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HHS Responses to Questions



I Solicitation Title: Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

Solicitation Number: HHS0016124

| # | Reference | Question | Response |
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| 1. | Section 1.1 | Specifically, just to confirm, is eligibility for this program limited to government entities, including local government entities; public or private nonprofit organizations; and faith-based organizations, as stated in Section 1.1 of the RFA (page 4 of the file)? I ask because Form A - Face Page for the application, provided at the above-linked page, lists multiple other entity types, such as Indian tribes, for-profit organizations, and hospitals, on page 1 of the file, under the "Type of Entity" section. | Yes, Applicants are limited as stated in Section 1.1. |
| 2. | | First and foremost, could you please confirm that HHSC is indeed the grantor for this grant and that it is not a federal PATH grant application? For some context, our current PATH grant, which ends in August 2026, involves HHSC contracting with to provide these services. We wanted to verify that this new grant opportunity is intended to continue those services/grant that coming to an end. | Texas HHSC is acting as the grantor for this grant. The federal funds are awarded to the State and HHSC awards those funds to programs. |
| 3. | Exhibit L Intended Use Plan Template Example | Is it required for Exhibit L, the Intended Use Plan, to be included as part of the application? It is unclear. | No, Refer to Section XII. Submission Checklist. |





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| 4. | 5.4 (Cost Sharing or matching requirement) pg. 20 | We would like to know whether staff time (for example, the time of a Chief Operations Officer, Finance Officer, etc.) can be considered as a cost share under this grant. Additionally, since we own the building that will be used for project delivery, we would appreciate clarification on whether the use of office space and utility costs can also be reflected as part of the cost share. | Yes, staff time and facility space such as office space may be counted toward cost sharing. |
| 5. | | We would like to know if a consortium or collaboration of organizations is eligible to apply. | Yes, as long as they meet the requirements in Section 1.1 and Section III regarding Applicant eligibility. |
| 6. | | I am contacting you from I see section 2.3 of the evaluation tool reviews collaboration. Will need to provide Letters of Support or MOUs to validate our collaborations? | Yes, all Applicants should provide letters of support or MOUs to validate collaborations. |
| 7. | Definitions and 2.1 Purpose pg. 9 | Can you define "Serious mental illness" ? | Refer to Attachment to Addendum 2. |

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| 8. | 2.1 Purpose and 2.3 Population | Under 2.1 "Awarded Grantees shall meet the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) goal for PATH programs, which is to reduce or eliminate homelessness for individuals with serious mental illnesses or co-occurring substance use disorders who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless." Under 2.3 The eligible population to be served under this RFA consists of individuals who are: 1. Age 18 or older; 2. Have a serious mental illness or co-occurring serious mental illness and substance use disorder; and 3. Literally homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Question(s): Does the client need to be previously diagnosed with SMI or can we provide resources for diagnosis as part of award? ("Screening and diagnostic treatment services") Does the client need to demonstrate/provide proof of SMI or substance abuse to enter the program – can we provider resources to secure proof as part of award? Can substance abuse and homelessness be primary entry into program? | No, the client does not need to be previously diagnosed with an SMI. Yes, the provider can provide screening and assessment services to show client eligibility. No, substance use and homelessness alone cannot be used as entry to program. Individuals must have a SMI or co-occurring SMI and Substance use disorder. |

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| 9. | 2.5 Eligible Activities, item 10-Housing Services | a) Minor renovation. Services or resources provided to make essential repairs to a housing unit to provide or improve access to the unit and/or eliminate health or safety hazards. b) Planning of housing. Activities related to the analysis and formulation of a detailed set of action steps, timelines, and resources necessary to create or expand housing for the target population. Question(s): Per item (a) – Would an acceptable use of funds also securing legal aide or taking legal action to force landlords of rental properties to make improvements? Per item (a) – Are capital improvements or equipment (air filteration, water filtration etc.) an acceptable use of funds for repairs? Per item (a) – Are cleaning services, including deep cleaning or Hazmat cleaning services an acceptable use of funds? Per item (a) – Is trash haul away or 'towing' an acceptable use of funds? Per item (b) – Can the state expand further on this activity giving examples of acceptable uses of funds to "create or expand housing"? Further details needed due to Section 5.3 Prohibitions (pg 20) "equipment and other capital expenditures such as capital improvements, property losses and expenses, real estate purchases, mortgage payments, remodeling, the acquistion or construction of facilites or other items" | Item (a) is in reference to an individual's residence that without the minor repair or renovation the individual may become homeless. No, use of funds for securing legal aide would not be appropriate. Yes, capital improvements like air or water filtration, cleaning services, hazmat cleaning, trash haul away, if without the improvements the individual would become homeless. Item (b) is regarding the planning of housing. Funds may be used to analyze and formulate plans and resources necessary to create or expand housing. Funds are not to be used for building or constructing new housing. |

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| 10 | 2.5 Eligible Activities, item 10 g. | Can you define, summarize income requirements for one-time payments to avoid eviction? | Income requirements would be based on the individual's need to continue to pay rent in the future. |
| 11. | Exhibit M, Proposed Performance Measures Activity | "Projected number of adult individuals who will receive community mental health services. (Number shall be 64% of enrollments or greater)" QUESTION: Under this RFA, what would constitute or be included in "community mental health services"? | Refer to Attachment to Addendum 2 |
| 12. | Exhibit M, Proposed Performance Measures Activity | "Projected number of adult individuals who will receive community mental health services. (Number shall be 64% of enrollments or greater)" QUESTION: Under this RFA, does crisis intervention performed by PATH staff count as a "community mental health service"? | Yes, if the intervention stabilizes and provides ongoing support. |
| 13. | Exhibit M, Proposed Performance Measures Activity | "Projected number of adult individuals who will receive community mental health services. (Number shall be 64% of enrollments or greater)" QUESTION: Would any PATH client referral or contact with any community mental health service count as receiving services. In other words, would PATH clients need to enroll with other community mental health service providers? | Community mental health services - Community-based supports designed to stabilize and provide ongoing support and services for PATH eligible clients with mental illnesses and/or co-occurring disorders or dual diagnoses. Connecting a PATH client to a community mental health service would count regardless of enrollment outcome. |
| 14. | Exhibit M, Proposed Performance Measures Activity | "Projected Cost-Per-Enrolled. Projected cost of services to enroll homeless individuals with serious mental illness or serious mental illness and substance use disorders in services. (Federal \$ received x 97%, divided by the number of outreach contacts enrolled = CPE)" QUESTION: Is there a hard-cap or limit on the amount for projected Cost-Per-Enrolled? In other words, is there a set amount or range for CPE? | No, there is no hard-cap. |

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| 15. | Section XIII. Submission Checklist pg. 41 | Exhibits to be Completed, Signed, and Submitted with Application c) Exhibit C-1 – HHS Data Use Agreement v.8.5, Governmental Entity Version QUESTION: In Part 1 Administrative Information, the Governmental Entity Form B-1 is noted as "if applicable," so does this also apply to Exhibit C-1 Governmental Entity Version as also being "if applicable"? Do non-governmental entities have to include Exhibit C-1 and mark it as "N/A," or should Exhibit C-1 be omitted if not applicable? | Yes, if not applicable, Exhibit C-1 can be omitted. |
| 16 | Form A: Face Page, Counties Served by Project | "Check off counties to be served or which you are applying from the list of Texas counties provided below. Do not write counties on line 8." QUESTION: Should applicants only check the box for counties where PATH services will be delivered, or should applicants check any other counties that applicants are willing to receive clients from outside the county where services are located? | Applicants should only check the box for the county or counties in which it intends to provide PATH services. |
| 17. | | Does the PATH Grant RFA No, HHS0016124 allow for outreach services inside of jails and/or prisons. The outreach activities would consist of face-to-face interactions with individuals who are eligible for release in the near future and do not have any housing, medical or mental health services lined up once they are released. | Yes, this is allowable. |
| 18. | | May I please have more clarification on the reimbursement process for the PATH Grant RFA No. HHS0016124? Are the reimbursements monthly, quarterly? Do grantees submit reimbursement reports in order to receive the reimbursements or do grantees have to conduct draw-downs through systems such as e-LOCKS? | Reimbursements are monthly. Grantees submit reimbursement reports monthly to HHSC. Grantees do not conduct draw-downs through e-LOCKS. |