

Olmstead Housing Subsidy Program

OVERVIEW

On March 6th, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of Social Determinants of Health released a Request for Applications (RFA) to re-procure and expand the Olmstead Housing Subsidy (OHS) Program. Under this RFA, DOH will allocate up to \$35.5 million in total funding over five years to one applicant to provide rental subsidies and transitional housing support services to high-cost, high-need Medicaid beneficiaries. The awarded provider will be responsible for working with Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) to move homeless, high-cost Medicaid members into supportive housing and for providing participants with rental subsidies, non-medical services, and support services.

Applications are due on April 11th. The full RFA is attached.

FUNDING

The successful applicant will continue and expand the rental subsidies and support services established under the prior award for the OHS Program. The awardee will receive \$6.3 million in additional funding during the first year of the contract and \$7.3 million for all subsequent years to expand the current number of rental subsidies. Rental subsidies must adhere to the Federal Housing and Urban Development Fair Market Rents standards and have participants pay 30% of their income towards rent.

Up to \$5,000 per participant may be used for Community Transitional Services (CTS), which are one-time set-up expenses for individuals transitioning from a SNF to their own home or apartment in the community. At least 50% of the proposed budget should be allocated towards rental subsidies and CTS. Administrative costs are limited to a maximum of 10% of the proposed budget.

DOH funding provided through this RFA cannot be used for expenses that are covered under Medicaid. Additionally, the program may not be used to subsidize placement in congregate care settings, including Assisted Living Facilities, Enriched Housing, Assisted Living Programs, or Assisted Living Residences.

The contract will last for five years beginning on November 1st.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include not-for-profit corporations and government agencies available to provide services in New York State. Applicants must have at least three years of experience in the following areas or demonstrate the capability to establish a contractual relationship(s) with a subcontractor(s) having such experience:

- Housing of Medicaid members coming from a SNF;
- Connecting individuals to benefits and care;
- Administering a housing subsidy program; and
- Developing and implementing payment systems for rental subsidies

The successful applicant must be capable of administering and continuing this statewide initiative, which includes Downstate Regions (New York City, Westchester, and Long Island) and Upstate Regions (Rest of State). Applicants must commit to serve existing OHS Program participants and continue to expand the OHS Program statewide, including into additional counties.

TARGET POPULATION

Eligible participants for enrollment in the OHS Program are Medicaid beneficiaries or individuals dually enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare who:

- Are age 55 or older, or are over age 18 with a chronic disability;
- Are homeless and currently reside in a SNF;
- Have spent at least 120 consecutive days residing in a SNF over the most recent two-year period; and
- Can live safely in the community.

DOH anticipates about 50% of OHS Program participants will be in the Downstate Region and 50% will be in the Upstate Region.

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)

The award will be determined based on the above criteria and a consideration of geographic coverage, agency capacity and experience providing the proposed services, and the agency's access to the target population.

Timeline

Applications are due on April 11th. Questions should be submitted to MRSupportivehousing@health.ny.gov by March 20th with a citation to the RFA section and paragraph to which the question refers. Answers to questions will be posted on the Grants Gateway on March 27th.