



OFFICIAL RESPONSES TO VENDOR QUESTIONS RFA-2024-DBH-01-STATE

No.	Question	Answer
1.	<p>General</p> <p>A. Is there a budget sheet that Vendors need to complete for this RFA?</p> <p>B. Is there a list of other documents you would like attached i.e. Certificate of Good Standing, 501(c)3 letter, Board of Directors roster, etc.?</p>	<p>General</p> <p>A. No, Vendors are not required to submit a budget for this RFA. Please see Section 2.3. Finance, Subsection 2.3.3. for how funding will be provided. Please also see Subsections 2.3.1. through 2.3.2. for how funding will be awarded.</p> <p>B. Please see Section 6. Solicitation Response Requirements for the list of required components. Selected Vendors will be required to submit supporting documents, such as a Certificate of Good Standing, Board of Directors list, audited financial statements, etc. at the time of contracting.</p>
2.	<p>Section 1.1.</p> <p>We are a statewide organization representing 11 domestic violence shelters. Each of those shelters serves a specific geographic region. Will the state accept one compilation application that delineates which agencies will be serving the unhoused in which counties?</p>	<p>No, Vendors proposing to provide services in more than one (1) county must submit a separate application for each county in order for the Department to make awards according to the methodology outlined in Section 2.3. Finance. If a Vendor receives more than one (1) award, the awards will be consolidated into one (1) contract.</p>
3.	<p>Section 1.4.2.</p> <p>The Objective of the RFA does not appear to include the provision of Homeless Intervention Services by agencies that do not operate a year-round shelter. Is that the intent of this RFA?</p>	<p>This RFA is for year round shelter services only. Please see Addendum #1. Homeless Intervention Services are not included in this RFA.</p>



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4.	<p>Section 1.4.3 A. Are individuals and families at-risk of homelessness part of the covered population? This group is not specifically listed in Section 1.4.3 Covered Populations, but are referenced in Section 2.1. Scope of Services in Paragraph 2.1.1. Please clarify whether individuals and families who are at risk of homelessness are included in the covered population for this program. For example, would a family that will be evicted from their apartment within 1-2 weeks be eligible, or must they first be evicted and become homeless in order to become eligible?</p> <p>B. Are those who are experiencing homelessness by having to couch surf or double-up in unstable housing eligible for services in this RFA?</p>	<p>A. Yes, please see Addendum #1. Individuals and families at-risk of homelessness are eligible to receive services.</p> <p>B. Yes.</p>
5.	<p>Section 2.1. The Scope of Services does not mention year-round shelters although the term is used in other places in the RFA. Would an agency that operates a year round daytime drop-in center for people experiencing homelessness coupled with a seasonal (winter) overnight shelter be eligible for this grant?</p>	<p>No. Only Vendors that operate year-round shelters are eligible to apply. Please see Addendum #1.</p>
6.	<p>Section 2.1.1.4. Our program is a transitional housing program where individuals and families are placed in one of our apartments, and they have a lease, and receive a rental subsidy and intensive case management services. Please clarify if transitional housing programs that place people in apartments are required to provide air conditioning and full furnishings.</p>	<p>Transitional housing programs are required to provide essential furnishings, such as beds, table and chairs, couch and/or living room chairs, dishes, etc. Air conditioning is not required.</p>



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7.	<p>Section 2.1.2. Please clarify if transitional housing programs are required to use the Coordinated Entry system. Is this a new requirement for transitional housing programs?</p>	<p>Yes, transitional housing programs are required to participate in the State of New Hampshire’s Coordinated Entry Program, either as a referral organization, or an intake organization. This is not a new requirement for transitional housing programs.</p>
8.	<p>Sections 2.1.5.2. and 2.1.5.6.5. A. Will transitional housing programs, placing individuals and families in program apartments be required to accept applicants who are in active substance use disorder, or who have a history of violent crime or property destruction, or who are registered sex offenders? B. Regarding policies and procedures, will there be special consideration for Transitional Housing providers regarding low barrier access when serving families?</p>	<p>A. Yes. Selected Vendors must not decline access to shelter for the reasons stated in Section 2.1.5.2. Known circumstances or conditions, such as a registered sex offender not being within a certain distance to children, need to be considered for an appropriate placement. If an appropriate placement is not available, the Vendor must notify the referral agency. If it is a walk-in scenario, the Vendor must work with other providers to assist with finding an appropriate placement.</p> <p>B. No, Transitional Housing providers are expected to meet low barrier requirements when serving families and have policies and procedures specifically around low barrier access available for review, at least annually, by the Department.</p> <p>Also, please see Addendum #1</p>
9.	<p>Section 2.1.5.4. Does "honoring a family's stated identity, and not split sheltering" mean that adult couples with no children or family and/or household groups which include only adults (example: adult parent of 60 and an adult child of 40), who do not identify as the same gender, or prefer a specific gendered area due to safety reasons, are to be sheltered in a separate space together away from the usual adult congregate shelter spaces, or in family shelter spaces where families with minor children share common areas?</p>	<p>Yes. It is expected that every shelter, to the best of its ability, accommodates and keeps the identified family unit together as one, even if it does not have minor children present. This may mean that a shelter will help a family connect with a Regional Access Point, municipal welfare office, or other social service agency to ensure that the family can be accommodated if there is not physical space available.</p>
10.	<p>Section 2.2. Mandatory Questions, Q2. Each of the 12 member program crisis centers</p>	<p>Yes, that is acceptable.</p>



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	<p>across the state are bound by privileged communication and confidentiality as laid out in Revised Statute Annotated (RSA) 173-C. https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XII/173-C/173-C-6.htm). This confidentiality extends to the physical location of the crisis center shelters. Is it acceptable to utilize the office address instead of the individual shelter locations' addresses for these reasons?</p>	
11.	<p>Sections 2.3.1. and 2.3.2. Do selected Vendors have to allocate the total award amount proportionally to the number of beds at each location, or can they allocate the total sum of funds based on need across all eligible properties?</p> <p>Example: If Shelter X has historically been more expensive to operate and receives less outside funding sources than Shelter Y, can more of the total RFA award funds be allocated towards the Shelter X beds than the Shelter Y beds, or would they be restricted/capped to the proportional amount per property based on the beds available at the given locations?</p>	<p>Vendors may allocate funds across all eligible properties as long as they are within the same county. Vendors must submit invoices for actual expenses incurred.</p>
12.	<p>Section 2.3.2.1. This section states that "Funding will be awarded to the highest scoring Applicant in each county in order of the Point in Time (PIT) sheltered counts, from highest count to lowest count..."</p> <p>A. How will Greater Nashua and Manchester be considered as they are both in Hillsborough County?</p>	<p>A. Greater Nashua and Manchester will both be considered in the scoring for Hillsborough County as separate applicants. Please see Section 2.3.2.1. The highest scoring Applicant will be awarded funding. If funding remains after initial awards are made, remaining funding will be awarded to the second highest scoring Applicant in each county in order of the PIT sheltered counts, from highest count to lowest count, and so forth until all funding is exhausted. The Department anticipates that more than 1 applicant will be awarded in Hillsborough County.</p>



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	B. How can smaller Transitional Housing programs compete with larger serving organizations?	B. The Department's intent of the funding methodology is to strive towards making funding awards in each county to ensure statewide coverage.
13.	Section 2.3.2.3. Are the numbers that are reflected in the 2023 PIT count only for those who were sheltered on the night of the 2023 PIT count in each county?	Yes.
14.	Section 4.1.3. The last sentence in bold appears to be missing words. Will that be fixed?	Please see Addendum #1.
15.	Appendix D, Question 6 "Emergency situations" is broad. Can the Department provide more context about the meaning of "emergency situations?" Do you want to know our ability to or process for working with the Department and other entities to address emergencies like the severe cold weather experienced last February?	Emergency situations may include, but are not limited to pandemic outbreaks, severe weather (cold and hot weather), fires, floods, or any other natural disaster or act of God, sprinkler malfunction, power outage, or other unexpected situation that renders the facility uninhabitable for a period of time.