

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

Information Session

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Allegheny County Department of Human Services



Agenda

Welcome

Aaron Thomas - Procurement, Office of Administration (OA), DHS

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

*Hilary Scherer – Planning, Office of Analytics, technology and Planning
(ATP), DHS*

RFP Process, Evaluation and Timeline

Questions

Why We Are Issuing this RFP

DHS currently funds more than 2,300 units of supportive housing—an array of programs that combine housing and supportive services to help people who face complex challenges live more stable and independent lives.

DHS is seeking to enhance:

- Support for the specialized needs of individuals experiencing housing instability who also have co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorder, particularly those with a primary SUD, and/or criminal legal system involvement
- Support for people entering housing while *beginning* medication-assisted treatment and other outpatient treatments
- Capacity, both in number of units and in number of units offering 24/7 staffing

What We Are Looking For

| Program Type | Additional Capacity Sought Through This Procurement | Expected Unit Cost Range* |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Recovery Housing | Up to 48 beds | \$56-\$64/day |
| B. Bridge Housing** | | |
| 1. Housing Unstable with Mental Illness (24/7 Staffing) | Up to 60 beds | \$85- \$129/day |
| 2. Housing Unstable with Co-Occurring, with Primary SUD (24/7 Staffing) | Up to 30 beds | \$85- \$129/day |
| 3. Housing Unstable with Criminal Legal System History | Up to 30 beds | \$65-\$90/day |
| 4. Housing Unstable with Mental Illness | Up to 50 beds | \$65-\$90/day |
| C. Scattered-Site Shelter | Up to 36 beds | \$50-\$75/day |

*While DHS expects unit cost to fall within the ranges outlined above, overall program cost may vary according to housing models and staffing configuration

**Though this is not a requirement, DHS will consider proposals for Bridge Housing programs that concurrently serve: The target populations described in B1 and B2 above; The target populations described in B3 and B4 above

What We Are Looking For: **Recovery Housing**

- Up to 48 additional Recovery Housing beds, for individuals 18 and older, who have a SUD and are interested and appropriate for the substance-free living environment and support provided through the Recovery Housing structure paired with evidence-based practices such as MAT
- Seeking to expand the availability of safe, substance-free living environments to individuals newly entering treatment, especially MAT
- Recovery Home(s) procured through this RFP must be licensed through the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP)
- Referrals will come from DHS
- DHS expects successful Recovery Homes to
 - Meet the State's licensure requirements in a manner that is responsive to the target population and does not rely on overly rigid operations that result in high denials, terminations and/or drop-out rates
 - Work with Participants to support and empower them in their pursuit of recovery-oriented treatment and fulfillment of their personal and social emotional needs and goals in partnership with other service and/or treatment teams connected to the Participant.

What We Are Looking For: **Bridge Housing**

- Up to an additional 170 Bridge Housing beds for individuals, 18 and older, who are housing unstable, highly vulnerable to cycling through emergency rooms, incarceration and/or inpatient hospitalization, and in one of the specific target populations described below.
 1. Individuals with a diagnosed serious mental illness who need the support and structure of 24/7 staff to stabilize and successfully transition to independent long-term housing
 2. Individuals with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders, with a primary SUD diagnosis, who need the support and structure afforded by 24/7 staff to stabilize so they can successfully transition to independent long-term housing
 3. Individuals with a current or prior history with the criminal justice system who are at high risk of continued interaction with the justice system
 4. Individuals with a diagnosed mental illness or substance use disorder, who do not need 24/7 staff support.
- Participants are anticipated to stay in these programs an average of 6 to 12 months

What We Are Looking For: **Bridge Housing**

- Housing will be provided as part of the program, but Participants will not have their own leases. Once a person is discharged, the bed becomes available for another Participant. Successful Proposer(s) are responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Bridge Housing Program, including ownership or leasing of the units. Sites must have adequate space, facilities and equipment to meet the needs of the Participants. Locations should be close to public transportation, furnished, and able to pass inspection and code and zoning requirements
- Bridge Housing for individuals who need the support and structure afforded by 24/7 staff to stabilize (target populations 1 and 2, above) is expected to operate through site-based housing. DHS is open to sites of various sizes, recognizing that very small sites are less cost effective. DHS prefers that Proposers identify specific sites where the Bridge Housing will operate but will also consider proposals where no specific site is identified.
- Bridge Housing for individuals who do not need 24/7 staff support (target populations 3 and 4, above) may be provided in either site-based, clustered sites or scattered-site settings. DHS is open to proposals for all site models, recognizing that staffing for regular housing supports in scattered site locations may be less cost effective. For scattered-site programs, proposers should demonstrate existing relationships with landlords and an ability to successfully secure units for the program.

What We Are Looking For: **Bridge Housing**

- Referrals will come from DHS, with appropriateness and prioritization based on characteristics of the target population described and assessment of vulnerability
- Provide supportive services to support and empower Participants, ensuring that their needs are met and they are moving towards independence. This includes, but is not limited to, developing Bridge Housing Services Plans, support towards fulfilling the Plan, regular welfare checks, linkages to and coordination with community-based services, and housing navigation support.
- Effectively coordinate with and engages each Participant's treatment team(s). This includes collaborating to ensure Participant's needs and goals related to their long-term stability are addressed, coordinating to identify when the Participant is ready to move to more individual housing, and participating in meetings with the treatment teams as appropriate and requested.

What We Are Looking For: **Scattered-Site Shelter**

- Up to an additional 36 Scattered-Site Shelter beds for individuals (or adult couples), 18 and older, who are experiencing homelessness and have additional vulnerabilities that traditional congregate shelters cannot adequately support

This includes individuals with behavioral health conditions, including those with behavioral presentations that do not align with maintaining a safe and supportive group environment, individuals with physical and chronic health conditions, and individuals who avoid or disengage from congregate shelter because of experiences of trauma and/or marginalization.
- Referrals will come from DHS, with appropriateness and prioritization informed by assessment of vulnerability and DHS's Coordinated Entry Field Unit
- Participants will be supported in Scattered-Site Shelter until they move to permanent housing, which typically takes three to five months but may be faster.

What We Are Looking For: **Scattered-Site Shelter**

- Shelter will be provided in scattered-site settings that we expect the Successful Proposer(s) to own or lease
 - Sites may be relatively clustered within a given location to support the coordination of supports across locations.
 - Locations should be close to public transportation, furnished and include access to fully equipped kitchen and bathroom facilities (whether individually or in shared spaces), and be able to pass inspection and code and zoning requirements.
 - Housing that is accessible for people of different abilities and apartment style locations are preferred.
- Case managers must work with each Participant to create a plan for securing permanent housing and provide support to the Participant as they implement the plan. The ultimate goal of Shelter case management is to move Participants into permanent housing.

RFP Process, Evaluation and Timeline

Responding to a Request for Proposals (RFP)



Read the RFP carefully, noting due dates

1. The RFP and all corresponding documents can be found on our [Active Solicitations Webpage](#) and on our [DHS Bonfire Portal](#).



Complete the Response Form, stay within page limits



Prepare the required documents listed in the RFP:

- 1.** Form for Allegheny County's Minority, Women or Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (or MWDBE) program
- 2.** Forms for Allegheny County's Veteran-Owned Small Business (or VOSB) program
- 3.** W-9



Create a free account on the [DHS Bonfire Portal](#)

Select **Login/Register** and then **New Vendor Registration**



Submit your response

- 1.** Under **Submissions**, select **Create Submission**
- 2.** Upload and submit your completed response form and other required materials by the due date

Helpful Tips for Responding to an RFP

Check our Active Solicitations Webpage often or create an account on our [DHS Bonfire Portal](#).

All information for this RFP will be communicated through [Bonfire](#) as soon as it's available for the public.

Updates are made on the [Active Solicitations Webpage](#) every Thursday

A diverse Evaluation Committee will review proposals

Be very detailed and take advantage of page counts

Follow instructions and answer every part of a question

Ask questions!

Reach out through [Bonfire's Vendor Discussion](#) feature

You can also email DHSProposals@AlleghenyCounty.US

Contracting with the Successful Proposer(s)

Successful Proposers will receive a Notice of Intent to Award

Any award is contingent on successful negotiation of the budget, final contract terms and the completion of the County's internal Executive Action and MWDBE and VOSB approval processes.

If you are a New Provider, you must complete our New Provider Onboarding

This includes, but is not limited to:

**Board Member Contact Information, if applicable*

**2 years of audited financial statements or other financial documentation*

**3 letters of support*

Contract document collection and negotiation begin

Contracts and Fiscal will reach out to collect required documentation, if necessary.

Program leads will reach out to begin discussing project specifics and negotiate the final budget and contract terms.

RFP Timeline

| Event | Date |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Info session & slides posted to website | Tuesday, February 3, at 6 p.m. Eastern |
| Questions deadline | Friday, February 27, at 3 p.m. Eastern |
| Last website and Q&A update | Thursday, March 5, at 6 p.m. Eastern |
| Submission deadline | Thursday, March 12, at 3 p.m. Eastern |
| Estimate award decision/notification | May 2026 |

Q&A

Thank you for attending our RFP information session!

You may type your questions in the chat or unmute yourself to ask your question orally.

All answers given orally are preliminary.

Final answers will be posted in writing on our website.