

Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (Short Title: CABHI)

Request for Applications (RFA) No. TI-11-008

Questions and Answers

April 2011

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Eligible Applicants

- **Who is an eligible applicant?**
Eligible applicants are domestic community-based public and private nonprofit entities. States and for profit agencies are not eligible to apply.
- **Can current CSAT or CMHS grantees apply for this new funding opportunity?**
Yes, current CSAT and CMHS grantees are eligible to apply if they meet the eligibility as described in Section III of the RFA.
- **Can I apply for this RFA if I don't have a current SAMHSA grant?**
This RFA is open to anyone who meets the eligibility criteria as described in Section III of the RFA.
- **Does an applicant have to have a minimum number of units being subsidized in order to apply for funding?**
There are no minimum units required. However all applicants under this RFA are required to demonstrate the ability to place clients in permanent housing and provide documentation of the source of funding for the housing component, and evidence that the number of units available for the grant matches the number of clients targeted to be served for each year of the grant.

- **Does the credentialing requirement pertain only to delivery of substance abuse and mental health services?**
Yes. As outlined in Section III-3.2 of the RFA, only existing, experienced, and appropriately credentialed organizations with demonstrated infrastructure and expertise will be able to provide the required services quickly and effectively.
- **Can the grant funds be used for housing?**
SAMHSA services grant funds must be used primarily to support allowable direct services. SAMHSA grant funds may not be used to fund housing.
- **Can grant funds be used to fund services to any homeless individual or a family?**
Services must be provided for individuals who meet the chronic homelessness definition as described in the Definitions section of the RFA. Grant funds must be used to support the development and/or expansion of local implementation and community infrastructures that integrate treatment and services for mental and substance use disorders, permanent housing, and other critical services for individuals who are chronically homeless.
- **What if we have an award letter from HUD but no executed grant agreement yet?**
For a HUD funded applicant, a copy of the current, executed grant agreement from the HUD for permanent housing (Shelter Plus Care, Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program for Single-Room Occupancy [SRO] Dwellings for Homeless Individuals, Supportive Housing Program [SHP] Permanent Housing for Persons with Disabilities or Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS [HOPWA]) must be provided in your application.

Eligible Housing Types

- **What type of housing is considered permanent supportive housing?**
SAMHSA considers the following programs funded under HUD's McKinney-Vento programs to be permanent supportive housing: Shelter Plus Care (including TRA, SRA, PRA and SRO) and the Supportive Housing Program's (SHP's) permanent supportive housing. A person in housing funded through the HOPWA program may be eligible if (s)he was chronically homeless prior to entering the program and is provided with permanent housing.

Any applicant that has permanent housing funded through a resource other than HUD must be able to provide a letter from the funding source verifying the following: a current, executed grant agreement; a brief description of the funding source, including any funding requirements and/or restrictions; amount of funding provided per year for the applicant's permanent supportive housing program; type of supportive housing and number of units provided; amount program participants pay from their income toward housing; and information about the consumer's choice in housing, option in level and type of services received, and tenancy rights.

HUD-funded transitional housing programs, safe havens and emergency shelters as well as DHHS Transitional Living Programs are not considered permanent supportive housing for the purpose of the CABHI program.

Note: SHP Safe Haven is not considered permanent housing.

Eligible Target Population

- **Can grant funds be used to serve individuals already in permanent supportive housing?**

Grantees must serve individuals who meet the definition of Chronic Homelessness as outlined in the RFA. If the individual is living in permanent housing for more than 90 days, then those clients may not meet the definition of chronic homelessness.

- **Can we “double up” or place multiple clients into a specific housing unit?**
No. However, if this is a family or a couple who plans to live together, the grantee should make every effort to place the family or the couple into a single unit.
- **Can grant funds be used to serve persons suffering from chronic mental illness and a co-occurring substance use disorder?**
Yes.
- **Are we expected to serve a larger number of clients with this grant?**
SAMHSA does not specify the target numbers of clients to be served. The applicant agency must determine their target numbers independently. SAMHSA does require that awarded grants maintain an intake and follow-up rate of no lower than 80% of established target numbers.

Allowable Activities with Grant Funds

- **May grant funds be used to support general activities related to the permanent supportive housing program?**
No. SAMHSA grant funds may not be used to pay for leasing or operating costs associated with providing permanent supportive housing. SAMHSA grant funds may only be used for services for clients linked to permanent housing funded through HUD’s Homeless Assistance grants programs or through comparable funding provided from other sources.
- **Would a mediation program, which includes services such as conflict resolution training for landlords be an eligible use of grant funds?**
No. SAMHSA grant funds must be used to provide services directly to eligible clients; therefore, a mediation program targeted to landlords would not be an eligible use of

funds. However, a mediation program targeted to clients in permanent supportive housing would be an eligible use of grant funds.

- **Can grant funds be used to support medical costs of program participants as well as costs associated with mental health treatment (i.e., payments for medications)?**
No. SAMHSA grant funds may not be used to support the medical costs of program participants.
- **May grant funds be used to support direct services to clients in their homes?**
Yes. SAMSHA grant funds may be used to provide services to eligible persons in the setting that is most appropriate for the client. This may include services to be delivered in the home (i.e., case management).
- **Can grant funds be used to pay for leasing or other housing costs of program participants?**
No. SAMHSA grant funds may not be used to fund housing costs, but are intended to be used for services linked to permanent housing funded through HUD's Homeless Assistance grants programs or through comparable funding provided from other sources.
- **For what services may grant funds be used?**
SAMHSA grants can be used to pay for a range of services including outreach, case management, independent living skills, assistance in obtaining income support and entitlements, direct treatment, including screening, assessment, and active treatment for substance use and mental disorders, and recovery support services. Grantees are encouraged to assure that clients have access to a comprehensive array of integrated services.

Program Definitions

PLEASE SEE THE DEFINITIONS SECTION OF THE RFA.

- **Do we have to create a new Consortium if we already have a Consortium?**
It depends on what kind of a Consortium you may have. The Community Consortium must meet two basic components: 1) Membership and 2) Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). Please see the requirements on page #8 of the RFA regarding membership and MOUs. You may join an existing Consortium, enhance the current Consortium, or create a new Consortium.
- **What is the difference between the Community Consortium and the Steering Committee?**
A Community Consortium is an association or a combination of community-based programs, health and human service agencies, and State and local government agencies for the purpose of engaging in a joint venture and having a cooperative arrangement among the group's members. The steering committee will oversee the Community

Consortium and the enhancement and further development of the Consortium members' infrastructure and capacity to achieve the goals identified in the RFA.

CMHS vs. CSAT

This RFA is jointly funded by both CMHS and CSAT.

Additional Questions

- **Is there a general expectation of dollars-per-person served for these grants?**
SAMHSA does not have a general expectation of the dollars-per-person served for these grants. SAMHSA expects that grantees use the awarded funds in an efficient and effective manner that best meets the needs of the individuals who are chronically homeless in their communities.
- **Can we review a past CMHS/SSH application?**
In order to review a past CMHS/SSH application an applicant must submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request to SAMHSA.
- **Where can I get a copy of the Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals RFA?**
The SAMHSA Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals RFA TI-11-008 can be found at http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/2011/ti_11_011.aspx.
- **Is there going to be any grant writing technical assistance for the TI-11-008 Homeless Grant?**
Yes. The Grant Writing Technical Assistance can be found using this link: http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/technical_assistance.aspx
- **Where do I find information about the State Point of Contract (SPOC) and if my state has an SPOC?**
The SPOC list can be found using this link: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html>
- **Where do I find information about the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the contacts?**
The CoC information can be found in the following website: <http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewCoCMapsAndReports>
- **Where do I find information about the Public Health Systems Impact Statement (PHSIS)/Single State Agency Coordination (SSA) and if my state participates?**
The SSA Directory can be found using this link: <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/ssadirectory.pdf>