



Office of Mental Health

Questions and Answers for the Supported Housing for Adults with Serious Mental Illness Being Released from State Prison RFP

- 1. How will OMH work with clients and providers to incorporate client choice and the realities of the NYC housing market with finding an appropriate unit in an appropriate borough or neighborhood?**

OMH Pre-Release Services staff work closely with clients, providers and parole (if applicable) to explore all available housing options, including mental health housing. Pre-Release Services staff work with NYC mental health housing providers, through the Reentry Coordination System, to make referrals for mental health housing. Mental health housing providers are then invited to engage the client in a video-teleconference interview pre-release.

- 2. Will MRT enhancement funds be available to those who move into backfill?**

MRT enhancement funds are only available to those individuals who move directly into the Supported Housing unit, not for backfills.

- 3. Can you apply for less than 25 beds?**

Yes. You can apply for less than 25 beds, not to exceed 25.

- 4. What is the process for a parole officer to approve an apartment? Site visit required?**

Field parole officers investigate proposed housing options, which often include a site visit, to determine if the address meets parole criteria.



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5. How far in advance will providers know what the preferred/required borough is for the parolee?

For individuals releasing on parole supervision, the borough of release is available to the providers as part of the referral packet. For individuals not releasing on parole supervision, the borough of choice by the client will be contained in the referral packet.

5b. How long will the provider have to mount the bed?

All units must be mounted within 12 months of contract award. Once a referral is made however the housing provider should work diligently with parole to locate appropriate housing options.

6. Can you provide outcomes associated with NYC dedicated forensic transitional case management?

The NYC dedicated forensic transitional case management program has assisted clients with access to mental health services and entitlements, including mental health housing, for over a decade. The teams, comprised of professional clinical staff, are trained in working with individuals with serious mental illness on achieving stability and access to behavioral health needs in the community. The dedicated forensic transitional case management teams work closely with dedicated mental health parole officers to ensure interagency collaboration to promote successful community reentry.

7. How would backfill work? County specific?

An agency may choose to do backfill only if the housing agency has viable housing backfill options within their own agency to utilize. See Answer to question # 5a regarding borough for housing placement, as the same would apply with backfill placements.

8. Are enhanced services funding through RCS provided for backfill placements?

The enhanced service funding through RCS is available to serve the individual with SMI who is being released from prison. The funding is available regardless of whether or not the individual is going directly into the Supported Housing or into a more supervised housing setting.