

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

ANN MARIE T. SULLIVAN, M.D.
Commissioner

MOIRA TASHJIAN, MPA
Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 20, 2023

Dear Housing Provider,

The Office of Mental Health (OMH) is providing guidance for the implementation of the 2023-24 Budget pursuant to State Plan Amendment (SPA) 20-0005, which permits the State to pursue Medicaid reimbursement for Rehabilitative and Tenancy Support Services provided in OMH funded Supportive Housing (SH) and Community Residence Single Room Occupancy (CR-SRO) programs. OMH has a longstanding commitment to housing with funding for rehabilitative services and tenancy supports to help individuals live successfully in the community. The approved SPA 20-0005 will enable the State to preserve and support needed tenancy supports and services.

The second enrollment opportunity to participate in the SH SPA is now available. Providers operating eligible Supportive Housing programs and CR-SROs will be able to enroll programs that are not already participating. Eligible programs enrolled to participate will receive the SH SPA increase (\$1,200 for Downstate programs and \$600 for Upstate programs) to further support the provision and recording of these services.

Providers will be required to submit a completed attestation (enclosed) to OMH by November 30, 2023 to participate and receive a stipend increase that will take effect January 1, 2024. This form can also be located at the following link:

https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/adults/supportedhousing/rts_participation_attestation.pdf

There are several important guidance documents that providers should reference as they consider participation and prepare for implementation of this initiative. These resources are:

OMH Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on Implementation of Rehabilitation and Tenancy Supports for Supportive Housing: OMH compiled a full list of FAQs on a wide range of questions being raised by Supportive Housing providers relating to the implementation of SPA #20-0005 including but not limited to: general background, service definitions, funding mechanics, participation rules, eligibility determinations, and monthly reporting requirements and service record requirements. The latest FAQ guidance on this initiative is posted https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/adults/supportedhousing/sh_rts_faq.pdf

Supportive Housing Guidelines (Issued September 30, 2022): OMH updated the Supportive Housing Guidelines to including all the details of SPA 20-0005 implementation including service definitions including psychosocial rehabilitation, counseling and other services to help beneficiaries maintain housing in the community, as well as CAIRS monthly reporting requirements. The latest document is posted on the OMH webpage as follows: https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/adults/supportedhousing/supportive_housing_guidelines.pdf

State Plan Amendment (SPA) 20-0005 Rehabilitative Housing Tenancy Supports: A copy of the approved New York State Plan pages with descriptions of covered rehabilitative services, staff qualifications and reimbursement. In addition, a copy of the 1915 c waiver for selective

contracting. The waiver limits the State Plan covered benefit to individuals in supportive housing programs funded by the State and authorizes OMH to submit billing for services provided by subcontractors. https://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/state_plans/status/non-inst/approved/docs/app_2020-10-16_spa_20-05.pdf

OMH conducted a training webinar on December 19, 2022 to provide an overview of this initiative, review the participation requirements, and respond to questions providers had as they navigated this decision. A recording of that webinar, as well as presentation slides, can be found on the OMH Supportive Housing webpage: <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/adults/supportedhousing/supportedhousingguidelines.html>

Lastly, OMH will resume bi-weekly technical assistance sessions for providers. This will be an open forum for providers to ask questions as they implement Rehabilitation and Tenancy Supports in their programs. Both providers who are newly enrolling and those that have already been participating are welcome to attend. These meetings will begin Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 1pm and will take place every other week thereafter. A link to the sessions can be found here: <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/adults/supportedhousing/supportedhousingguidelines.html>

If you have any questions regarding this opportunity, please contact OMH at omh.sh@omh.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

April Wojtkiewicz

April A. Wojtkiewicz
Director
Community Budget & Financial
Management

Enclosed (1)

cc:
Julie Duncan
Kevin Rocco