

SHS RFP #04-2021

Reponses to Emailed Questions as of 5/10/21 at 5:00pm

- 1. To the best of your knowledge, would that be redundant with any services currently available and accessible?** In general, there are gaps in services across the homeless services system. In answering a previous related question we stated: “The Clackamas County homeless system of care needs additional capacity throughout the whole continuum of services. If an agency is unsure whether a proposed model will fill a need, they should know that, in general, need far outstrips capacity across the continuum. We welcome proposals from new providers who do not currently provide services in Clackamas County. The Supportive Housing Services team will provide ongoing coordination and support to successful applicants to ensure their programs are integrated within and complementary to the broader system of programs and services.”
- 2. Are there culturally specific housing options?** There are not currently any culturally specific housing options that we are aware of in Clackamas County receiving County funding support. There are culturally specific housing services and culturally specific immediate housing (shelter and transitional housing); examples of the latter would be Red Lodge, which provides culturally-specific transitional housing services to indigenous/Native American participants, and Casa Esperanza, which provides culturally-specific DV shelter services to Spanish speaking Latinx participants.
- 3. Are there any other groups with special housing needs that we missed?** Your email mentioned “groups that would need special housing such as women, women with children, families with children, men, couples.” It is not clear what is meant by “special housing” – can you please clarify the question?
- 4. A.2: Do we answer yes since we will work with folks adhering to the Housing First model?** If the proposed project aligns with the Housing First principles stated in the Definitions addendum of the RFP, then yes.
- 5. A.5: How would we answer that since we're not a housing organization?** The commitments in A.5 are not solely the province of housing organizations; an outreach program, for example, could commit to the use of HMIS, compliance with CHA and system-wide diversion, and application of Equal Access, wherever applicable.
- 6. B.11: Can you clarify what exactly you are looking for with this question?** We are not looking for anything ulterior in the question to the plain sense thereof – what is your agency’s approach to staff compensation to effectively recruit, retain, and support your staff?
- 7. Are there any other groups we might consider collaborating with?** We cannot make such recommendations at this time. Subsequent to the award of funding Supportive Housing Services program staff will be able to work with agencies to identify opportunities for collaboration.
- 8. The RFP shows today as the last day to ask questions...hopefully it's not the last day that you'll respond...please advise.** Yes, we have received your emailed questions and will respond before 5pm May 12th; that’s the deadline for any and all responses to questions submitted by 5pm today.

9. I am currently working on the SHS RFP and I am trying to access ORPIN but I keep getting error messages. Is this the only location where follow up information is being posted? I had heard today that ORPIN was down. Information is also posted here: <https://www.clackamas.us/housingauthority/bids.html>
10. I noticed that the RFP says we can include a copy of our equity plan - to address question B.4. Can we simply add that to the end of the narrative and letters of reference? Or is there another preferred format for submission that I did not see in the RFP instructions? There is not a preferred format for the submission of the equity plan. You may add that at the end of the narrative, though keep in mind that the equity plan, wherever and in whatever format provided, counts towards the overall 20-page limit of the submission.
11. **“We received a notice from the County that two emergency shelters will have a 20% cut in the budget (these are culturally specific and victim service providers). Can we apply for SHS funds to make up this gap? If we can’t find a way to cover this gap than these shelters risk maintaining capacity and staying open. It is especially concerning to us to destabilize the very few emergency shelters and culturally specific and victim specific services that we have in this county at the same time we are trying to expand access to shelter and housing. Please confirm that this gap qualifies for SHS funds.”** Emergency shelter is an eligible area for submissions under this procurement (under the service component Immediate Housing). As such, your agency can apply for funding for the operation of emergency shelter.
12. I did not notice anything in the RFP that indicates that wraparound may already be built into a case management model. Do we need to propose a separate wraparound component, or is it acceptable to fold that into the other two (STRA/RRH/Prevention & Supportive Housing), aligned with our existing approach to services? Short answer, yes, that is acceptable. Long answer: If the wrap services are provided by the same agency personnel as the STRA/RRH/Prevention and Supportive Services, yes, those services can be described under these two components, respectively. If the wrap services are, so to speak, a different line of business and as such are provided by different agency personnel than the program staff under those two respective program areas, then we recommend describing that part of your proposal under the wrap services component. In other words, if a supportive services case manager is also providing what you would describe as wrap-around supports to their program participants, it’s under one umbrella/service component (in this case, Supportive Housing). If the wrap services are provided to the Supportive Housing Services participants by different staff – say, an employment specialist who is not part of the Supportive Housing program staff – then we advise you propose/describe that under a separate wraparound component in your submission.
13. I wanted to clarify question E under section A-threshold questions (page 15). E states: **Check all commitments your organization will adhere to as program requirements. If not all items are checked above , please explain why in detail. Should this be "below"? Or do we need to explain unchecked service component selection "above"?**
- Commitment to use HMIS, or HMIS comparable database (for domestic violence serviceproviders)**
 - Commitment to compliance with CHA assessment and referral system**
 - Commitment to compliance with system-wide diversion strategy**
 - Commitment to Equal Access (see definition in Addendum – Definitions)**

You are correct, that is a typo that we missed – it should read “if not all items are checked below, please explain why in detail.”

- 14. Since submit our proposal by e-mail, do we have to be set up in ORPIN and/or OregonBuys by the deadline? No.**
- 15. In response to your latest clarification about whether we are allowed to submit multiple proposals for different programs, I have a follow up. We are an organization with multiple programs, two of which are housing related. Both are shared housing programs with slightly different programming and serve different populations (one serves youth and the other serves adults). However, we would like to apply together as a continuum of shared housing. Are we allowed to apply together or would we have to apply separately? What would HACC prefer or advise? Based on the above this sounds appropriate for a single application for the described program(s) continuum.**
- 16. Is there a possibility that the RFP proposal deadline will be extended? The deadline will not be extended.**