



Office of Mental Health

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

9. For how long must a bed be held due to long-term hospitalization or incarceration? For how long must contingency funds be applied before terminating a lease/sub-lease with the provider under these circumstances?

A provider should attempt to maintain an individual's apartment during periods of brief absenteeism when their plan is to return to the apartment following brief hospitalization or incarceration. Each situation should be assessed on an individual basis with regards to a time frame. Contingency funds can be used to pay the recipients portion of the rent during brief absenteeism.

10. How does the intake and preadmission process work for this population from referral to admission date in order to assure a smooth transition into the community setting?

OMH Pre-Release Services will coordinate with the Reentry Coordination System, operated by CUCS, on the referral process for mental health housing, forensic case management and clinic services. The Reentry Coordination System will send the housing referral packet to the housing provider to review. RCS will facilitate the scheduling of the video teleconference interview for the provider to interview the potential client. RCS will also assign a forensic case manager who will connect with the client pre-release and facilitate the day of release discharge plan. The forensic case manager will coordinate the discharge plan with the housing provider pre-release in order to ensure a smooth transition to the community.

11. Does a forensic client who is placed into Level II housing count as a direct placement or backfill if they later graduate from the Level II program into one of these new SH beds?

The forensic client would be considered a backfill.

12. The most effective use of enhanced services funding would be to enhance the frequency and intensity of time dedicated by Supported housing staff who develop a trusting relationship with the tenant in order to provide additional home visits, facilitation of community integration activities, and escorts, as well as in collaboration with other providers, especially during the initial period of re-integration into the community.

Would a routine request to use the bulk of enhanced services funding for this purpose be acceptable?

All requests for the enhanced service funding must be made based on an Individual's assessed needs. There should not be routine requests, rather individualized plans that would assist a client during his or her re-integration into the community. The enhanced services funding is temporary and is used to assist an individual with his/her transition back into the community; the funding is not to be used to permanently enhance the staffing of the program.

13. What is the expected time frame from referral to move-in date? How much lead time will agencies get before the individual is expected to move into housing?

The time frame from referral to move-in will vary and is driven by when an individual's actual release date is set. For some individuals OMH Pre-Release Services is notified weeks in advance of release and for others the release date can be imminent. When possible, move-in dates should correspond with the date of release.

14. How will prospective tenants tour locations that are available to them in order for them to exercise choice in selecting where to live, to meet current roommates, and otherwise exercise choice in selecting a housing setting prior to release?

Individuals will not be able to tour locations until they are released from prison to the community but there are other ways to engage the individual pre-release to ensure their voice is heard in this process. The provider will also need to work with DOCCS field parole (when the individual is under post-release supervision) to ensure locations and roommates are approved prior to confirming placement.

15. What if clients are released and then refuse to live in the location that they have previously selected? What will be the responsibility of the housing provider at that point?

Housing providers should work with each person on an individual basis. If the client refuses a location they previously accepted, the housing provider should work with the client and his/her treatment team and Parole Officer to understand the reasons why the person is refusing and if necessary identify an appropriate alternative location for the individual.

16. What is the current Supported Housing operating rate for NYC and what amount should we use when completing our budget?

The current Supported Housing rate for NYC is \$15,874. Please use \$15,874 per unit when calculating the budget.