



Appendix F

FORENSIC HOUSING INITIATIVE

Central New York Psychiatric Center (CNYPC) Pre-Release Services

Central New York Psychiatric Center (CNYPC) Pre-Release Services provides extensive discharge planning to assist in the transition from prison to community. Pre-Release Services, in collaboration with the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and the Reentry Coordination System (RCS), applies for entitlements such as Social Security, Medicaid, the Medication Grant Program, and housing, and arranges post-release appointments with mental health clinics, including PROS programs. Some participants may have an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) order.

Pre-Release Services works in tandem with the providers and the participants, based on the participants' needs. Participants will be released from prison with a supply and/or a prescription of psychiatric medication. Until entitlements are in place, psychiatric medication may be provided by the Medication Grant Program.

In addition, OMH operates several prison-based reentry and in-reach programs for individuals with serious mental illness returning to New York City, including the Community Orientation and Reentry Program (CORP) at Sing Sing Correctional Facility and the Safe Transition and Empowerment Program (STEP) at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. OMH reentry programs provide enhanced programming including evidence-based interventions, as well as in-reach to inmate patients from community providers three months prior to release, to establish connections and ease their transition into the community. STEP also provides transitional case management to participants three to six months post-release.

Reentry Coordination System (RCS)

For Supported Housing units available through this RFP, all referrals will go from CNYPC Pre-Release Services through the **Reentry Coordination System (RCS)**, a centralized referral system designed to manage access to mental health housing, case management/Assertive Community Treatment, and outpatient clinic referrals in New York City, for individuals who are seriously mentally ill being released from the New York State prisons. RCS is currently operated by the Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS). RCS will forward the referral packets to participating housing providers for Review.

Academy for Justice-Informed Practice



Specialized staff training is available through the Academy of Justice-Informed Practice that focusses on the education and skills required for working with a justice-involved population. Staff training opportunities include but are not limited to: understanding violence and staff safety; understanding the criminal justice system; supporting mandated clients including working with parole; trauma-informed care for justice-involved individuals; reducing recidivism and promoting recovery; the clinical impact of incarceration; and first person perspectives on the experience of incarceration to recovery.

Video Teleconferencing

The RCS Housing Liaison will coordinate a video teleconference (VTC) interview. Contractors will be required to interview housing applicants through VTC interviews at either the New York City Field Office or CUCS office, must be willing to accept applicants without a face to face interview. Other VTC locations may be identified.

Enhanced Services Funding

The New York city Office of Mental Health provides Enhanced Services Funding to help accommodate the needs of consumers in obtaining housing. In addition to the funding for this RFP and to the extent that the funding is available. OMH is willing to consider funding any reasonable request for eligible referrals of the RCS system for a service that would help a consumer succeed in housing. The funding is time-limited and every request is considered on a case by case basis. A request for funding is submitted in writing by the housing provider to the RCS Housing Liaison. The request must include the reason for the funding, expected time frame, and itemization of the expected costs. CUCS will forward the request to OMH for approval.

Dedicated Mental Health Parole Caseloads

Applicants under parole supervision may be placed on a dedicated mental health parole caseload – a collaborative initiative between OMH and the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision to establish dedicated parole officers with special expertise in mental health and substance use issues; and who are assigned smaller caseloads to meet the unique needs of the target population. The dedicated parole officers work closely with OMH and housing providers to enhance the opportunities for these individuals to accept living in their communities, subsequently reducing their high risk of unwanted release outcomes, including criminal recidivism.