1. Are letters of support from the County DSS and/or Director of Community Services/LGU (for SMI populations) required? Page 25 states, "Does the CoC/local government/local planning entity support this proposal?"

   ANSWER – No, letters of support from the County DSS and/or Director of Community Services/LGU are not required for submission. However, applicants may include such letters as further evidence of support.

2. If letters of support from the County DSS and/or Director of Community Services/LGU are not required, may they be submitted for consideration?

   ANSWER – Applicants may attach any relevant documentation, including letters of support.

3. Page 4 states "Applicants are required to notify the local government units (LGU), including both social service districts and/or local mental hygiene directors, of the proposed ESSHI project. Applicants should notify the LGU prior to submission of this application and should be in constant communication throughout development." Is this notification required to be submitted with the proposal?

   ANSWER – See Question 1.

4. There are a number of references to "chronic homeless" and "chronic homelessness" throughout the RFP (pg. 4, pg. 12, response for basic project data), but the target population is now defined as "long-term homelessness (pg. 11)." In narrative response, should applicants refer to the population as individuals who are experiencing long-term homelessness or as individuals who are identified as chronically homeless?

   ANSWER – In all narrative responses, applicants should refer to the population as individuals who are experiencing long-term homelessness, as defined on page 11.

5. The RFP defines Long Term Homelessness as "including families, and individuals experiencing street homelessness or long-term shelter stays (formerly chronic homelessness). Long-term shelter stays means a time greater than average length of stay according to that area's Continuum of Care (CoC), or local district." (pg. 11). Will eligibility to meet the criteria of "long-term shelter stay" be calculated at time of ESSHI application, the time of initial lease up, or be recalculated annually based on updated shelter stay data?

ANSWER – Eligibility to meet the long-term homelessness criteria should be evaluated, and should be documented, for ESSHI tenants at the time of assessment and intake into the ESSHI project.

6. Will the Interagency Workgroup require a specialized disability service provider to provide supportive services if an applicant chooses to identify individuals with physical disabilities as a target population?

   ANSWER – Applicants must describe their knowledge of and experience serving targeted populations (including individuals with physical disabilities). Applicants may subcontract with other entities to provide services to populations with whom the applicant does not have experience serving.

7. Pg. 14 states that "services provided by ESSHI funds must be non-medical services." May an applicant include the services of a health educator or nurse that offers preventative health education, sex education, and nutrition services?

   ANSWER – Yes, services may include linkage and/or direct services which are not funded through other mechanisms, such as Medicaid, including health education. An applicant can choose what organization or individual provides that education. Eligible services are designed to assist eligible families, individuals and young adults to live independently and remain stably housed.

8. Are supportive services that focus on nutrition and healthy eating allowable, or is this supportive service considered medical and therefore unallowable?

   ANSWER – Health/nutrition services that are not funded through other mechanisms (including Medicaid) are an allowable cost.

9. Pg. 5 states "Applications where greater than 50% of the ESSHI units are dedicated to these populations will be eligible to receive more points than those that do not." How many points will projects that dedicate more than 50% of the ESSHI units to underserved populations receive?

   ANSWER – 5 points will be allocated to applications that dedicate more than 50% of the ESSHI units to underserved populations.

10. We have an award from ESSHI Round 8. However, noting that Round 9 has a higher unit cost reimbursement than Round 8 did, we would like to know if being a conditional awardee from Round 8, we'll be able to access that higher per unit reimbursement as we move forward, or if we would have to apply to this or a later round of ESSHI to secure the higher rate.

    ANSWER – Applicants may not access the newly increased ESSHI rate with previous conditional awards. Applicants must reapply to access a higher funding rate. In addition, current ESSHI contractors or those with a final (locked-in) ESSHI award cannot re-apply for those existing units to access the higher rate.

11. What is the amount for the ESSHI rental subsidy? Is it equal to the Fair Market rent?

ANSWER –It is the responsibility of the applicant to describe the amount of ESSHI rent subsidies per unit size. Per Section 1.3 of the RFP, applicants should plan to provide rental subsidies in an amount that ensures full rental payment does not exceed HUD Fair Marlet Rents (FMR) for the area.

12. Is the tenant portion equal to 30% of income or public assistance shelter allowance?

ANSWER – Yes

13. What are the security deposit requirements for ESSHI units?

ANSWER – There are no mandated security deposit requirements for ESSHI units.

14. Is it equal to the Fair Market rent or the total tenant payment?

ANSWER – It is unclear what is being referenced in this question. See response to question 11 regarding ESSHI rental subsidy.

15. The budget template was not with the other required attachments under "Events/Attachments". Where is the budget template located in the SFS bid event?

ANSWER – There is no attachment to be uploaded. The requirement for presenting a budget is to be completed under the Expenditure Budget in the Section labeled Budget Properties.

16. The technical proposal template states the budget template must be uploaded in Question 2 in Microsoft Excel. In review of the SFS bid event, there was not a Question 2. Where should the budget template be uploaded?

ANSWER – The references to the budget template in the first paragraph of the proposal document should have been removed as there is no attachment to be uploaded. The requirement for presenting a budget is to be completed under the Expenditure Budget in the Section labeled Budget Properties.

17. Will the tenants retain their apartments after the five years?

ANSWER – Tenants may retain their apartments as long as they continue to require either the rental subsidy or support services.

18. Would we need to find a new property every five years if tenants keep their apartments?

ANSWER – No. Per Section 1.2 of the RFP, subject to the availability of State funding, once awarded, ESSHI funding is anticipated to continue for renewable five-year terms for eligible projects.

19. Do we need to partner with a developer that works with HCR?

    ANSWER – No. Per Section 1 of the RFP, for those projects that may need capital resources, the separate funding mechanisms include, but are not limited to: Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP, New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR, other acceptable governmental agencies, private sources, or partnering, whenever possible, with a project developer that has secured or is in the process of securing capital funding.

20. Can there be partnerships with other non-profits for this award?

    ANSWER – Yes. In instances where additional non-profits are providing ESSHI services, a lead agency should be established with the supporting not-for-profit identified as a subcontractor. Any partnerships should be described in question 2d.

21. Why this new direction versus apartments because construction is so expensive now? We are trying to house people quickly and give ready access, and this approach doesn't give ready access.

    ANSWER – This is not a new direction. ESSHI has always been an initiative to support newly created units of supportive housing.

22. Regarding the prompt in SFS, which asks "Please enter answer for Continuum of Care", can you please clarify which requestion relating to "Continuum of Care" OMH/collaborating agencies would like to see answered in this space? Are applicants being asked to supply the name and acronym of the organization that serves as the region's CoC (that lead/designated organization dedicated to ending area homelessness), or if not, what additional or other information is being requested? FYI – This appears to correspond to RFP, page 33, Section 1, Part 'a', a similarly worded prompt.

    ANSWER – Applicants should identify the Continuum of Care which covers the geographic area in which the project will be located.

23. Regarding the prompt in SFS, which asks for the number of ESSHI-funded qualifying individuals and indicates, "...this number should equal the sum of responses to 1.d-1.n, below, specifying the number of individuals to be served in each eligible population (i.e. do not double-count individuals that may have multiple disabilities or life challenges"), can you please indicate whether the reference to "1n" is a typographical error and should say "1p"? Or do OMH/collaborating agency reviewers intend that tallies for category 1o "survivors of human trafficking" and 1p "persons with a physical disability" be exceptions that are indeed double-counted, if a person to be served experiences either of these conditions AND an(y) other condition in 1d-1n"?

    ANSWER – This is a typographical error. The number of ESSHI-funded qualifying individuals should equal the sum of responses to 1d-1p.

24. RFP Section 2.4.1 on page 22 indicates the following, "Each Proposal submission through SFS is required to contain and Operating Budget (Appendix B) and Budget Narrative (Appendix B1)". Is this a legacy instruction from the Grants Gateway era or, if not, where may applicants find templates and/or instructions regarding how to prepare, and where within SFS to upload Appendix B and Appendix B1?

ANSWER – This language should have been removed from the RFP template. There is no requirement for an Appendix B or Appendix B1 to be provided in response to this ESSHI Round 9 RFP. Please disregard.

NOTE: The requirement for presenting a budget is to complete the Expenditure budget in the Section labeled Budget Properties and to respond to the Budget questions asked in Section 5.

25. Regarding budget and budget narrative, are applicants correct in understanding that all the following assumptions are true:

    a. All dollar figures, cost-categories, budget line items, and explanations/justifications are to be placed exclusively into the singular response to question 5g (RFP pg. 36) which asks, "Describe how the amount of ESSHI funding requested per qualifying individual was determined. Explain the calculations regarding the services and other costs indicated in the budget. Each item should be justified."

        ANSWER – The requirement for presenting a budget is to complete the Expenditure Budget in the Section labeled Budget Properties and to respond to the Budget questions asked in Section 5

    b. Is the format of the budget/budget narrative allowed and expected to be presented in narrative format within the one cell that fall beneath the 5g question in the supplied template (a cell which has no character limits)? And/or may some applicants choose to supply the budget/budget narrative in table form, and if so, where within the SFS portal should that be supplied?

        ANSWER – See above.

    c. In SFS, should applicants type into the "Your Unit Bid Price", a figure that sums the aggregated allocations (i.e. the applicant's budgeted per-unit figure [of up to $34,000 per qualified individual] multiplied by number of qualified individuals to be served multiplied by five years)? Or should the total "Your Unit Bid Price" include (a) just a one-year summation; and/or (b) any additional factors?

        ANSWER—Applicants should enter an annual per unit figure.

26. With regard to question "1r" which requests "SHARS ID or HHAP ID, if applicable", if an ESSHI applicant has not previously received funds via or tracked by SHARS or HHAP, is "not applicable" and appropriate response? If an applicant plans to engage with SHARS

and/or HHAP (and obtain such IDs) in association with this ESSHI project, but not until after the ESSHI application has been submitted, would you like a descriptive response here (a description that we would also include in the other relevant parts of the application)?

ANSWER – If an applicant does not currently have a SHARS ID or HHAP ID, not applicable is an appropriate response.

27. In the "Bid Event Periods" / Period 1 field, what does the date 09/04/25 signify vis-à-vis this ESSHI initiative?

ANSWER – It is the Conditional Award Notifications – Tentative Date (please refer to Section 2.2 Key Events/Timeline in the RFP).

28. The budget template was not with the other required attachments, under "Events/Attachments". Where is the budget template located in the SFS bid event?

ANSWER - There is no requirement for an Appendix B or Appendix B1 to be provided in response to this ESSHI Round 9 RFP. Please disregard.

NOTE: The requirement for presenting a budget is to complete the Expenditure Budget in the Section labeled Budget Properties and to respond to the Budget questions asked in Section 5.

29. The technical proposal template states the budget template must be uploaded in Question 2 in Microsoft Excel. In review of the SFS bid event, there was not a Question 2. Where should the budget template be uploaded?

ANSWER – The references to the budget template in the first paragraph of the proposal document should have been removed as there is no attachment to be uploaded. The requirement for presenting a budget is to completed in the Expenditure Budget in the Section labeled Budget Properties.

30. Section 1.5 reads, in part, "In some instances, it may be advantageous to work with additional not-for-profits to provide specific services to one or more of the proposed target populations. In such instances, a lead agency should be established with the supporting not-for-profit identified as a subcontractor. Applicants must establish such relationships with any agency providing services to the same dwelling. Such arrangements outlined in an ESSHI application may not be changed post-conditional award without approval from the State Contracting Agency and Capital Financing Agency(ies).

   a. If an applicant chooses to include a sub recipient within its application, must the applicant include an executed or proposed MOU, letter of support, or linkage agreement with/from the proposed subrecipient within its application?

ANSWER – MOUs, letters of support, or linkage agreements with subrecipients are not required, but may be included in an application.

      b. If an applicant chooses to include a subrecipient within its application, may the application include an executed or proposed MOU, letter of support, or linkage agreement with/from the proposed recipient within its application? If yes, where would the MOU/letter of support/linkage agreement be attached or included within the submission.

ANSWER – Per the proposal narrative template, along with the template, any attachments referenced in the Proposal Narrative must be formatted into ONE PDF and uploaded into SFS under the Proposal Narrative question 1. Any supporting documents MUST be labeled specific to the question it is associated with.

31. What is the minimum percentage required for the older adults' population?

ANSWER – There is no minimum percentage required for any population.

32. Does the RFP allow expenses for nurses or home health aides and psychologist?

ANSWER – Behavioral health and health education services are allowable costs so long as the identified services are not funded through other mechanisms, such as Medicaid. Direct medical care staffing and services are an ineligible expense

33. What is the staff ratio vs. tenants?

ANSWER – There is no mandated staff to tenant ratio for ESSHI. Applicants should consult with their assigned state contracting agency (SCA) to ensure they are complying with any requirements the SCA may have.

34. Does the rent budget come from the unit budget?

ANSWER – Applicants are eligible to request up to $34,000 in the New York City metro area (including New York City and Suffolk, Nassau, Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam counties), and up to $31,000 in the rest of the state per qualifying individual/unit for rental subsidies and services funding.

35. Are we required to provide services to non-ESSHI units?

ANSWER – There is no requirement to provide services to non-ESSHI tenants. ESSHI funding may not be used to support non-ESSHI tenants.

36. What are the staff credentials required to work with the senior population?

ANSWER – Credentials are not required for ESSHI funded positions working with the senior population. Staff identify and assist eligible individuals to live independently and remain stably housed.

37. Is there any excel budget template?

    ANSWER – No. The RFP was reissued to build the Expenditure Budget template in the Section labeled Budget Properties. Completing this section is the requirement for the budget, along with responding to the questions in Section 5.

38. One of the speakers (possibly Julie Duncan) in the webinar's final moments indicated: "There was an error in the build of the RFP in SFS, so the RFP was taken down and they are rebuilding it as we speak. It will be back up tomorrow [6/11/25] around 9AM." Should applicants anticipate an updated PDF document containing an RFP that's (substantively) different from the originally released (6/4/25) RFP for this ESSHI Round, or will the referenced changes be contained only within the SFS portal space (i.e. pertinent only to applicants' engagement with the SFS portal itself)? We are wondering if we should budget time to re-read the RFP in days ahead to become aware of the change.

    ANSWER – The sole reason of closing and reissuing the RFP in SFS was to include the Expenditure Budget template to be completed in the Section called Budget Properties. There were no other changes. Additionally, this was announced on OMH's website where the RFP is posted. It is the responsibility of each potential applicant to check that site throughout the term of the open opportunity to be kept informed of any announcements, changes, updates, etc.

    OMH #147 is the closed opportunity and should not be used to apply. OMH #149 has been published in its place. This is the opportunity/application that must be used to apply.

39. Regarding slides 24-25 of the webinar presentation ("Olmstead Compliance"), if a provider's primary underserved target population (to be housed & receive services under ESSHI) comprises individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI), but, validated by applicant's experience, a certain proportion of those individuals will also experience a Co-Occurring Disorder (e.g. SUD):
    a. Should the applicant plan for such projects to be assigned to OMH (rather than OASAS) as the State Contracting Agency (SCA)?
        i. If yes, are such applicants correct in understanding that no more than 60% of the total units in NYC (and no more than 50% of the total units in rest-of-state) can be reserved for individuals with disabilities (inc. mental health and/or substance use conditions)?

            ANSWER – Applications are assigned to SCA based on the population being served by the majority of the ESSHI units. If the application proposes a majority SMI units, OMH will typically be the state contracting agency. An application proposing majority SUD units will typically be assigned to OASAS.

ii. If the proposed housing comprises fewer than 31 dwelling units, will such a project still be subject to the above Olmstead requirements?

ANSWER – Olmstead requirements revert to the strictest requirements for the populations being served in a project. A project proposing both SMI and SUD units would be subject to the requirements outlined above regardless of total dwelling units in the project.

40. For a project that primarily targets and serves individuals (experiencing homelessness) with Serious Mental Illness, led by a provider/applicant that holds an Integrated Outpatient Treatment (IOT) license and a CCBHC designation (screening and treating people holistically, via integrated protocols across mental health and substance use disorders), what specific factors will determine whether:
    a. The project is assigned to OMH or OASAS?

    ANSWER – See question 39

    b. The project's obligations vis-à-vis Olmstead adherence are dictated by either the phrase:
        i. Therefore, projects must provide integrated settings for individuals with disabilities [including SMI, SUD, etc.] (reflecting bullets 1 and 2 on slide 24) OR the phrase...
        ii. Projects serving individuals with SUD or physical disabilities with 30 or less dwelling units are exempt from Olmstead requirements (reflecting bullet 3 on slide 24)

    ANSWER – See question 39

41. In SFS the number is OMH#149, but on the Proposal Template it is OMH#147. Does this matter?

ANSWER – No, when copying opportunity OMH #147 into OMH #149, we did not make any changes to the documentation (e.g. the RFP, the Proposal Template form). There is no issue associated with using the Proposal Template form that indicates OMH #147 (closed) as opposed to OMH #149 (open).

42. Can we use ESSHI dollars to fund onsite psychiatry services which are not covered by Medicaid such as outreach and engagement to tenants, coordination and case conferencing with onsite service team, psychiatric services to tenants who don't have Medicaid or we are unable to bill because not contracted with their managed care, and other direct services to tenants that are not billable to Medicaid. Onsite Psychiatry is a core component of effective supportive housing to provide high quality services to our most vulnerable tenants who are unsuccessful in getting good quality care in the community, reduce hospitalizations and improve mental health outcomes.

ANSWER – Per Section 1.6 of the RFP, permissible uses of funds awarded under this RFP that meet such purposes include, but are not limited to:

Eligible services designed to assist eligible families, individuals and young adults to live independently and remain stably housed. Services provided by ESSHI funds must be non-medical services. They may include but are not limited to providing the following linkage and/or direct services which are not funded through other mechanisms, such as Medicaid:

- advocacy and connection to health care services;
- behavioral health services

43. Can we use ESSHI dollars to fund onsite primary medical care services which are not covered by Medicaid such as outreach and engagement to tenants to engage in medical care, coordination and case conferencing with onsite service team, medical services to tenants who don't have Medicaid or we are unable to bill because not contracted with their managed care, other direct services to tenants that are not billable to Medicaid. Onsite primary care has been shown to reach those tenants who would not get care in the community, the intensive engagement and person-centered treatment isn't covered by the Medicaid Billing. On site primary care has shown to improve physical health outcomes.

    ANSWER – Per Section 1.7 of the RFP, Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

    - Direct medical care staffing and services.

44. We currently have a community residence and are having a new house built to replace the existing house. We are working with OMH and they have approved the project. Are we eligible for ESSHI funding for the new build moving forward? We also have a MICA house as well, are we eligible for ESSHI funds for that residence?

    ANSWER – No. ESSHI funding is intended to support new permanent supportive housing units and may not supplant existing funding.

45. The official HUD PIT data for 2025 has not been released for our CoC. Will 2024 PIT data and HIC info be acceptable?

    ANSWER – Yes

46. Is the CoC the only entity that can provide an acceptable letter of support?

    ANSWER – Yes. In addition, any projects proposing to serve individuals with I/DD must receive a letter of support from the OPWDD regional office.

47. Can you please clarify the eligibility of seniors – do they need to be homeless or in a shelter or in an institution? Are seniors who are at risk of homelessness and meet other requirements (55 & older, enrolled in Medicaid, and have a chronic condition or physical disability) eligible?

    ANSWER – Yes, the eligible target population to be served under this program are individuals who are both homeless **AND** meet the senior definition of age 55 and older, enrolled in Medicaid, and have a chronic condition or physical disability. Seniors at risk

of homelessness are not eligible for ESSHI. Acceptable living situations at the time of referral include:

- Sheltered
- Unsheltered
- Prison
- Hospital*
- Skilled Nursing Facility*
- Medical Respite*

Persons referred must have been homeless prior to placement in hospitals or medical respite. Those coming from skilled nursing facilities must be residing in an SNF for at least 60 days and have no dwelling to be discharged to.

48. Regarding the notification of local government entities – is notifying the local DSS sufficient or do we need to notify city and county officials as well?

    ANSWER – Applicants must notify both the social service district and local mental hygiene director. Applicants are encourage to notify any other local government entity they feel is applicable.

49. According to the target population section 1.4 in the RFP belong Long Term Homelessness includes long term shelter stays. However, the definition of Long Term Homelessness in Section 5 mentions Long Term Homelessness being a stay in emergency shelter. Can Long Term Homelessness include long term stays in transitional housing?

    ANSWER – Long Term Homelessness includes stays in a temporary emergency shelter and any setting where the individual has homelessness status.

50. Are projects that have a confirmed/"locked in" award but that have not opened and do not have a registered contract eligible to apply to access the higher rate? If yes and the new proposal is not awarded, will the contractor retain the original award?

    ANSWER –No, projects that have a permanent ("locked-in") ESSHI award may not reapply and access the higher rate.

51. It is understood that many ESSHI-funded housing projects entail new construction. Is it permissible for an ESSHI project sponsor to enter into a long-term (i.e. 25-year) lease agreement with an independent property owner/operator and to establish sublease agreements with project tenants?

    For instance, may a NFP service organization with ESSHI Services and Operated award lease a property from another owner and establish sublease agreements with tenants who fulfill ESSHI tenancy criteria (e.g. homeless individuals with SMI)? In this instance, the NFP organization would provide services to the tenants in accordance with terms and conditions of the ESSHI RFP, and the property owner would assume responsibility for management and maintenance of the property?

ANSWER – ESSHI funding must be linked to a housing development project that will create new housing units through new construction, the adaptive reuse of non-residential space, or the repurposing of vacant units. If what is being proposed is a lease related to repurposing vacant units or working with a private owner who has rehabilitated vacant units, a 25 year lease between the ESSHI applicant and the private owner may be acceptable.

52. We have a project with a 2023 ESSHI Round 8 award. However, we do not expect to receive capital funding within the 2-year grant period. Are we eligible to apply for a new grant?

    ANSWER – Yes.

53. The proposed project will consist of two buildings. Building A will have 261 units and Building B will have 208 units for a total of 469 units. The goal is to submit one ESSHI Round 9 application for 60% of the units on this site. There is a possibility that this will be a phased project with two phases and there have been preliminary conversations with DHCR about this phasing plan. Can we submit one application or should we submit separate applications for each phase?

    ANSWER – An ESSHI application must be associated with a housing project with a single capital financing plan. A phased project with separate capital funding commitments for each phase is tantamount to separate projects, and therefore would require a distinct ESSHI application and commitment for each phase.

54. How are formerly homeless persons expected to pay for rents, particularly if they are Very Low Income or have no income? Are applicants required to use ESSHI funds to pay their rent or may we decide how ESSHI funds are utilized? Are other sources of funds allowed to help pay for their rent?

    ANSWER – In calculating ESSHI rental subsidies, it is expected that 30% of a tenant household's adjusted income (exclusive of rental subsidy payment) will be used. When a tenant has no reportable income, the tenant should apply for all available third-party entitlements that they may be eligible to receive.

55. Can ESSHI funds be used to purchase move-in kits for formerly homes persons? Move-in kits include bathroom items (e.g. towels, toiletries, etc.) bedroom items (e.g. sheets, covers, etc.), and kitchen items (e.g. utensils, pot, pans, etc.)?

    ANSWER – Yes, limited funds can be dedicated for the purposes of move-in kits for tenants.

56. Can ESSHI funds be used to replenish the move-in kit items mentioned above?

    ANSWER – Yes, see response to question 55.

57. Where will the formerly homeless tenant referrals come from? Will they come from New York State and its agencies? Non-profits? Will we be required to actively search for formerly homeless persons? Can ESSHI funds be used for travel expenses to locate formerly homeless tenants?

ANSWER – Applicants are expected to identify their intended process for how target populations will be identified and list primary referral sources. In most cases referrals should come from the local Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry System or the local Single Point of Access (SPOA) system. ESSHI funds cannot be used to conduct Street Outreach.

58. In question 5f (pg. 36), can you please elaborate/further define what reviewers are looking for in response to the final portion of the prompt which requests that applications provide "the AMI level(s) the ESSHI rents are intended to equate (e.g. 50% of AMI)"?

ANSWER – Applicants should indicate the unit rent expressed in terms of the Area Median Income (AMI). The portion of the ESSHI annual per unit grant attributed to rental subsidies is intended to cover the difference between what the household to be served can afford (30% of household income or public assistance shelter allowance) and the total rent being charged for the unit. To be eligible for most capital financing sources, particularly Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), projects must commit to target units to a maximum household income level (e.g. 60% AMI). For ESSHI projects seeking capital financing through HCR, units supported by ESSHI subsidies must set rents that are affordable to a specific household income target at either 50% of AMI (for projects pursuing competitive 9% LIHTC), or up to 60% of AMI (for projects pursuing bond financing/4% LIHTC). This is also referred to as rents that are "underwritten to" a specific percentage of AMI.

59. In SFS, are we correct in understanding that applicants should place rental subsidies (for ESSHI-supported tenants) into the "OTHER" budget category and not in the "SPACE/PROPERTY RENT" category?

ANSWER – The "SPACE/PROPERTY RENT" category should be used to itemize costs associated with Space/Property Rent that the applicant uses to conduct business. Include justification of expenses in the field provided. The "OTHER" category should include program items that do not fit in the other categories, such as rent subsidies, office supplies, and administrative/indirect costs.

60. In SFS, in the budget, what types of allowable expenses might be appropriate for "Operating Expenses" that would be distinct from Salary, Fringe, Other?

ANSWER – Items necessary to operate the program such as but not limited to food, insurance, postage, office, or program supplies.

61. Pg. 6 indicates, "For the purposes of the ESSHI RFP, 'qualifying individual' has the same meaning as 'unit', as in unit of cost. Projects may receive up to $34,000 per qualifying individual/unit in the New York City metro area."

- On RFP, pg. 33
  - Prompt 1b requests "Total number of dwelling units in the project"
  - Prompt 1c requests "Number of ESSHI-funded qualifying individuals"

Can you please affirm our understanding of when the responses to 1b and 1c are expected not to be identical?

Are we correct in understanding that if an ESSHI applicant proposes serving 20 qualifying individuals (e.g. persons with SMI and housing instability) across 10 two-bedroom apartments, the applicant should indicate the same response of '20' to both 1b and 1c? And if the applicant, instead, proposes hypothetically, to serve 10 qualified individuals in those same 10 two-bedroom units – each with a family member living in the second bedroom – are we correct in understanding that the response to 1b would still be 20 (dwelling units), while the response to 1c would be 10 (qualifying individuals)? Furthermore, if this applicant, under a concurrent or subsequent NYS capital program (such as HHAP), is planning an integrated/mixed-use/mixed-income construction project that totals 40 distinct dwelling units (e.g. 20 two-bedroom apartments), but only half (20) of the dwelling units under that capital project will be dedicated to this ESSHI project's operations & supports, are we correct in understanding that the response to 1b in this ESSHI application would remain 20 (dwelling units)? [i.e., in this example, the number would not be 40 because the definition/boundary of "in the project" means strictly and exclusively the dwelling units served by ESSHI funds – is this correct?]

ANSWER – Question 1b is asking for the total number of apartments in the project, including non-ESSHI apartments and irrespective of the number of bedrooms. If the applicant is planning a mixed-use project with 20 two-bedroom apartments, the answer to question 1b should be 20.

It should also be noted that certain agencies, such as OASAS and OPDV do not allow multiple qualifying individuals in the same dwelling unit. Similarly, it is the expectation of HCR that each qualifying individual would occupy a single housing unit, as noted on page 6 of the RFP.

62. We received an ESSHI award in February, 2024. As I prepare a budget for the development project, do I use the ESSHI award amount from the 2023 NOFA ($25,000) or the current NOFA ($31,000)? In other words, is the award amount at time of the conditional status or committed status?

ANSWER – Previously issued conditional awards are only funded to the amount justified by that application (in this case, $25,000). If applicants wish to request funding greater than $25,000, they must reapply to this RFP.

63. Does the development have to be 100% affordable housing or can it be a combination? If so, what is the acceptable ratio?

ANSWER – There is no ESSHI requirement for 100% affordable housing, nor is there a prescribed ratio. Please refer to the requirements of your capital funding source.

64. How much flexibility is there to these applications? By the time the development is built, can you shift the services provided if you are working with new partners at this period in time?

ANSWER – Applicants are reminded this is a competitive procurement, and changes to material factors on which the application was scored may not be permissible. Changes to the application after conditional award may not be made without approval from the State Contracting Agency (and Capital Financing Agencies, if applicable).

65. If there is an age restriction at the time of participants application for an ESSHI slot, for example the 18-25 youth homeless youth population, is a waiver from the Division of Human Rights required?

ANSWER – Any age-restricted housing must request a waiver from DHR. However, that is unrelated to, and not a prerequisite to submitting an ESSHI application and obtaining a conditional award.

66. If the ESSHI units being applied for are part of a larger affordable housing project, should information about the overall project be included in the application narrative?

ANSWER – Yes

67. If this application is for a renewal on a previous conditional award, should that information be included in the application narrative?

ANSWER – It is not necessary to include information related to a previous conditional award. Applicants must respond to all questions in this RFP to be considered for a Round 9 ESSHI award. Information submitted in an application that resulted in a conditional award in a previous round of ESSHI will not be considered.

68. In regards to relevant data and supporting documentation requirement in Question 2j, are copies of full reports required to be included or is a reference page siting the report(s) appropriate? For example, our county recently commissioned an in-depth housing inventory assessment, which is just under 200 pages long. If we use this report to support our application and reference it in narrative, is the expectation that the full report be uploaded with the narrative template?

ANSWER – Applicants are encouraged to provide a summary of data and supporting documentation in response to the RFP questions. Applicants may also include links to referenced documents if available.

69. Does an existing conditional award (from 2024) receive the new $34,000 per qualifying individual if the project is located in the metro NYC area?

ANSWER – See Question 10

70. I want to ensure to use the correct budget from as a template is not found in SFS. Please confirm the details on the preferred template.

ANSWER – The references to the budget template in the first paragraph of the proposal document should have been removed as there is no attachment to be uploaded. The requirement for presenting a budget is to be completed in the Expenditure Budget Section labeled Budget Properties.

71. Our agency was granted a conditional award for a project in a prior round of ESSHI funding. While we did receive an ESSHI Commitment letter to assist with capital funding, construction closing has been delayed. However, the increased funding anticipated by this new RFP would further assist with lining up capital financing and improve the overall financials of the building, by increasing the rental subsidy allocation. Would we be permitted to reapply for this same project under the current opportunity in order to receive the increased funding amount of $34,000 unit for NYC?

ANSWER – No, the enhanced ESSHI rates approved in the State Budget are intended to be prospective. Projects which have obtained an ESSHI commitment have, by definition obtained capital financing commitments which were determined to be sustainable. Similarly, projects with conditional awards should not delay closing on financing in order to apply for an enhanced ESSHI rate due to the likelihood of incurring additional capital costs.

72. Can 2 applications for the same county be submitted?

ANSWER – Yes

73. Timeframe of when the expenditure budget template will be made available in SFS?

The expenditure budget template is currently available in OMH #149. It is not an Excel document that the applicant would upload with their application. This is a part of the SFS build and can be found in the Budget Properties section and to be completed within.

74. Can the not-for-profit (NFP) partner master lease the building from the property owner/developer?

ANSWER – This arrangement would not be permissible for projects financed by HCR. This may be permissible in projects involving private capital financing. An applicant proposing this scenario should discuss with the assigned state contracting agency at time of conditional award.

75. Can ESSHI funds be used to support porter services such as trash and snow removal, groundskeeping, or routine maintenance?

ANSWER – Yes, generally property costs such as trash and snow removal are covered by the ESSHI rents. However, there is no prohibition in itemizing operational expenses in the budget.

76. If the project consists of 11 or 12 individual units, is it required to include a common space (e.g. tenant lounge or meeting area) within the building?

ANSWER – ESSHI has no such space requirements. Applicants seeking government capital financing should consult those financing agencies for design requirements.

77. Do we need to go through the CoC and the HMIS referral process for potential applicants to these ESSHI units? Or can we manage referrals independent of the CoC and HMIS?

ANSWER – There may be requirements to utilize the CoC Coordinated Entry system or SPOA system based on the population and/or State Contracting Agency. Projects proposing not to use CoC/SPOA should detail why referrals would not be coming from these systems.

78. Would being admitted in an OASAS-certified 820 residential program count as "sheltered homeless?" Individuals in these programs typically do not have a fixed address and are often homeless before admission to the SUD treatment continuum. However, these programs are not usually considered shelters.

ANSWER – If these individuals are currently in an OASAS-certified residential or inpatient program, and pending discharge they do not have a subsequent residence identified and lack the resources and support networks needed to obtain access to housing due to their substance use disorder, these individuals are considered sheltered homeless under the ESSHI homelessness definition as the OASAS-certified setting is a transitional setting.

79. Must the Linkage Agreements and the Letters of Support be from institutions located in the Westchester area, or can they be from other counties?

ANSWER – A letter of support from the CoC covering the geographic area in which the project is located must be included, and a letter of support from the OPWDD regional office if the project proposes to include units for individuals with I/DD. Beyond that, there are no requirements for or limitations to linkage agreements or letters of support.

80. What referral sources would be appropriate for the newly included population of people living with Hepatitis C?

ANSWER-- The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute funds Hepatitis C Virus care and treatment contracts statewide from whom referrals may be accepted. An online AIDS Institute provider directory includes these providers and is available online here: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/find_a_provider.htm The AIDS Institute and Office of Addiction Services and Supports can also be utilized as resources to establish relationships with appropriate referral agencies, including treatment, health care and services providers connected to the population.

81. Is the newly added physically disabled population covered under Olmstead?

    ANSWER—Yes. For projects 31 units or larger, no more than 50% of the units (60% in NYC) may be reserved for individuals with physical disabilities or other populations covered under the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act.

82. We are proposing to serve the I/DD population in our ESSHI project? Do we need to connect with our local Continuum of Care for initial project support and tenant referrals?

    ANSWER - For any ESSHI project proposing to serve the I/DD population, either solely or with a combination of other eligible target populations, a letter of support from your local OPWDD Regional Office is **required**. Additionally, tenant referrals for the I/DD population will be handled in coordination with the local OPWDD Regional Office.

83. Our project is proposing to serve multiple Medicaid-eligible target populations (e.g. I/DD, SMI) in our ESSHI project. Are there any certain requirements that we will need to adhere to?

    ANSWER - Per Section 1.1 of the RFP, **Service and Operating Funding Parameters**, ESSHI projects with solely I/DD units cannot exceed 25% of the total project units. Additionally, if a project is proposing to serve the I/DD population and one or more Medicaid-Eligible population (e.g. SMI, SUD, etc.) then the total number of ESSHI units between the combined target populations cannot exceed 30% of the total project units.