

# SUPPORTIVE HOUSING NEEDS AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## **Timeline**

Q1: Will DSHS provide an extension to the submission deadline for the Supportive Housing Needs and Capacity Assessment?

A1: DSHS intends to contract for services beginning on September 1, 2013. Therefore, the deadline for submission of proposals cannot be extended.

Proposals received after this date may be considered at the sole discretion of DSHS. Funding of late proposals will depend, in part, on availability of funds. Additionally, submission of proposals after the deadline may affect the contract start date.

## **Definitions**

Q2: What is the definition of Homelessness?

A2: HUD's definition of Homelessness is as follows: Those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and Those who have a primary nighttime residence that is:

1. A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
2. An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
3. A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Q3: What is the definition for Imminent Risk of Homelessness?

A3: HUD's definition is an individual or family who will imminently lose (within 14 days) their primary nighttime residence provided that no subsequent residence has been identified and the individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.

## **Budget**

Q4: How much money is available across the state?

A4: There will be approximately \$10.7 million allocated to implement this project.

Q5: How much money is available to each center?

A5: There is not a defined amount of money available to each center; allocations will be based on the projects proposed.

Q6: Is there a match requirement?

A6: No match is required.

Q7: Is the money going to be available for renewal on an annual basis?

A7: The Texas Legislature appropriated funds for FY14 and FY15. Assuming good utilization and outcomes, it is not anticipated that funding will be discontinued.

Q8: Section II. F requests budgets for FY13 and FY14. Will any months in FY13 be considered program eligible months?

A8: The original broadcast incorrectly stated FY13; the funding will be for FY14 and 15. A broadcast has been sent correcting this information. Dollars are specifically allocated for FY14 and FY15. Only services provided in those months will be counted.

Q9: Will the funding cover the salary, travel, etc. of the "Housing Specialist" that will be dedicated to this project?

A9: No, as specified in Section B "Key Program Components," funding is specifically for rental and utility stipends, which are to augment on-going clinical services.

### **General**

Q10: Can this funding be used to pay for "short-term" or "long-term" housing for persons who want to live in a licensed boarding care facility?

A10: Applicants should clearly identify the housing locations they are intending to use with these dollars. The Department's priorities are integrated living options as specified by the SAMHSA Permanent Supportive Housing Toolkit.

Q11: Is this funding only one year per client?

A11: Funding is for FY14 and 15. After utilization of these dollars, expectations are for LMHAs to work to explore alternative options and to identify resources that aid in maintaining housing standards in alignment with the SAMHSA PSH Toolkit. Some of these resources include, but are not limited to, working with individuals receiving services to gain employment and/or assistance from other entities to offset daily living costs.

Q12: When will funds be awarded?

A12: Funds will be awarded at the start of FY14.

Q13: Is it required to apply for both long and short term housing?

A13: Although the NCA asks that LMHAs ask for a balance of long-term and short-term housing, it is not required to apply for both long and short-term housing. Submit proposals based on the specific needs identified in your local service area. For additional guidance on how funds should be budgeted, please refer to Section A. 2(a) of the Supportive Housing Needs and Capacity Assessment.

Q14: What income criteria do we have to set?

A14: Setting income criteria is a local decision but should generally be consistent with the Performance Contract and the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). In general, the Department recommends that LMHAs base funding on need, which may include determining income criteria in addition to adhering to the definition(s) of homelessness status as referenced under the definitions section Q & A 2-3 of this FAQ document.

Q15: Can we make "seeking employment" or "educational opportunities" a condition of the long-term housing?

A15: The criteria set forth in the NCA do not prevent this from being a condition of long-term housing. As previously indicated in the 'general' section, Q & A 11, it is recommended that LMHAs submitting proposals continually explore additional resources to aid in maintaining housing standards that are in alignment with the SAMHSA PSH Toolkit. Please note that while many individuals may need employment or educational support, requiring participation in services does not meet the highest fidelity according to the SAMHSA Supportive Housing Toolkit. Please specify if using LMHA units is a part of your proposal.

Q16: Can the funds be used for a local authority owned complex?

A16: Funding is designated specifically for rental and utility assistance and may be used to support individuals who are living in a local authority owned complex. However, please refer to the SAMHSA Supportive Housing Toolkit which encourages integrated housing whenever possible. In addition, please reference Section B, 2(a,b) for guidance regarding the additional considerations for types of housing these dollars may be leveraged for.

Q17: Where is the continuation of footnote 1 in Section II.B?

A17: Please disregard the footnote.

Q18: Why is short-term assistance limited to “imminently homeless” and long-term assistance limited to “homeless” when it does not take into account their functional status?

A18: For most persons meeting the definition of homeless, more than short-term assistance will be required. However, if this is sufficient, that is acceptable. The funding guidelines are structured in accordance with homelessness as defined in the Housing NCA as opposed to functional status. The Department understands that there are those who present with a higher need that may require more resources to stabilize their housing and/or other areas of functioning; therefore, the scope of your proposal should include/capture how you will use these funds to augment on-going clinical services that are occurring during and after the funds have been expended.

Q19: Are the funds already set and will be awarded based on the competitive review?

A19: The distribution of funds will be based on the proposals submitted. There is no specific amount designated per proposal.

Q20: Are we able to pay for care in a Licensed Assisted Living Facility for those who are not able to manage housing on their own?

A20: As indicated in Q & A 10 under the ‘general’ section, The Department will give priority to proposals that utilized the guidelines in the SAMHSA Supportive Housing Toolkit as it relates to integrated settings and voluntary participation in services.

Q21: Is it possible to use the long-term funding for Critical Time Clients?

A21: Funding is based on homelessness status. If the individual is homeless or imminently homeless then, yes, funding can be used for those individuals.

Q22: Usually with housing stipends, the apartment chosen by the consumer must pass a housing inspection. Is there a plan for this?

A22: This funding is allocated by the Legislature and does not have specific requirements regarding housing inspections in order to access these dollars. However, the Needs and Capacity Assessment specifies utilization of the SAMHSA Supportive Housing Toolkit in determining appropriate and safe housing. We encourage you to provide ongoing supportive services to clients to help them obtain and maintain appropriate housing.