

SECTION 5000

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SHELTER AND SERVICES

SECTION 5001 - GENERAL INFORMATION

.01 The Office of Emergency Shelter and Services (OESS) is a City of Philadelphia department. OESS's mission is to provide housing and/or related services to homeless individuals.

.02 OESS plans, prioritizes, coordinates and allocates federal, state and local resources to service providers under four basic categories of service providers to meet its objectives of providing services to the homeless and adults:

- Maintenance of Self-Sufficiency: programs/services are - eviction prevention, emergency relocation, protective services, homemaker services, emergency food and case management.
- Basic Care: programs/services are - intake services, evening and weekend reception, street outreach and shelter services.
- Supportive Services to Assist Homeless Persons: programs/services are - case management of singles and families, substance abuse counseling and Employment Project Services.
- Post-Shelter Transitional & Housing: programs/services are - Housing, Bridge Housing, Pennfree Transitional Housing and Voucher Program.

.03 OESS initiates a proposal each contract year which outlines the budget and service provisions for the program/services to address the needs of the clients. OESS monitors the service providers against both budget and service projections and for compliance with applicable regulations. Any program or fiscal management technical assistance needed by the service provider is provided. OESS also functions as a liaison between the contract programs and Federal/State funding and regulatory agencies.

.04 The above noted OESS operations are funded through potential providers via a contract award which may be either program funded or fee-for-service funded. The following briefly describes these funding mechanisms:

- Program funded projects are privately administered and staffed and are reimbursed for their total personnel, operating and fixed asset expenses as predetermined by the City of Philadelphia - OESS less all interest or other incomes derived by the Agency from the use of agreement funds.
- Fee-for-Service also referred to as unit of service funding are service providers which are privately administered, staffed and funded by a contracted per-diem or fee rate by the City of Philadelphia - OESS.

SECTION 5100

.01 The Office of Emergency Shelter and Services administers various programs as detailed in the following section.

SECTION 5110 - PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND OPERATIONS

Bridge Housing Program

.01 The Bridge Housing Program is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) through OESS. The Bridge Housing Program is designed to provide transitional housing from three to twelve months to homeless adults. There are six Bridge Housing Programs that serve: single males with psychiatric or substance abuse problems; single substance abusing females; single 18-21 year old males; single women and their children, physically abused women and their children; and homeless males. Each of these programs provide a supportive environment that focuses on achieving the goals of independence and self-sufficiency. Services supported by OESS include: supervised transitional housing, case management, job readiness/employment counseling (life skills training), housing counseling, personal/group counseling, substance abuse management and post service follow-up for one year.

Case Management Program

.02 The Case Management Program is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) through OESS. Case management programs provide ongoing coordination with the client of all the helping activities needed by the client from the administering agency and other resources in the community to achieve the goal of self-sufficient living. Intensive case management services are provided to homeless individuals and families in designated shelters referred by OESS. Clients are seen on an individual basis 3-4 times a week at the shelter site. In addition, specialized case management services are provided to individuals whose primary problem is substance abuse. Street Outreach is also provided as part of these services. Other services supported by OESS include: assessment, service planning, referrals and on-site educational groups.

Emergency Shelter Grants Program: Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (DCED-McKinney)

.03 The Emergency Shelter Grants Program (ESGP) is a federally funded program through the Pennsylvania Department of Commerce's – Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and OESS. This program is called DCED - McKinney by OESS to distinguish it from the McKinney ESGP that OESS receives directly from the federal government. The ESGP provides for one or more of the following activities:

- Renovation, major rehabilitation or conversion of buildings for use as emergency shelters for the homeless.
- Provision of essential services, including (but not limited to) services concerned with employment, health, substance abuse, education or food.