

Health Services Initiative: Housing Support Services

Balance of State Continuum of Care Quarterly Meeting
November 18, 2022

Health Services Initiative

The Department of Health Services (DHS) will implement a health services initiative that will use Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funds to cover a set of supportive housing services.

The purpose of the program is to improve the health of low-income families and pregnant individuals experiencing homelessness or that are at risk for homelessness.

Health Services Initiative

- This initiative will operate under a “Housing First” philosophy. Housing First is an evidence-based homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing access to housing to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Housing First removes as many obstacles and barriers as possible that stand in the way of access to housing. Applicants are not rejected for behaviors that indicate a lack of “housing readiness.” Housing First assumes all people are ready for housing.

Eligible Population

Income that does not exceed 200% federal poverty level. Part of a household with dependent children 18 years and younger or be pregnant.

Experiencing homelessness as defined in any of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's four categories under 42 U.S.C. 11302, including:

- Category 1: Literally Homeless.
- Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness.
- Category 3: Homeless under Other Federal Statutes.
- Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence.

Supportive Housing Services

- **Housing Consultation:** prepare housing support options through a person-centered housing support plan.
- **Transition Supports:** assist members to prepare for and transition to housing.
- **Sustaining Supports:** provided once a member is housed to help them achieve and maintain housing stability.
- **Relocation Supports:** financial support for a member's transition .

Grant Opportunity

DHS will partner with homeless assistance providers, also known as Continuum of Care (CoC) member agencies, to implement this initiative.

DHS will select 1 CoC member agency from Dane, Racine, and Milwaukee CoC regions, and 5 agencies throughout the Balance of State CoC region, for a total of 8 awards.

Applicant Requirements

- Applicants may be a private-for-profit, a public or non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, or a state, local, or tribal government agency.
- Applicants must have a minimum of 3 years of previous experience providing, contracting, or coordinating for housing support services.
- The agencies selected to receive funding for this program will be required to be part of their local Continuum of Care network.

Grant Funds

The money awarded under the grant will be used towards:

- Hiring 2 dedicated staff persons to deliver the services: a Housing Navigator and Housing Case Manager.
- Applicable administrative costs.
- Money to provide relocation supports to qualifying families.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

- **Housing Navigator:** manage referrals to the program, conduct the housing consultation, develop the housing support plan, and deliver the transition support services
- **Housing Case Manager:** deliver the sustaining support services, liaison with referral sources and partners, act as a supervisor for the program, and provide backup support for the housing navigator

Administrative Expenses

Approved administrative expenses may include:

- Hiring and onboarding new staff.
- Documenting and submitting required metrics and reports.
- Overhead costs.
- Travel costs related to the program.
- Staff training to support equitable delivery of services.

Metrics and Reporting

Selected agencies will need to track and report the following to DHS:

- Total population served.
- Number of children served.
- Number of pregnant individuals served.
- Average length of time to become housed.
- Percent of families within each HUD category of homelessness.

Metrics and Reporting

- Average percent of household income spent on housing once housed.
- Average income (%FPL).
- % of total population that were enrolled into health insurance.
- % of families returning to homelessness.

If any metrics cannot be captured in the HMIS, then data will need to be manually provided to DHS.

Metrics and Reporting

Agencies will be required to provide quarterly reporting of relocation supports expenditures stratified by:

- Total number of families served.
- Total quarterly expenditures for security deposits.
- Total quarterly expenditures for utility/arrears activations.
- Total quarterly expenditures for health and safety services.
- Total quarterly expenditures for household items.

Submitting a Proposal

Applications must:

- Be submitted via PDF, using the “RFA Proposal Template”.
- Include a signed statement from the applicant that indicates the person signing the statement is authorized to submit a proposal on behalf of the applicant.
- A letter of support from the agency’s CoC lead organization must be submitted with the proposal.

Calendar of Events

Event	Date
Post Webinar Written Questions Due	November 25, 2022
RFA FAQ Posted on Public Notice Website	December 1, 2022
Proposals Due	December 30, 2022 [11:59 p.m. CST]
Notification of Intent to Award	February 1, 2023

Questions?

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