

**Allegheny County
Department of Human Services
Request for Proposals Q&A**

RFP for Programs to Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness and Enhance Services and Outcomes for
People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

Amendments

September 1, 2022

We amended the RFP to use language more reflective of our commitment to harm reduction principles, replacing the term “clean time” with “time abstinent from substance use.” We apologize for any pain the prior language may have caused. DHS strives to make all its services welcoming, affirming and supportive of all individuals. We deleted the following sentence on page nine:

~~Programs must follow a Housing First model and serve Participants without regard to previous criminal history, clean time, employment, credit worthiness or other restrictive criteria.~~

and replaced it with the following sentence:

Programs must follow a Housing First model and serve Participants without regard to previous criminal history, time abstinent from substance use, employment, credit worthiness or other restrictive criteria.

Office Hours, September 10, 2022

1. For small non-profits, are there larger organizations that they can partner with to provide supportive services? For example, let's say Action Housing is a selected proposer, will they be able to outsource to other organizations to provide housing assistance, mental health services, etc.? And if this is a possibility, how would smaller organizations connect with these larger organizations to submit a joint proposal?

While we encourage collaboration between partners, currently, we do not play a direct role in connecting potential Proposers.

2. Is this RFP geared more for rental assistance providers or will actual housing providers be considered?

Housing providers may be considered if they are proposing a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) or Rapid Rehousing (RRH) program. PSH and RRH programs may provide rental assistance and/or housing, along with supportive services.

3. Will Recovery Housing be considered under this RFP under the Rapid Re-housing category?

This is not an RFP for recovery housing. We released an RFP for recovery housing last year. We cannot guarantee the next time DHS will solicit this service. However, you may propose any type of housing, as long as it meets the requirements listed in the RFP for the program(s) you are proposing.

4. Will we have to only take referrals through Allegheny Link/Coordinated Entry?

Yes, referrals to any program within the Allegheny County Continuum of Care (CoC) would be made through Allegheny Link/Coordinated Entry.

5. Is the entire Response Form required to be completed if one is proposing Supportive Services Only (SSO)?

No. You are only required to complete the Organizational Experience section and the section for the program(s) you are proposing. For example, if you are not proposing a PSH program, you do not need to complete that section.

6. If I do not have any matching funds, will my proposal still be considered?

A 25% match from the Successful Proposer(s) is required for all budget line items except leasing. The match may be cash, through additionally raised funds, or in-kind services. The match may not include a Proposer's current CoC funding. Upon selection, Successful Proposer(s) will be required to provide letters verifying all sources of matching funds.

In addition to this requirement, a 50% leveraging of housing and/or healthcare resources is being sought, and projects that effectively incorporate such leveraging will be prioritized. While this leveraging is a priority, projects without leveraging, or projects leveraging at a lower amount than required will still be considered.

7. On pages 9-10 of the Response Form, proposers are asked to enter the percentage of participants who will be coming from various locations such as emergency shelters, safe havens, directly from the street, etc. The referrals are already determined by the Allegheny Link, and programs don't have much control over this. How should proposers fill out this section?

The Response Form is reflective of the application DHS must submit to the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Thus, some enterable items may pertain more to DHS than to your program. Please complete the Response Form to the best of your ability. We will reach out if we require additional information.

8. For the health care piece of the leveraging, would that be something like folks being able to receive medical and dental services from a health care center? Or through counseling? And that wouldn't need to just center around substance use and mental health - it could be any health care services?

Correct, Proposers may leverage physical and/or mental health care services.

9. In the last round of HUD funding, Allegheny County lost some PSH programs. In this current round, is there a priority between RRH and PSH?

No, there is not a priority. We are seeking both.

10. For PSH performance reviews, are you still looking not only at unit utilization, but at bed utilization?

HUD changes their requirements from cycle to cycle. However, in the most recent cycle, they are looking at unit utilization, not bed utilization.

11. With the new requirement for leveraging health care or housing, if a proposer is leveraging housing, wouldn't this really be considered SSO since HUD is not paying for the unit?

No. As mentioned in the RFP, SSO programs do not provide housing/housing costs.

September 15, 2022

12. On page 7 of the response form, there is an n/a in the field for children of chronically homeless vets... I am assuming this is a mistake. This is in the PSH section for Persons in Households WITH children.

Persons in Households WITH children				
	Adults over age 24	Adults ages 18-24	Children ages 0-17	Total Persons
Chronically Homeless Non-Veterans	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #
Chronically Homeless Veterans	Enter #	Enter #	n/a	Enter #
Non-Chronically Homeless Veterans	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #
Chronic Substance Use	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #
People with HIV/AIDS	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #
People with Severe Mental Illness	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #
Victims of Domestic Violence	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #
People with a Physical Disability	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #
People with a Developmental Disability	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #
People not represented by listed subpopulations	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #	Enter #

No, this is not a mistake.

Amendments

September 15, 2022

The Response Form has been amended to include additional room options for the Rental Assistance Budget Detail Charts in the PSH and RRH portions of the form. Previously, the chart only provided line options for 0–2 bedroom units. Now, the chart includes line options for three and four bedroom units as demonstrated below:

PSH Program Persons							
Rental Assistance Budget Detail							
Size of Units	Number of Units		2021 Fair Market Rent		Number of Months		Total
SRO*	Enter #	X	535	X	12	=	Enter \$
0 bedroom	Enter #	X	714	X	12	=	Enter \$
1 bedroom	Enter #	X	772	X	12	=	Enter \$
2 bedroom	Enter #	X	940	X	12	=	Enter \$
3 bedroom	Enter #	X	1,206	X	12	=	Enter \$
4 bedroom	Enter #	X	1,321	X	12	=	Enter \$
Total	Enter #	X	Enter \$	X	12	=	Enter \$

*SRO = Single Room Occupancy

September 29, 2022

13. Can you please define the term “Partner”? Additionally, how should we refer to a “Partner” who is not formally a co-applicant together within a collaborative Proposal?

As defined in Section 4.2.c. of the RFP, collaborative Proposals consist of a Lead Agency and its Partner(s) who must be committed to a role in carrying out the Contract Services and will be compensated for that role.

On the Response Form, there is a specific question which asks you to list your Partner(s) for this Proposal. Any agency not specifically listed as a Partner will not be considered a Partner to your Proposal.