



TO: Provider Associations
Executive Directors of OPWDD Provider Agencies
OPWDD Developmental Disabilities State Operations Office Directors
OPWDD Developmental Disabilities Regional Office Directors
OPWDD Leadership Team

FROM: Abiba Kindo, Deputy Commissioner
Regional Offices

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Regional Offices
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DATE: June 14, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024-25 State Fiscal Year Round Integrated Supportive Housing (ISH)
Request for Application for Conditional Support Letters

Attached for your reference and distribution to provider agencies is OPWDD's 2024-25 Capital Funding Opportunity Request for Application for Conditional Support Letters instructions with the required cover sheet.

This application should be completed by provider agencies that are interested in pursuing any OPWDD funding associated with new Integrated Supportive Housing projects, including capital dollars, rent subsidies and/or service funding. The application is required for any supportive housing project that includes a request for preferential tenancy units ("set-aside units") for persons with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) regardless of whether the project is seeking capital funding.

*Any provider seeking preferential tenancy units for individuals with I/DD must submit this application to OPWDD no later than 12:00 pm (noon) on **July 22, 2024** in order to be considered for the required capital funding support or a housing subsidy commitment without capital.*

The Integrated Supportive Housing application process will enable OPWDD, providers, and housing developers to comprehensively plan for development of new supportive housing projects and, for approved applications, to obtain timely commitments from OPWDD that are a required throughout various funding application processes, such as those overseen by NYS Homes and Community Renewal, NYC Housing Preservation and Development, and similar government capital funders. As in past years, OPWDD will require all applicants to schedule a Technical Assistance call with staff from OPWDD's Home and Community Living to discuss the proposal to ensure it meets

general requirements before an application is submitted. Failure to schedule a Technical Assistance call with OPWDD will result in your application being disqualified from funding consideration.

Similar to last year's ISH RFA, a project team which does not require OPWDD capital funding can request a support letter for ongoing housing subsidies only. This letter can be submitted as part of the application to other government funding agencies to demonstrate OPWDD's support of the units in the project.

Items of note regarding this year's RFA include:

- Project teams will be asked to provide specific information regarding the need of the supportive units within the area being proposed.
- There is an increased focus on the location and design of the project itself, specifically around how a person residing in the OPWDD units can access the larger community.
- Only OPWDD providers in good standing can be awarded a conditional support letter from OPWDD for ISH projects. This includes each applicant passing a due diligence review comprising of fiscal and programmatic reviews of the provider's OPWDD- and/or Medicaid-funded programs. Applicants who fail this portion of the review process will have their proposals disqualified from funding consideration. Additional information on this requirement can be found in Section 1.3 of the RFA.
- There are limits to how many projects for which a given provider can request funding each year. See Section 2.4 of the RFA for additional information.
- OPWDD will be placing a cap on the number of ISH units that can be supported through subsidy-only requests. OPWDD is limited to the number of units which receive capital funding due to the funding limit and, beginning this year, OPWDD will support up to 60 units in non-capital/subsidy only requests in all ISH rounds across the state fiscal year.
- This application requires that any project which has a conditional award letter from the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) RFP which proposes to support people with intellectual/developmental disabilities must also submit a copy of the ESSHI application for the project as part of the OPWDD application. This includes projects that may have received an extension on an ESSHI Conditional Award from a prior funding year.

Please ensure that applicants are aware that OPWDD has limited funds available for capital, rental subsidies, and services associated with integrated supportive housing projects. OPWDD's accepting applications for review does not mean any given project, or any supportive housing project, will receive funding from OPWDD, or that a project supported by OPWDD will be funded by another funding source.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tricia Downes or Alexander Brooks at 518-473-1973 or via email Patricia.Downes@opwdd.ny.gov or Alexander.S.Brooks@opwdd.ny.gov.

Thank you.



Abiba Kindo, Deputy Commissioner