

**Allegheny County  
Department of Human Services  
Request for Proposals Q&A**

RFP to Expand Allegheny County's Continuum of Supportive Housing (Recovery Homes,  
Bridge Housing & Scattered-Site Shelter)

<b>Information Session</b>
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**January 22, 2026**

- 1. You made the statement of literal homelessness when you guys push out your answers, can we please get a very clear understanding of what you are meaning by that? Will that mean that you will not accept transfers from a congregate setting, individual setting, etc. I want to make sure we understand the new form of language.**

For the Scattered Site Shelter program type, individuals served will be experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness. This is the same definition of homelessness currently used across our shelter system. DHS will manage referrals to the Scattered Site Shelter being procured, consistent with access to the existing Scattered Site Shelter beds, which allows for transfers from a congregate shelter setting.

- 2. Just to confirm, we are staying in complete alignment with the current existing meeting the federal definition of street and sheltered homelessness that we're already using and that there's been no change in language. Is this correct?**

There are three different program types within this RFP, and each program type includes details on the target population for that type. For Scattered Site Shelter it's the same definition of homelessness that we currently use for shelters and is consistent with HUD's definition of homelessness. Please note that for the Bridge Housing being procured through this RFP, the eligibility requirement is unstably housed, consistent with Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) eligibility.

- 3. I believe you indicated that you prefer providers with existing housing inventory in stock. Regarding bridge housing, specifically for a 20 – 30 person-unit, if we don't have that and were awarded, is there a reasonable amount of runway to be able to procure that housing?**

DHS's preference is that for site-based programs, a location is identified so that we can anticipate service start dates. Proposers are not required to have existing control of the site, but the preference is that Proposers can demonstrate a reasonable level of assurance they can successfully secure the site and timeline for

doing so. DHS will accept and consider proposals without a site identified, but an identified site is preferred. DHS's goal is for service delivery to begin July 1, 2026. DHS will consider later implementation dates if the site acquisition timeline is reasonable and clear.

DHS does not have a portfolio of potential site locations to offer. However, we are aware of the floor currently available at Second Avenue Commons. Please consider reaching out to the 2AC board via Tom Cummings ([tcummings@actionhousing.org](mailto:tcummings@actionhousing.org)) to discuss opportunities for coordinating on developing a proposal for programming at this location.

**4. If our organization secures, a 20 – 30 bed unit and there's initial renovations that need to happen to make it suitable, is there any opportunity for reinvestment funding or support for that?**

Yes. Proposers should prepare and submit a detailed line-item budget and budget narrative that shows all planned expenses (e.g., one-time capital costs, ongoing utility and maintenance costs, staff) reflective of a realistic estimate of the cost associated with implementing the Supportive Housing service(s) that they are proposing. Please include any planned revenues/sources and/or anticipated sources of funding beyond those available through this RFP.

All proposed budgets will be considered for reasonableness, and DHS will negotiate the final budget with the Successful Proposer(s) and agree upon a budget before a final award is made.

**5. As providers, we've been informed that budgets are tight, there's limited funding, then this RFP was released and with the federal government, including the way things are, we're worried that this is temporary and we're going to be putting people back on the streets in a year. With the amount of money that I'm seeing available under the HAP Bridge housing, how are we funding these programs? Could you explain this further?**

The programming being procured through this RFP will be primarily supported through state funding. DHS is working to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our housing programming across all systems. Through these adjustments we will be achieving cost savings and then applying that money to the programming being procured through this RFP.

**6. Would this become a renewal process where if awarded, our organization would do the renewal process we're in right now for next year and funding will not go away. Is this correct?**

Yes.

- 7. I run a program with SUD where you must be in the PHP while you live on our site and briefly heard about treatment. Could you provide clarity on if that's something that would qualify for anything?**

Individuals enrolled in a Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) may be eligible for the housing programs being procured through this RFP. However, DHS is not interested in a Proposal for the Supportive Housing service(s) that is exclusively focused on serving an existing cohort of individuals in PHP.

- 8. Will any of these beds be specifically aligned with AOT?**

No, individuals subject to a petition for AOT may be eligible for programs being procured through this RFP but there are not beds specifically allotted for them.

- 9. For new bridge housing providers, it says that you need to submit two years of audited financial statements. What would you submit if you're a newly formed LLC and you're going to be requesting first year startup costs through this RFP?**

Any Successful Proposer who does not have a current Allegheny County DHS contract will be required to submit audited financial reports for the last two years. If a Successful Proposer does not have audited financial reports for the last two years, then they may submit other financial documentation that attests to the financial health of their organization for DHS's review and consideration.

- 10. For the referral process, particularly for the criminal justice involvement section, it states that referrals will go to DHS, then will be sent to the Successful Proposer(s). How is the County ensuring that people who need to leave criminal justice systems are being assessed and moved into housing quickly to avoid any delay with people potentially being exited to the street?**

DHS is working to expand referral pathways to ensure that both individuals and service providers can refer individuals for housing assessments. This includes people involved with the criminal legal system, including Justice Related Services (JRS) and providers who specialize in connecting individuals to services from jail.

- 11. It was mentioned that some funding is coming from state revenues. Are you able to share what state grant program(s) they're coming from?**

Bridge Housing and Scattered-Site Shelter will primarily be funded through our Human Services Block Grant, which includes mental health base funds and homeless assistance program funds. Bridge housing is a component type under the homeless assistance program, but because we are a block grant County we can

leverage funds across the program component funding that makes up the Human Services Block Grant.

**12. For Bridge Housing, you mentioned we may apply for two different categories. If our organization looking to apply for a category of Bridge Housing, is there any limitation on us also applying for the recovery house the scattered-site shelter?**

No, they would be considered distinct projects and distinct proposals should be submitted.

**13. Can we focus on a particular vulnerable population, for example, LGBTQ+ or HIV impacted communities?**

Yes, you may apply. DHS will review Proposals in the context of total impact and ability to meet the needs of the target population. Specific target populations, beyond what are described in the RFP, are not an identified area of focus for DHS.

**14. Regarding the justice involved individuals, is that specific to Allegheny County or is that individuals coming from the State SCIs also?**

It is not specific to Allegheny County, it was intended to be inclusive of criminal justice involvement for the individual, broadly.

**15. In the last year, property management at 2AC changed, where the temperaments were revived regarding how are people facing displacement have been handled, such as witnessing sweeps that we historically didn't see. Would DHS be willing to come to the table alongside the provider to negotiate using that floor correct? Or would the provider be asked to champion that cause solo?**

Currently, one floor at 2AC is being effectively used for a housing program and DHS supported the initial connection between the service provider and 2AC. Recognizing this is an open procurement process, DHS is not in a position to engage in negotiations in support of a single Proposer; however, DHS can communicate with a site to provide information and input on appropriate policies and processes for supporting our target populations.

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**16. Would an organization be permitted to apply to serve for specific genders?**

Yes, you may apply. DHS will review Proposals in the context of total impact and ability to meet the needs of the target population. Specific target populations, beyond what are described in the RFP, are not an identified area of focus for DHS.

**17. Would organizations wanting to serve families in recovery (HoH has a SUD diagnosis) allowed to be considered?**

No. The Recovery Housing and Bridge Housing programs being procured through this RFP are intended to serve individual adults, while the Scattered Site Shelter being procured is intended to serve individual adults and adult couples.

**February 12, 2026**

**18. Does the RFP allow Licensed 3.5 programs the ability to apply for this RFP, or is this only for "Recovery Homes" licensed under 28 Pa. Code Ch. 717?**

The Recovery Houses being procured through this RFP will be operated as Recovery Homes licensed by [Pennsylvania under 28 Pa Code Ch 717](#).

Proposers currently operating Licensed 3.5 programs are welcome to apply, with the expectation that the proposal will be for a Recovery Home, not a Licensed 3.5 program, and will need to demonstrate a reasonable ability to receive Recovery Home licensure.

**19. I believe the RFP information session was recorded for this RFP. Are you able to provide a copy of the recording? We'd like to share it with our team.**

While we recorded the information session for this RFP, we will not post the recording for public review. Instead, we have made information from our information session (e.g., PowerPoint slideshow and Q&A document) available on our [solicitation website](#) and the [RFP Opportunity Page](#) for review.

**February 19, 2026**

**20. Does the 24/7 Programs have to be licensed?**

The Bridge Housing programming with 24/7 staffing being procured through this RFP will not be licensed.

**21. Can on-site groups be included for the RFP?**

The Successful Proposer(s) will not deliver behavioral health treatment as part of the Bridge Housing Program. Behavioral health treatment services will be community-based or ambulatory, so that they are accessible to the Participant in the community in which they plan to live. Proposals that include partnerships with treatment providers to offer treatment via that partner's license(s) are allowed—in such cases, the partnering treatment provider can offer treatment services as an option for Participants, but Participants may continue or initiate treatment with

other community-based providers. The Successful Proposer will participate in meetings with the Participant's treatment team, as appropriate and requested, and will support and encourage goal completion.

**22. Can we mandate that people accept services?**

Bridge Housing will be targeted to individuals who need transitional support and voluntarily agree to participate in the program and its supportive services. While it is the expectation that Participants will have agreed to services at entry, DHS is looking to procure and administer quality service delivery that successfully meets Participants where they are, employs creative and collaborative strategies to understand Participants needs and help them make progress on their goals, and does not rely on discharging Participants for behavioral manifestations of their illnesses.

**23. What is definition of quickly housing individuals?**

For the Bridge Housing Program, the Successful Proposer(s) will be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Bridge Housing Program, including ownership or leasing of the units. As such, when a bed/unit becomes available, we expect the Successful Proposer(s) will request a new referral, and upon enrollment of a new Participant will be able to have them move into the bed/unit as quickly as possible. The intent is to have a new Participant moved in within a few days of enrollment.

**24. Does Peer Staff have to be certified?**

No, Peer Staff does not have to be certified.

**25. Do we have to provide food to individuals and or can we connect to Resources?**

Bridge Housing for individuals who need the support and structure afforded by 24/7 staff to stabilize must operate through site-based housing. Within these site-based programs, the Successful Proposer(s) is expected to manage Participants' regular and adequate access to food, which can include supplying and paying for the food. This may include coordination and delivery of meals, multi-day meal packs and/or bulk groceries.

**26. How will the AHA Score impact the housing referrals?**

DHS will manage referrals to the Bridge Housing Programs, based on characteristics of the target population described above and assessment of vulnerability to cycle through adverse experiences such as multiple emergency room visits,

incarcerations, homelessness and/or mental health inpatient stays. This can include utilization of AHA and MHAHA for informing prioritization.

**27. Can the Length of Stay be shortened to 3-6 months?**

We anticipate that Participants will stay in these programs an average of six to twelve months. That reflects an average, and DHS expects the Length of Stay for each Participant to vary based on their needs and circumstances.

**28. How does Bridge Housing differ from Temp Housing?**

The Bridge Housing being procured under this RFP will operate through the use of Homeless Assistance Program funds. Bridge Housing is a transitional service that allows Participants who are in temporary housing to move to supportive long-term living arrangements while preparing to live independently. While in this program, Participants must have case management and supportive services available, and must have a service plan that describes how the program will assist Participants with the goal of returning Participants to the most independent life situation possible. No behavioral health treatment services that require licensure will be provided as part of the program

**29. What is considered “very small” congregate setting?**

The RFP states that for the Bridge Housing program “For site-based and clustered unit sites, DHS is open to sites of various sizes, recognizing that very small sites are less cost effective.” “Very small sites” generally refers to sites less than 10 beds.