

RFP: Scattered Site Supportive Housing for Adults with Serious Mental Illness

OVERVIEW

On January 24th, 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 meet the criteria specified below. 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, Rockland, Westchester, Orange, and Putnam 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	Total Number of Units	Minimum Unit Request Per Agency	Maximum Unit Request Per Agency
New York City	150	10	40
Central New York	16	10	16
Hudson River	32	10	32
Long Island	28	10	28
Western New York	24	10	24

Organizations may submit multiple proposals; however, only one proposal may be submitted per Region. 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, and organizations may accept referrals from any facility that serves New York City residents regardless of the location of the units. Within the Long Island Region, a minimum of 10 units will be awarded in Suffolk County and a minimum of 10 units will be awarded in Nassau County. In all other Regions, applicants who propose to serve multiple counties will be given priority in scoring in order to promote geographic distribution.

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 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 meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Are being discharged from State-operated Psychiatric Centers or State-operated residential programs, an Article 28 hospital, or an Article 31 hospital;
- Are current residents of an OMH-licensed Community Residence operated by a voluntary provider agency, with priority for individuals who have a Length of Stay greater than two years;
- Are current residents in an OMH-licensed Apartment Treatment Program operated by a voluntary provider agency, with priority for individuals who have a Length of Stay greater than three years;
- Are 18 years of age or older who are being discharged from a Residential Treatment Facility; and
- Are currently homeless, including those who are street homeless (unsheltered), chronically homeless, and/or residing in a shelter.

Individuals with Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) must receive priority access. In addition, individuals with SMI who meet one of the above criterion 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.

Individuals moving into this housing should be enrolled in a Health Home or a Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) Plan to receive care coordination. If an individual being referred to housing is not yet enrolled in either a Health Home or MLTC Plan, it is the responsibility of the Psychiatric Center staff or Scattered Site Supportive Housing agency to make a referral.

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. 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.