COC RFP Questions and Answers

Q-1— For an RRH project, would outreach and recruitment be the responsibility of the provider, or would all participants be sent to the provider by OHS?

A- Participants for the RRH project would be referred by OHS through the Coordinated Entry process known as CEA-BHRS (“sea breeze”). RRH providers are responsible for outreach, marketing and recruitment of landlords who will house their participants.

Q-2— Would victims of human trafficking coming from a 12-month residential program qualify as homeless and be eligible for RRH-related services under this contract?

A- No, if a household has been housed in a residential program for 12 months, participants will no longer be considered homeless. The 2019 HUD NOFA specifically clarifies that “persons who are fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking may qualify as homeless under paragraph (4) of the homeless definition at 24 CFR 578.3; and, therefore, the individuals may be eligible for certain forms of homeless assistance under the CoC Program, subject to other restrictions that may apply” (p. 18). However, the full Category 4 definition (as included in the RFP on pp. 11-12) reads as follows (emphasis ours): “Any individual or family who:

i. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual’s or family’s primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;

ii. Has no other residence; and

iii. Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.”

After 12 months with a different primary nighttime residence, the household would no longer be considered as fleeing.

Q-3— It states in the RFP: "Appendix B-1 includes the “Solicitation for Participation and Commitment Form” which Applicants should complete and return with their proposal if Applicant has solicited and/or made commitments to use M/W/DSBEs as part of its proposal. “ If provider does not intend on using any subcontractors as part of their RRH program, is it necessary to complete this form?

A- No, but the applicant should be sure to complete the Diversity Report for Nonprofit Organizations.
Q-4— Is there a specific number (minimum number) of households (i.e., 25 households) that you are looking to house within a grant year for this grant?

A- There is no minimum number of households. Applicants should be sure that they can demonstrate their organizational capacity to serve the number of households that they propose.

Q-5— Can the client’s portion of rental subsidy payments go towards the required 25% match?

A- Yes. Complete matching requirements are available at 24 CFR 578.73. In brief, CoC-funded projects may use funds from any source, provided that funds from the source are not statutorily prohibited to be used as a match. Program income (see 24 CFR 578.97) generated through CoC Program funds (e.g., tenant rents) may be used as match, but applicants must be aware that should a project be selected for submission to HUD, the program income must be properly documented in the project application. See pp. 38, 57, or 77-78 of the FY 2019 CoC Program New Project Detailed Instructions, available on HUDExchange.

Q-6— If a new applicant’s project receives CoC funds as a sub-recipient from OHS, and then the applicant agency renews the following year directly with HUD, can the renewal applicant receive the full 10% indirect rate from HUD? Or is the renewal agency still technically a sub-recipient of OHS the following year for existing renewal projects?

A- In order to renew directly with HUD, OHS would have to transfer the grant to the provider organization, probably in the Grant Inventory Worksheet part of the process that precedes the opening of the national competition. Unless the grant is transferred, the agency will remain a sub-recipient of the HUD CoC funds in future HUD funding competitions.

Q-7— How much of the $3.5 million DV Bonus will be allocated to new projects?

A- Philadelphia is eligible to apply for slightly more than $3.1 million in DV Bonus funds. The DV Bonus funding is entirely dedicated to new (or expansion) projects. Philadelphia will submit applications for whatever total amount of DV Bonus funding as we have strong, competitive projects.
Q-8— Does it matter the longevity of the organization when applying?


Q-9— When will the PowerPoint slides be available?

A- The slides will be available along with these questions and answers on http://www.phila.gov/rfp on August 5, 2019.

Q-10— Are the 3 expansion project applications due on August 19th?

A- No. What is due on August 19th is a proposal responding to the RFP. While it is advisable to review HUD’s requirements for New Project applications to anticipate what might be required of you if the proposal is selected. If your proposal is selected for inclusion in the community’s Consolidated Application for HUD funding, OHS will work with the provider to complete two HUD New Project Applications in September – one for the expansion and one for the combined expansion/renewal. If the project currently receives CoC funding from HUD, the renewal application must be submitted in e-snaps by August 16 at 4pm. If the project receives CoC funding via a grant that OHS holds, OHS will be completing the renewal application.

Q-11— We are aiming to apply for an expansion of an existing RRH project. We understand that we have to submit three applications:

- Renewal project application
- New project application for the expansion
- A renewal application that combines the two

For example, a provider completed its local renewal application for FY21 funding in April, as part of the Philadelphia Local Renewal Competition. If OHS is the grantee for that project, will OHS be completing the final submission step into e-snaps this year, or is the provider responsible? For the renewal application that combines the two (the renewal components, and the expanded project) should this be written as though the expansion was approved? Where will we view the space to upload all three into e-snaps? I just saw the expansion guide was released, but wanted to confirm we are looking at the correct space. We have never completed a consolidation, is this something we need to do?

A- Please see the response to the previous question. If your current RRH grant is held by OHS, OHS will be completing the renewal application in e-snaps. You should be hearing from OHS staff about any information that they need you to provide. The other two
applications will not be created unless the proposal is selected for inclusion in the HUD application. At that time, OHS will work with you to complete those applications in e-snaps. No consolidations are required for expansion projects.

Q-12— Our original RRH project was written with an evidence-based framework of using a declining rental subsidy to support survivors as they transition (affording them time to build greater economic stability). This involved subsidizing at 100% to begin then declining over quarters over a 1-year period. When we implemented our RRH, we understood that we were not in fact able to do that as an RRH program here. Given the RFP’s emphasis on evidence-based practices, is this something that could be revisited? How else do you anticipate evidence-based practices impacting the projects/programs?

A- As stated in the Philadelphia CoC’s Standards for Providing Assistance Under the Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant Programs, for Rapid Re-Housing programs, “Participants are to pay rent. It is required that the tenant’s share of rent not exceed 30% of the household’s adjusted monthly gross income.” This means that if a participant has income, the program could not provide 100% subsidy and it also limits the degree to which assistance could be reduced. (This reflects HUD regulations on calculating rent when providing rental assistance, found at 24 CFR 578.77.)

Q-13— Separately, we understand that housing providers who are thinking of applying for DV bonus funds to expand their programs are encouraged to partner with a DV provider, which can bring supportive services and/or DV & RRH expertise. Can you tell me whether any technical assistance activities would be allowable, such as a DV provider that provides training in DV or case consultation as a housing provider administers its funding from OHS? If so, under what line item would that be shown in the budget.

B- As seen on p. 16 of the RFP (reflecting 24 CRR 578.53), one example of case management services is “providing ongoing risk assessment and safety planning for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.” That would include case consultation. Training would fall under the heading of administrative costs.

Q-14— Can replacement reserve be added in as an expense under an existing transitional housing program? Can that be done as part of a renewal for a component of service that does not need to otherwise be expanded but would add this cost to budget?
A- Changing the budget of an existing program as part of renewal does not fall under the purview of this RFP unless the changes are to expand the services provided or to serve more households.