

## Questions

### 1. How does the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) work?

- The RAP vouchers are provided by the Department of Housing. An individual is expected to pay no more than 30% of their household income in rent. The RAP voucher covers the balance of the rent and is paid directly to the property manager.
- There is a Rent Subsidy Coordinator in each region. This is the staff person who will assist you with the information about the application and enrollment process.
- Recertification for the RAP voucher happens annually.

### 2. How are utilities addressed?

- Assistance with utilities is included in the RAP voucher.

### 3. When approaching property managers, what incentives do they have to participate in this program?

- Housing developments have often already committed to creating units designed for members of special populations like individuals we support and have received funding from the state to do so. Often developers need to increase the representation of individuals from special populations to avoid being out of compliance.
- The individuals we support provide stability to their complex tenant profile because they come with rental assistance and tend to be long term stable residents. Moreover, the individuals we support bring with them the provider's commitment to ongoing services and to adjust the services as needed.
- Consistency in rental income, along with the commitment to positive community engagement and provision of on-site staff makes our presence in the complex desirable.

### 4. How do we handle security deposits?

- If an individual does not have the resources for a security deposit, the provider could take the deposit from the \$25k startup money and ask for very small payments until provider is fully reimbursed.

### 5. What are the criteria for the second payment to be made?

- When the number of individuals committed to within the proposal successfully transitions to Supportive Housing, the final payment will be issued to the provider.
- Transitions to supportive housing can be done in phases as individuals feel ready for the move and as units become available, slowly working up to the anticipated number and eligibility for the final payment.

### 6. What information is expected in the item marked "lease" on the application?

- You should explain if a lease is required; and if so, what are the conditions of the lease? For example, what is the amount of rent, where and when is it due? Is there a grace period for late rent? Is there a prohibition against pets? Are there specific rubbish removal expectations? What is the length of time covered by the rent? What are the consequences for breaking a lease agreement? You may add a copy of the lease agreement template if it is made available to you.

### 7. What if an individual requires a guarantor?

- It is preferable that a family member or legal guardian serve as guarantor. Otherwise, we encourage you to follow the existing (provider) organization policy on serving as a guarantor.

### 8. Are there priority areas in the state to fill the need?

- The map attached to the NOO shows where there are already Supportive Housing projects. Those areas of the state where no current Supportive Housing project is identified are our priorities. Among the

areas where we have the greatest need are the East, Northeast, Northwest, and Southwest areas of the state.

**9. Are multi-family homes appropriate for this proposal?**

- No, Multi-family homes fall outside the supportive housing model which is focused on large multi-dwelling developments usually managed by third party management entities. Developments would need to have a minimum of 8 units in order to be considered, and the 25% threshold must be adhered to.

**10. Will there be follow-up consultation and an opportunity to adjust proposals after submission?**

- When the proposal is initially submitted by the provider for consideration, there will not be an opportunity for consultation. We must maintain a fair deliberation process with the review committee. However, once a proposal is selected and an award letter has been issued, there will be ongoing collaboration with the region. We understand adjustments may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.

**11. If there is any need for clarification in the application process, what resources are available?**

- Any question that arises should be submitted in writing to Kyle Fishbein at [kyle.fishbein@ct.gov](mailto:kyle.fishbein@ct.gov). Questions and answers will be posted here on the DDS website.

**12. What is the anticipated timeline for decisions after submission date.**

- Approximately 6 weeks. We anticipate announcing decisions in mid-December of this year.

**13. Can startup money be used to rent a unit(s) without having an individual ready to relocate to secure the unit(s)?**

- Yes, startup money can be used to secure a unit prior to an individual being ready to relocate.

**14. Will DDS provide referrals to the Supportive Housing Development or are providers expected to identify and move people from their existing CLA and CRS settings to this I.H.S. model?**

- PRAT will generate referrals to Supportive Housing developments. While providers can get ARPA incentives if they move people from congregate setting to Supportive Housing, this NOO does not require applicants to have submitted a transition plan. Providers could have a combination of people currently served, and new people seeking I.H.S. services. "DDS supported individuals identified and supported by the partner provider agency" means people supported by the provider agency once the new SH program has opened.

**15. What will the review committee expect to see in the Budget Document?**

- The budget should include the proposed number of people you plan to support and associated costs of operating the program, while working within the established rate structure. (DDS Funding Guidelines)

