OVERVIEW

On January 25th, 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 operating funding to support the development and operation of up to 250 units of Scattered Site Supportive Housing. Units funded through this RFP will house adults with a serious mental illness (SMI) who are presently living in a New York State prison and will be released to one of the five boroughs of New York City or one of the counties specified below, and who would otherwise be homeless. This RFP is part of the Governor’s five-year supportive housing initiative with the goal of developing at least 6,000 supportive housing units.

The full RFP is available [here](#). Applications are due on March 7th.

FUNDING

Operating funding for Scattered Site Supportive Housing available through this RFP is a combination of client rent payments and ESSHI funds. No capital funds are available through this RFP. Residents are required to pay 30% of their net income for rent and reasonable utilities. Contractors will also receive annual funding for units developed under this initiative through an OMH contract as follows:

Region/County	Funding Per Unit
New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, and Orange Counties	\$25,000
Rest of State	\$20,000

The annual funding rate will be increased by 2 percent per year, subject to the availability of funds.

The 250 units of Scattered Site Supportive Housing that will be funded through this RFP will be allocated across the State as follows:

Region/County	Total Number of Units
New York City	150
Albany County	10
Broome County	5
Dutchess County	5
Erie County	10
Monroe County	15

Region/County	Total Number of Units
Nassau County	10
Onondaga County	5
Orange County	10
Schenectady County	5
Suffolk County	10
Ulster County	5

Region/County	Total Number of Units
Westchester County	10

Applicants proposing to develop units within the New York City Region may request to serve a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 40 units. For the Rest of State, there will be one award for each county consisting of the number of units allocated to that particular county.

Organizations may submit multiple proposals; however, only one proposal may be submitted per Region/County. If an organization intends to apply for units in more than one Region, a separate and complete application is required for each Region. Units awarded in the New York City Region are not specific to any borough or county.

Funding provides rent stipends, housing case management services, and other eligible costs as specified in the [OMH Supportive Housing Guidelines](#). There are no OMH licensing requirements for funding; however, contractors must comply with the OMH guidelines above.

Contracts will last for five years beginning August 1st.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants must be not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agencies who provide housing, mental health, and/or supportive services for individuals with SMI who have been involved with the criminal justice system through programs that are licensed by OMH or funded by OMH or a Local Government Unit.

Awarded organizations must establish partnerships and/or collaborative agreements with at least one of the Health Homes serving their community and become a network partner in at least one Health Home. However, it is an expectation that organizations will work with all Health Homes regardless of established partnerships.

TARGET POPULATION

Housing programs and services developed under this RFP are available to individuals with SMI who are presently living in a New York State prison and will be released to one of the five boroughs of New York City or one of the counties specified above, and who would otherwise be homeless.

Individuals with Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) must receive priority access. In addition, individuals with SMI who meet the above criteria and who also have other diagnoses or life challenges, such as substance use disorder or HIV/AIDS, are also eligible for supportive housing services through this RFP. After individuals transition to the community and are moved into these housing units, they are expected to be enrolled in a Health Home or a Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) Plan.

APPLICATION

Applications will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Technical Evaluation (70 points)
 - Proposal Narrative

- Agency Performance
 - Applicant's Narrative
 - Internal Review (includes a review of the applicant's residential programs over the past two years to assess occupancy rates and admissions from priority populations)
- Financial Assessment (30 points)

Applicants must receive a minimum average score of 70 to be considered for this RFP. In the case of a tie in the scoring process, the proposal with the highest score on the Agency Performance section will be ranked higher. Applications will be scored and awarded based on their rank within each Region/County. In the case of a tie between two proposals, the agency with the highest score on the Technical Evaluation will be ranked higher.

Timeline

Proposals are due on March 7th. No letter of intent is required. OMH and ESSHI plan to notify successful applicants by April 12th.