

RFA: Supportive Residential Habilitation Transformation Grant

OVERVIEW

On March 25th, the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for providers seeking to expand Supportive Individual Residential Alternative (IRA) Residential Habilitation and Family Care opportunities within their existing certified residential programs. Grant funding may be used to invest in existing capacity, develop new capacity, and/or support people who want to move to a more independent and integrated setting. OPWDD intends to release a separate RFA focused on developing capacity across non-certified housing opportunities.

This funding is available from the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) provided by the American Rescue Plan Act, which states may use to supplement existing expenditures for home and community-based services (HCBS). The most recent update to New York State's enhanced FMAP spending plan (available [here](#)) allocates \$10 million to this initiative.

The RFA is available [here](#). Applications are due on May 4th.

FUNDING

Applicants will be required to submit a Cost Proposal, inclusive of the anticipated costs associated with each operational element of the proposal, justifications for each cost, and how each line item will be phased-in or required for start-up. Successful applicants must agree to accept advance payments from OPWDD.

Contracts will begin on June 1st.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are not-for-profit organizations that:

- Are certified by OPWDD under the 1915(c) OPWDD Comprehensive Waiver to deliver Residential Habilitation Services;
- Are not on OPWDD's Early Alert list at the time of application; and
- Have experience operating Supportive Residential Habilitation and/or Family Care Services, or demonstrate a commitment of the Board of Directors to develop new Supportive Residential Habilitation opportunities and/or Family Care Services.

PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

Examples of proposed objectives may include, but are not limited to:

- Developing Supportive IRAs or Family Care opportunities that will be used as a means to offer new, more independent options for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) living in existing supervised opportunities and/or individuals with I/DD not currently receiving Supervised Residential Habilitation Services but who are identified on the Certified Residential Opportunity (CRO) list;
- Enhancing services in existing Supportive IRAs or Family Care homes;

- Completing initial investment activities that address barriers to creating, and transitioning people to live in, Supportive IRAs and Family Care opportunities;
- Leveraging new tools and technologies to maximize available Direct Support Professional (DSP) staffing;
- Investing in property and start-up costs associated with staffing “hubs” (e.g., locations with 24-hour on-call staff);
- Consultant costs for planning and development of service delivery options;
- Training and certifying staff;
- Developing protocols to identify, hire, and train a paid neighbor, live-in caregiver, or developing other staffing models that will support DSPs and address staffing shortages;
- Creating clinical infrastructures to support individuals receiving services with high clinical support needs; and
- Offsetting lost service revenue when a Supervised IRA opportunity is held vacant for three months, while the resident has moved to a newly created Supportive or Family Care opportunity made available through this grant program.

Funding may not be used for individuals’ room and board costs.

APPLICATIONS

Proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Technical Proposal Evaluation (70 points)
- Cost Proposal Evaluation (30 points)

Preference will be given to applications that:

- Document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider’s current approved capacity;
- Include strategies that move towards more integrated residential settings and/or leverage methods (e.g., technology) to minimize needed staffing supports without compromising the health and safety of individuals supported;
- Demonstrate sustainable strategies, which may be replicated and/or maintained after the funding period ends; and
- Demonstrate effective strategies to meet the needs of individuals with varied racial, ethnic, cultural, linguistic, gender, and sexual identity backgrounds (e.g., deliberate outreach to underserved communities).

Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by May 4th. Awards are expected to be announced on May 18th.

OPWDD will host an applicant conference on April 6th at 1pm. To register for the conference, interested parties must email fmapgrants@opwdd.ny.gov with contact information and the title of the RFA in the subject line by April 5th.

Questions may be submitted to the email address above by April 14th. Answers to questions will be posted on April 18th.