

Questions generated at the RFP Orientation meeting of May 23, 2014 and during the open period until May 30, 2014.

1. Please define “interim housing.”

Refer to RFP–HMS-224-14-07-HPO, page Section 2-4, for definitions of terms. In short, “interim housing” refers to short-term housing offered to a Housing First (HF) client that is waiting to move into a scattered-site housing unit. The HF client may have obtained all of the documents necessary to enter into a rental lease, but a permanent unit may not be immediately accessible. An interim unit would then be utilized to provide the HF client with immediate housing. It is expected that interim housing would only be utilized when necessary and for a period not to exceed two weeks for each client.

2. How will interim housing be paid for?

Provision of interim housing is a critical component of the Housing First model, and must be a part of your service proposal. Your proposed budget for Housing First funds should include an allocation for this service.

3. What is the difference between interim and bridge housing?

Previously some programs have referred to interim housing as “bridge housing”. For the purposes of this Housing First program, the function of providing “gap” housing to HF clients shall be referred to as “interim housing”.

4. Can interim housing be provided in a congregate setting, i.e., rental of a large house or apartment with more than one bedroom, which could house more than one client?

Yes, such an arrangement would be allowed. However, the Housing First model does establish that permanent housing should be scattered site housing.

5. Will there be any cost to the client for the housing unit they are placed in?

We assume that many clients who enter Housing First may initially not have any sources of income. If the client has no source of income, the entirety of the monthly housing cost is borne by the contractor. The contractor, however, will be required to assist the client in making appropriate application for mainstream benefits such as General Assistance, SSI, SSDI, or veteran’s benefits. Once client income is established, no more than 30% of the client’s income shall be used to off-set housing costs paid by the HF program.

6. Will there be limits on the amount of rent paid by the Housing First program?

In general, rents should not exceed Fair Market Rent limits established by HUD. Exceptions shall be requested by the contractor and approved by the Homeless Programs Office.

www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/fmr.html

7. Will the DOH's Hawaii Pathways Project (HPP) provide housing to its clients?

No, HPP will provide the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and other services for eligible clients, but the housing component will be achieved through the DHS Housing First program and via partnerships with other sources of supportive housing including CoC funded programs.

8. How will the HPO Housing First program be coordinated with the DOH's Pathways Program? Aren't these overlapping?

It is anticipated that some of the clients served by the HPO program (at least 20 per year) will also be served by the Hawaii Pathways Program (HPP). The RFP details two scopes of service; one scope for the dually-served clients, and another scope for those clients who do not meet the HPP clinical criteria. HPO's intent is to leverage the robust support services offered by the HPP to assist as many clients as possible, and still have the capacity to serve others. HPO will require our HF contractor to enter into a written agreement with the HPP so that responsibilities for dually-served clients can be delineated, and that service be provided to meet client needs.

9. Can agencies coordinate with another agency to provide the services?

Yes, service coordination and partnership are strongly encouraged.

10. Is the Housing First contract for 2 years?

HPO expects the following:

- Year 1 - contract from 6/27/14-6/26/15
\$1.25 million for Oahu only; must be executed and encumbered by 6/27/14
- Year 2 - \$1.25 million for Oahu (supplemental contract)
- \$250,000 for neighbor islands

11. How many people can be served through the DOH's Hawaii Pathways Project?

HPP can serve up to 100 participants per year. The partnership between HPO and DOH requires that a minimum of 20 HPP clients be housed by the HPO contractor. This does not preclude the HPO contractor providing housing placement to more than 20 HPP clients per year.

www.health.hawaii.gov

12. Helping Hands Hawaii was selected as the DOH's HPP contractor. Is Helping Hands Hawaii eligible to submit a proposal for this HF contract?

Technically, Helping Hands Hawaii is eligible to submit a proposal for the HPO Housing First program. However the agency has indicated to HPO that it will not submit a proposal for this program.

13. Are HF services focused on downtown/Waikiki like they were during the pilot year?

During the pilot year of implementation, service was limited to urban Honolulu. That meant that unsheltered homeless living in urban Honolulu were targeted for intervention, though housing placement could have occurred anywhere on Oahu.

The proposed program expands eligibility to homeless individuals and families located across the island of Oahu. Eligibility and priority level for service will be determined by the clients' VI-SPDAT scores, and the coordinated intake system that is being developed by Partners in Care. In this way, clients who are chronically homeless and with the highest level of needs will be prioritized for service through this program.

14. Could Housing First participants be placed in housing with a Section 8 voucher and HF funds?

If a HF client was eligible and received notification of a Section 8 voucher (permanent housing), such placement would be allowed. HF funding would be limited to cost of support services, security deposit, utility deposit and other incidental costs related to the placement. 30% of the client's income would be used for rent. If the client had no source of income, use of HF funds would need to be determined on a case-by-case basis in conjunction with the agency issuing the Section 8 voucher.

15. If a HF client is eligible and receives notification of imminent placement in a public housing unit, can the client continue to participate in HF?

Yes, if a HF client is eligible for and receives notification of the availability of a public housing unit (permanent housing), such a placement would be allowed. HF funding would be limited to cost of support services, utility deposit, and other incidentals since most if not all of the public housing costs are subsidized.

16. How many clients are being "carried" over from the Housing First pilot year? And can you please explain what the new contractor's responsibilities will be for these clients?

Of the 71 persons served during the pilot of the State's Housing First year (June, 2012-June, 2013), fourteen (14) remain in housing paid for by one of the contractors. The selected contractor for the proposed HF program will be contractually obligated to work with the previous vendor to immediately assume provision of support services and housing costs for these individuals upon contract execution, which is anticipated to be June 26, 2014. HPO will work with both the former and newly selected contractor to transition the care of these individuals to ensure that there will be no lapse in service.