



OMH253032 - ESSHI Round Ten (10) Questions and Answers

1. Can an applicant utilize units that are already designated as affordable housing for ESSHI? We have units serving a range of income levels, all of which are considered affordable housing.

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. Utilizing the funding for operational affordable housing units would not be allowable.

2. We are seeking confirmation that we can apply for the funding directly (as a Public Housing Authority -PHA) and can subcontract a local service provider to provide the on-site support services for us.

ANSWER – Applicant organizations must be not-for-profit or Tribal Organizations with demonstrated experience described in Section 1.3. Eligible applicants may subcontract with another entity to provide services to one or more of the populations proposed to be served. However, this sub-contractual relationship cannot be substituted for meeting eligibility requirement of the RFP.

3. It was stated in the Bidders Conference that the Excel Application Workbook was revised/updated on OMH's website. Can you explain what was updated?

ANSWER – The Application Workbook was updated on 6/16/26. There was a formula missing on the "ESSHI Project Info" tab in cell E25. The formula combines the "Organizations Legal Name", "Organization SFS ID#", and "Application Sequence" to =CONCAT(E19, "-", E23, "-", E21) to auto generate a File Name.

4. If OMH is not the ESSHI state contracting agency, but SMI units are included in the population mix (for example, 10 long-term homeless units and 5 SMI units), is a Program Development Grant from NYS OMH available for the project for the SMI units?

ANSWER – No, the Program Development Grant is only available for SMI units on contracts held by OMH.

5. May a project specifically reserve its HVI units for the following ESSH population: Persons with a physical disability, including but not limited to mobility and sensory disabilities, that affects the performance of activities of daily living and requires support services delivered in an accessible housing setting to become and remain stably housed.

ANSWER – Households meeting the definition of the Physical Disability population in the RFP are eligible for ESSHI. However, capital funding agencies may not allow all of the units equipped with HVI accessibility features to be reserved for ESSHI-eligible households. Applicants should confirm that the intended capital funding source for the project will allow this approach.

6. May a CoC deny a letter of support from a qualified provider demonstrating significant community need for its proposed project because the provider is not an active member of their CoC?

ANSWER – A CoC should not deny a letter of support solely because the applicant is not currently an active member of the CoC. However, applicants that are not CoC members are encouraged to work with the CoC to begin that working relationship.

7. With regard to the “Application Workbook”, can OMH please confirm that the Rent Subsidy Projection tab to be completed for a 10 year projection, while B-1 Salary & B-2 Fringe, B-3 Contractual, B-4 Travel & B-5 Equipment, B-6 Space Rent & B-7 Space Own, B-8 Utilities, and B-9 Operating & B-10 Other tabs should be completed for only a Year 1 budget projection?

ANSWER – This is correct.

8. If our organization is interested in providing these services in multiple geographies (across the 5 boroughs and upstate/Syracuse), do we need to submit separate applications for reach region, or can we complete one application that lists all our identified areas?

ANSWER – Organizations must submit an application for each project.

9. Is there a minimum number of units an application may request ESSHI funding for?

ANSWER – There is no minimum or maximum number of units an application may request.

10. Can all units in a building be supported with ESSHI funding? For example, if a building is being renovated into four apartments, can all four apartments be supported with ESSHI funds for eligible populations?

ANSWER – There is no prohibition against all units in the building being supported with ESSHI funding as long as the population composition complies with the Olmstead requirements outlined in the RFP.

11. If a project involves repurposing of vacant residential units, is there a period of time that they must have been vacant?

ANSWER – No. However, to be eligible for ESSHI, such vacant units may not be subject to a regulatory agreement.

12. May an applicant proposing to serve individuals with SMI propose to have the individuals prioritized and referred to the project by the respective CoC instead of SPOA?

ANSWER – Projects contracting with OMH must utilize the SPOA for units serving individuals with SMI. Projects on contract with other State Contracting Agencies that include units for individuals with SMI are typically allowed to utilize the CoC for referrals.

13. For ESSHI eligibility and documentation purposes, does a CoC need to certify or attest to that an individual meets the criteria for long-term homelessness upon that individual's prioritization and referral?

ANSWER – The ESSHI contractor should be able to document that the household referred and accepted into an ESSHI program meets the definition of long term homeless as outlined in the ESSHI RFP. This documentation could come from the CoC or the local social services district or directly from a shelter.

14. If the applicant is proposing a subrecipient or subcontractor, will OMH require or accept a letter of support/linkage agreement/MOU from the proposed recipient/subcontracting agency?

ANSWER – Applicants are encouraged but not required to submit a linkage agreement or MOU for subcontracting relationships.

15. Can funding please identify which populations would be impacted under the Olmstead decision?

ANSWER –The following populations are impacted under the Olmstead decision: individuals with SMI, individuals with SUD, individuals with I/DD, individuals with a physical disability, and individuals living with HIV/AIDs. Applicants should refer to Section 1.1 of the RFP for more information on Olmstead requirements.

16. Is security an allowable contractual expense?

ANSWER – Security is an allowable contractual expense. Costs must be split proportionally between the ESSHI units and non-ESSHI units in a project.

17. Are service dollars an allowable expense? If yes, under which budget category should they be allocated?

ANSWER – Costs associated with eligible services and those that help the eligible target population remain stably housed are allowable expenses.

18. Section 1.1 of the RFP states that “ESSHI funds may not be utilized for a scattered site apartment housing model owned and operated by a private landlord.” (Page 9) If a non-profit organization leases apartments or an entire building from a private landlord, but operates the supportive housing units, is that permissible under this RFP?

ANSWER – Assuming it was linked to a housing development project that created new housing units through new construction, the adaptive reuse of non-residential space, or the repurposing of vacant units, a long term (at least 25 years) lease between a non-profit ESSHI contractor and a private landlord would be permissible under this RFP

19. Do we need to have property or properties identified for our project in order to submit a proposal? If a property is not identified at proposal submission, at what point in the process will the property need to be identified?

ANSWER – Organizations do not need to have a property/properties identified at the time of application. Conditional awardees will have two years to secure capital funding (which would necessitate having a property) before the conditional award expires.

20. Should we submit a proposal and receive an award, but as we work through the development process the number of units changes, will we be able to work with our contracting agency to alter our number of units or would we need to reapply?

ANSWER – Agencies with conditional awards may change the number of units so long as funding remains available. In doing so, conditional awardees may not add or eliminate any populations from what was proposed in the application.

21. Our organization has been asked to partner with another organization that is developing a PSH project. Our organization is being asked to provide services to DV survivors, a specific sub-population that will have a certain number of set-aside units within the project. The RFP states “the official applicant of this RFP must be the NFP organization that will manage the service and operating contract funds.” Can we apply directly for funding for the supportive services for DV victims that we would specifically provide or would the main entity need to apply and have us subcontract under them because they will be managing the overall operating and services costs?

ANSWER – If you intend to be a subcontractor to the other agency, that other agency should apply and reference the proposed subcontractual relationship. If your intent is to hold your own contract for funding, you should apply for the units you intend to support.

22. We are a small non-profit located in Brooklyn. We have Day Hab, Comm Hab, Respite, Pre-Vocational and Supported Employment programs for individuals who are diagnosed with IDD. We do not currently have a housing program but would like to apply for the ESSHI program. Is this possible and can you please advise on the steps we have to take in order to apply for this program. Also, is it easier for those

agencies that have a current housing portfolio to apply and be accepted into this program?

ANSWER – Organizations are eligible to apply if they have experience providing services and supports to help families, individuals, and/or youth/young adults that have disabling conditions or life challenges as identified in Section 1.4 of the RFP. Interested applicants should follow the instructions in the RFP to apply for funding through this program. The ESSHI workgroup cannot opine on if it is easier for agencies that have a current housing portfolio to apply and receive funding through this program.

23. Is there any special consideration for defined homeless “Young Adults” (18-25) who have children?

ANSWER – Young Adult households that have children are expected and still considered an eligible ESSHI population. Applicants should plan to ensure that ESSHI units targeting Young Adults within a project include a variety of unit sizes to accommodate households appropriately.

24. We are wondering if we should apply to Round 10. We submitted for Round 9 and were sent a conditional award letter. Per the letter, it states:

“It is expected that applicants secure capital funding for the housing project for which they are requesting service and operating funding through this RFP within two years from the date of this conditional award letter. If after two years from the date of this award, the applicant has not successfully secured commitments for the capital financing necessary for the project, the Interagency Workgroup may rescind the ESSHI award.”

We would like to confirm if the above would mean that we would only submit for Round 12 for 2028 if we still have not secured capital funding by that time?

ANSWER – Conditional awards are valid for a two-year period provided funding remains available under the initiative. Conditional awards for ESSHI Round 9 were issued in September 2026 so will expire in September 2027 (not 2028 as questioner poses).

25. Would share housing arrangements be permissible? For example, could a three-bedroom apartment occupied by three unrelated young adults – each with a private bedroom but sharing the kitchen, living room, and bathroom – qualify?

ANSWER – It is permissible for an ESSHI unit serving Young Adults to house unrelated individuals. However, not all capital funding sources will allow shared bathroom or kitchen facilities for permanent housing. Applicants should confirm that the intended capital funding source for the project will allow this approach.

26. Please confirm which recommendation form/format for the NYC CoC letter of recommendation OMH is requiring to submit for a response within the RFP timeline – the PDF form or the online Survey Monkey (or any other if applicable)?

ANSWER – All components of the application except the Application Workbook should be submitted as an Adobe PDF. The Application Workbook should be submitted as an Excel document.