

Questions and Answers: Enhanced Scattered Site Supportive Housing for Young Adults with Serious Mental Illness RFP

1. One of the sections of the RFP response (6.3a, page 21) requires providers to "provide a current overview of the agency's current OMH funded Scattered Site Supportive Housing Program." However, the eligibility criteria (2.4) states that eligible applicants are non-profits that currently operate scattered-site supportive housing in NYC or Long Island.

Our organization meets that criteria, in that we provide scattered-site supportive housing in NYC utilizing funding through HUD. I am trying to get clarification on the section of the RFP that appears to presume that the provider has OMH funding already. I am unclear whether it is a requirement to have OMH funding or not. Please clarify.

ANSWER: Eligible applicants are not-for-profit agencies with 501(c) (3) incorporation that currently operate scattered-site supportive housing in NYC or Long Island. An agency that operates scattered site supportive housing not funded by OMH may apply. In Section 6.3 (agency performance) provide information on how your non-OMH housing is monitored and the results of the most recent reviews.

2. Does OMH provide start-up funding?

ANSWER: OMH does not provide separate start-up funding. An agency is expected to stagger the development of apartments and use contract funds to cover start-up expenses.

3. Can staff coverage be on-call to ensure 24/7 coverage?

ANSWER: The four-person team is expected to stagger hours to provide coverage at night and on weekends and will also add flexibility for additional home visits. However, staff can be on-call to complete the 24/7 coverage requirement. The provider must adhere to the supportive housing guidelines.

- **4.** Please confirm that the contracting non-profit can carry the lease and sublet to the young adults? ANSWER: Yes.
- 5. Why does the RFP state that there would be a "de facto" team and not just a case management team?

ANSWER: The de facto team, program staff, is comprised of staff who are all expected to work with and have a relationship with the young adults.

- 6. The eligibility criteria on p5 of the RFP include any "not-for-profit agencies with 501(c) (3) incorporation that currently operate scattered-site supportive housing in NYC or Long Island." However, one of the RFP questions asks: "Provide an overview of the agency's current OMH funded Scattered Site Supportive Housing Program" (p21). Are applicants eligible to apply for this RFP if they operate scattered-site supportive housing that is not funded by OMH? ANSWER: An agency that operates scattered site supportive housing not funded by OMH may apply. In Section 6.3 (Agency Performance) provide information on how your non-OMH housing is monitored and the results of the most recent reviews.
- 7. The RFP indicates that awards will be announce June 2, 2022, and the contract start date is July 1, 2022. Are applicants expected to have all apartments secured before the July 1st start date? Would there be a start-up period included in the contract?

Answer: The awardee is not expected to have all apartments secured before the contract start date. OMH presumes there will be a start-up period once the contract has been approved and funding is available for the agency to recruit and hire staff, secure apartments etc.

8. On page 17, the RFP states that "Residents of Scattered-Site Supportive Housing can remain in this housing provided their clinical and financial circumstances render them eligible and allow them to meet their responsibilities as a tenant." What specifically are the "eligibility requirements" that would deem someone eligible to remain in their housing after their 26th birthday? Additionally, given the circumstance that a tenant did not meet those eligibility requirements, yet an adult housing slot had not been identified for transition by their 26th birthday, what options would the tenant and/or the agency have?

Answer: Individuals admitted to permanent supportive housing are eligible to remain in housing for as long as they require supports to maintain housing stability OR require a rental stipend. OMH seeks to balance the availability of this enhanced model for new young adult referrals while ensuring continued housing for those that reach age 26. To do this, an agency with supportive housing that targets adults may do a "paper transfer" if a vacancy exists in the adult program. In other words, the 26-year-old may stay in the apartment and the agency transfers them (on paper) to their adult program. The agency then develops a new apartment for a new young adult referral.

9. "The four-person team can stagger hours to provide coverage at night and on weekends...." Is the evening and weekend coverage meant to be on-call or in-person?

Answer: The four-person team is expected to stagger hours to provide coverage at night and on weekends and will also add flexibility for additional home visits. However, staff can be on-call to complete the 24/7 coverage requirement.