

2016 Homeless Housing Operations and Services RFP

Workshop Questions from Applicants

8/25/2015

**Q: When serving others that are NOT homeless with those who are, is this correct RFP to apply under?**

Projects funded under the HHOS RFP should be serving a homeless population. If you have a project that serves homeless and non-homeless population you should contact CHHS staff to discuss the appropriate RFP to apply under.

**Q: What about capital projects for homeless serving organizations?**

Capital projects should apply under the 2016 Capital, Housing, Economic Development, Blight and Non – Homeless Services RFP.

**Q: Does the supportive services project type include any rental assistance?**

The Support Services for Permanent Housing does not pay for rental assistance for clients.

**Q: Will the agency be required to submit policies and procedures or other attachments listed in the application for each project application they submit?**

The attachments detailed in the RFP are connected with the City of Spokane CHHS pre-award risk assessment document. One risk assessment document is needed per agency not project.

**Q: If you are collaborating with other agencies and one may not be asking for funding do they need to submit an application with the other agencies that are?**

No, agencies that are collaborating with another agency but not seeking funding do not need to apply under this RFP. Only projects seeking funding need to apply. It is important to detail partners and their role in the application.

**Q: Is there a scoring evaluation tool that the agency can see that will be used to review when making recommendations of funding?**

No, but the evaluation and review process is detailed on page 20 of the Funding Notice.

**Q: Is prior performance taking into consideration in the evaluation tool?**

Yes, the RFP review committee will be provided with project performance for projects currently funded through CHHS.

**Q: Can you say who the review committee is?**

The committee consists of members from the CHHS RFP committee and non-funded CoC committee members.

**Q: Can you send out the presentation from today?**

The presentation will be posted on our website under the Homeless Housing, Operations and Services RFP page. <https://my.spokanecity.org/chhs/funding-opportunities/homeless-housing-services/>

**Q: If the priority for DV programs is equal then preference will be given to the shelter programs and services or advocacy?**

Emergency Shelters serving victims of domestic violence are prioritized under this RFP's Human Services Grant funds. Advocacy projects serving victims of domestic violence should apply under the 2016 Capital, Housing, Economic Development, Blight and Non –Homeless Services RFP.

**Q: There seems to be a shift nationally in funding for emergency shelter programs and we don't see that in Spokane can you explain why?**

Both nationally and locally a shift had occurred that identifies emergency shelters as an important component of the homeless system. Emergency shelters should be accessible to provide shelter for the unsheltered population and have a focus on exiting clients to permanent housing.

**Q: Will there be a report on the outcomes of the TIP with the increase in funding prioritized already for that area?**

The CHHS department is just implementing projects with a TIP preference. The department is working on developing reporting mechanisms that will show outcomes for these investments and the TIP outcomes will be included.

**Q: I see the performance measures have been identified already, am I supposed to then just provide the appropriate baseline information and then the measurement I plan to make in the performance period of the award?**

Yes.

**Q: What about if an agency doesn't have projects/activities funded under HMIS because they are new, how will we get our baseline information?**

New project types or projects who haven't developed a baseline because they haven't entered previous data into HMIS can work with CHHS staff to develop a baseline or provide a baseline developed from other sources.

**Q: Personnel and direct costs are the only costs applied to the indirect cost rate when I am preparing my budget?**

Eligible cost under detailed in Section I in the RFP Budget Worksheet. For additional information please contact the appropriate CHHS staff.

**Q: Is the next RFP session a different presentation than the one today?**

Yes.

**Q: If there is a partnering application, can one of the partners apply for a combined program that might serve both homeless and non-homeless in the program?**

All projects considered under this RFP, whether in a partnership or a stand along project, need to be serving a homeless population and providing an eligible activity (list in Appendix A of the RFP Notice).

**Q: In the requirements of the current RFP does everything go through Coordinated Assessment, does the family one go through the same process of coordination as well?**

All homeless housing projects funded through the HHOS RFP must use Coordinated Assessment for placements.

**Q: Chronic Homeless present challenges to program success and none of the measures presented adequately demonstrate an outcome for these types of individuals due to the population type, why can't we use other more appropriate measures to represent an outcome applicable to the population type, like reduction in emergency room visits?**

While those are great measures they aren't measurable in HMIS. We are moving toward consistent performance measure across funding streams that can be pulled from HMIS.

**Q: In Appendix A what kind of costs are considered moving costs when related to that category?**

Reasonable moving costs such as truck rental and hiring a moving company.

**Q: Does sobriety include a barrier to entry?**

It can be a barrier to program entry. This could be considered in a project that is providing project-based services to clients exiting a treatment facility.

**Q: Are individuals allowed to come directly into a homeless program from a treatment facility?**

Yes, as long as they meet the homeless requirement of the program they are entering.

**Q: Could an agency partner with another to coordinate individuals into a TH program when coming out of a treatment program?**

Yes.

**Q: In the description of the RFP when applying for TH, we can serve individuals with addiction, it asks for those who are exiting institutions – does that include jails too?**

This does not include jail. The identified priority population for Transitional Housing projects are: victims of domestic violence who are homeless because of the DV incident; clients exiting a treatment facility, clients entering a mental health facility and independent youth.

**Q: Do the moving costs does that come out of the direct assistance funds?**

Yes.

Q: What is the staffing model?

Currently Rapid Re-housing projects are funded with 54%- direct assistance and 46% staffing.

**Q: Can we put office costs under the salary portion of the positions?**

Yes.

**Q: What costs does the indirect rate apply in my budget?**

Eligible cost under detailed in Section I in the RFP Budget Worksheet. For additional information please contact the appropriate CHHS staff.

**Q: Does everyone need to do coordinated entry when more than one agency is providing support, especially where one agency is providing the voucher and the other providing the service?**

Yes. Coordinated Assessment is required for all projects and housing projects funded and supported in this RFP. If an applicant is applying for funds to provide support services in housing after clients have exited the homeless system that project should apply under the the 2016 Capital, Housing, Economic Development, Blight and Non –Homeless Services RFP.

**Q: If we apply for CoC funding, can we fill gaps in budget by applying to a different RFP to help bridge deficits under a single source?**

Yes.

**Q: Does support services does not include security, like maintaining visual presence and safety of entrance of shelter and participants?**

That activity can be funded under Site Management category.

**Q: Can we request funding specifically for property damage over and above what's allowed in the CoC program in our budget?**

There is not funding in this application property damage.

**Q: Why are day centers not eligible to apply for Outreach funds?**

The intent of the outreach funds is to support projects who are reaching the unsheltered population who are not connected to other services. Staff could be based at a current facility but the project will be evaluated based on how they are reaching those that are unsheltered and not connected to services.