



**Office of
Mental Health**

**Scattered Site Supportive Housing for Individuals
Re-Entering the Community from Prison**

Questions & Answers

Q1. Can participants be placed in a transitional housing setting prior to placement in supportive housing, or do they have to come to the program directly from incarceration?

A1. Eligible tenants are those re-entering the community directly from a New York State prison or those who are within one year of release from prison.

Q2. Does the provider agency do the recruitment/referral of participants to the SPOA, or is that done by someone in the incarceration setting or elsewhere?

A2. All referrals, including community referrals, must come from or be reviewed by CNYPC Pre-Release Services. SPOA works closely with CNYPC staff on maintaining real time census.

Q3. With regard to Section 1.2 Allocation of Scattered Site Units, Must applicants apply for all of the units available in a respective county(ies)? For example, if 20 units are available in a given county, must an applicant apply for all 20 units? May an applicant choose to apply for fewer units than those available per county(ies)?

A3. Applicants must apply for all the units in a designated county/program.

Q4. With regard to Section 1.2 Allocation of Scattered Site Units, the RFP reads "in programs where multiple counties are served, it is the expectation that units will be sited across the identified counties based on need/referrals." If an applicant is proposing to serve multiple counties, must the applicant allocate the number of units it plans to dedicate per county within its proposal? If an applicant is proposing to serve multiple counties, is the expectation for an awardee to site units as indicated by the SPOA referrals/need, rather than a pre-determined allocation of units per county?

A4. Applicants need not designate the number of units per county in a multi-county program. It is expected that units will be sited based on need. As that need will likely fluctuate over time, so too will the number of units sited in each particular county within a program.

Q5. Section 5.3 Operating Funding states that "Staffing for this program must include a peer with lived experience with the criminal justice experience." Are there any credentialing requirements (for example, New York Certified Peer Specialist) for the peer staffing requirement in the staffing plan of this RFP?

A5. While not required, it is encouraged that peers obtain credentialing prior to or after beginning employment as a peer specialist.

Q6. What is the maximum amount that OMH will award an agency per year? In section 5.3 you indicate that “contractors in the Central New York region will receive annual funding at \$18,000 per unit.” Does that mean that if we were to propose providing Scattered Site Supportive Housing for 10 Individuals, the maximum amount we could be awarded would be \$180,000 per year? Or would the \$180,000 be in addition to the rental cost associated with the 10 units (approx. \$940 per unit per month) which would mean the award would be approximately \$292,800 per year?

A6. The funding amounts identified in Section 5.3 of the RFP is the total amount of state aid available for both rental stipends and operating costs. In the scenario above, the annual operating contract for a 10-bed program in the Central region would be \$180,000.

Q7. RFP Section 5.1 (“Scope of Work/Introduction”), page 16, indicates: “At least 80% of all referrals made to a provider must be accepted and admitted to the program.” How will the 80% acceptance and admission rate(s) be defined? Will those people referred who voluntarily withdraw prior to placement be counted against providers, or simply excluded from the calculation? Will individuals determined to be ineligible for placement (based on initial screenings and assessments vetted toward program eligibility criteria) be counted against providers, or simply excluded from the calculation?

A7. Voluntary withdrawn applications will not be considered as part of the calculated acceptance rate. OMH expects eligibility criteria to be vetted by the SPOA, with only applications meeting criteria to be forwarded for consideration.

Q8. Also related to the 80% acceptance rate for potential participants: Will providers be able to “accept” individuals to start in a Congregate Treatment Community Residence (CR)—when that is clinically most appropriate for a client—as part of the daisy-chain continuum of housing in our region... and to promote (from a CR or Apartment Treatment Program) into this new Supportive Housing grant another individual who is eligible for these services? Our licensed CRs act functionally as a form of Nassau County supportive housing, and we’ve found that many members of this forensically-involved population achieve greatest success when starting in CR, and then advance into Apartment Treatment Programming or Supportive Housing. We would still plan to house 20 additional individuals-in-need with the aid of the funding from this new grant.

A8. Yes, providers can utilize the daisy chain as described above in instances where a higher level of care is determined to be needed .

Q9. In our experience, clients who must register as sex offenders may not be eligible for housing in some of the areas stood up for this Supportive Housing. What % does OMH estimate grant recipients should expect as we plan for housing individuals with such a criminal justice offense (so we may adequately assess needs in terms of distance from schools, etc.)? Will those highly-difficult-to-place individuals count toward the required 80% acceptance rate (and require the same placement timeframes as other re-entrants)—if no housing is available for them, or we need to accept them into another form of housing? What are the consequences of failing to meet such requirements?

A9. OMH anticipates the number of individuals referred to these programs with housing restrictions to be negligible. In the limited instances where referrals for those individuals are received, providers are expected to attempt to site apartments that comply with the court order.

Q10. For referrals for housing through this program, can a provider potentially self-refer (via SPOA) an eligible individual; for example: can we refer from our FACT team clients?

A10. Yes

Q11. Is the State open to considering multi-unit apartments to ensure the financial sustainability of this program? In particular, is OMH open to multi-unit (like two-bedroom) apartments in counties like Nassau and Suffolk where BOTH lack single-unit rental availability AND exorbitant rental unit costs have been featured in local and national news as recently as August 2023?

A11. While OMH believes the target population for this opportunity is better served in single units, two-bedroom units will be considered on a limited basis.

Providers should also be mindful that DOCCS approves housing for individuals on Parole. As such, it is recommended that applicants consider collaborating with Parole and obtain clear direction regarding the approval of parolees living with non-parolees in shared apartments.