

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP): *Baltimore City Co-Occurring Forensic Supported Housing*

Pre-Proposal Conference Held: November 17, 2025 | 9 a.m.
Rescheduled date November 24, 2025 at 2 p.m.

BHSB Facilitators:

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Posted: November 26, 2025

Question 1

Will this grant application be limited to SUD since our residential treatment program is not yet operational? Although we have received approval, we are still waiting for access to the OCQ portal to submit the required documents. Given this situation, are we still eligible to apply?

Answer:

The grant application is not limited to substance use disorder (SUD) programs. However, to be eligible under the RFP, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be licensed as one (1) of the following according to Maryland COMAR 10.63 regulations:
 - Outpatient mental health center
 - Outpatient substance use disorder treatment program
 - Residential rehabilitation program

If your residential treatment program is not yet operational and you are still waiting for OCQ portal access to submit the required documents, you may still be eligible to apply for this grant provided that your substance use disorder (SUD) program has been established for more than two years. The operational status of the residential program is not a determining factor in this case. Please also review the staffing requirements and applicant eligibility criteria for reference.



Question 2

Can you give some examples of the funds that are not reimbursable through Medicaid that the funds can be used for? How can I get a copy of the Rent Reasonableness Form?

Answer: Funds shall not be used to support, in whole or part, services that are otherwise reimbursable with state or federal funds through the PBHS Fee-for-Service (FFS) or Maryland Medicaid. Any vendor or sub-vendor shall actively seek reimbursement for such services from the PBHS, Maryland Medicaid, or other state and local funding authorities, as applicable, and may not duplicate or supplant existing funded services or programs with grant funds from this award.

A Rent Reasonableness Form is used to confirm that the rent charged for a unit is reasonable compared to similar, unassisted units in the same market. This form is required for individuals transitioning into independent housing. It must be completed for all new participants, and the Program Lead will provide training to ensure accurate completion. Since certain items will transfer from the previous provider to the new one, many elements should already be in place and will not affect current participants. A copy of the form is available on the Behavioral Health Administration website under the Core Service Agency reporting forms.

[Pages - New Forms](#)

Question 3

Since we're discussing services billable through Medicaid, my question is about individuals who are already receiving services and connected to an existing treatment program. Are these clients required to discontinue their current treatment and transition to the new provider, or will we simply offer additional support while allowing clients to choose where they receive their SUD-related services?

Answer: Clients are not required to discontinue their current treatment or transition to a new provider. Our goal is to maintain continuity for individuals already enrolled in the program. Because the program is a consumer-driven model, we respect their choice. Some consumers may decide to keep their existing providers, such as their current mental health or SUD provider, and we fully support that decision. If a participant chooses to transfer services, that is entirely their right. The new service provider will offer additional support and ensure alignment with the scope of services.



Question 4

Is this your first time managing a transition like this? If so, what challenges have new providers typically faced when clients are already connected to an existing provider? I can anticipate some potential obstacles during this switch, so I'd like to understand what strategies or pathways are in place to help mitigate these issues.

Answer: There has only been one provider since the inception of this program. We have not experienced a transition such as this within this project. BHSB will work closely with the selected provider to ensure a smooth process and address any obstacles or challenges that may arise. One key consideration is the existing peer support relationship with the current clients in the program. Clients currently have a peer who visits them monthly and provides ongoing support as outlined in the scope of work for this project. Losing that connection could be difficult for them, so it's essential to have a strong peer ready to engage, build rapport, and establish trust with clients transitioning into the program. Additionally, it's important to allow clients who are thriving in their current housing arrangements to remain in those placements if it aligns with the program's guidelines and requirements. Supporting them in maintaining stability will be a priority throughout this transition.

Question 5

If we have an RRP (Residential Rehabilitation Program), is it permissible for clients to be referred to our own agency for those services?

Answer: Yes, clients may choose your agency for residential services; however, participation is entirely consumer-driven. Clients are not required to select your agency—the decision rests solely with the participant. If they choose your agency as their residential service provider, that choice is fully within their rights.

Housing provided under this program primarily consists of independent units leased from private landlords and Residential Rehabilitation Programs (RRPs). The focus is on consumer choice. If a client is already housed and your agency offers additional services that could benefit them, they may choose to participate—but this should never be a requirement for maintaining housing. Access to housing cannot be contingent upon enrolling in your mental health program or any other services you provide. Participation in those services must remain entirely the client's decision.

Question 6



Can you give us a scenario related to this project?

Answer: This scenario focuses on housing a participant. The first step is to identify the client and confirm that they meet the program’s eligibility requirements. Once eligibility is verified, you will complete an intake, which serves as the foundation for building a relationship and initiating services. After the intake, you’ll work with the client to search for housing based on their preferences. Because this is a consumer-choice model, clients may explore different options before deciding on the best fit. The role of the provider is to guide them through the process, help narrow their search, and support them in finding housing that meets their needs.

Once the client is housed, the focus shifts to helping them maintain long-term stability. This includes providing guidance on budgeting to ensure they can manage monthly rent and connect them to essential community resources such as mental health or substance use providers. Peer support specialists play a vital role by engaging clients, building trust, and offering ongoing support.

Clients are also linked to community providers; however, challenges may arise—such as unresolved issues with property management. In these situations, the Peer Support Specialist is essential to ensure that clients live in safe, habitable homes. Addressing these challenges often requires strong collaboration and partnership to overcome barriers and promote long-term stability for the client.

Question 7

Should we follow your case management model, or can we choose?

Answer: The model for this contract is person-centered approach, designed to align with Housing First principles and Evidence-Based Practices for Permanent Supportive Housing. These principles govern the program’s operations and ensure comprehensive support for individuals transitioning to independent housing. While Housing First was mentioned earlier, the intent was to emphasize that its core principles remain consistent with the approach for this program.

Providers are expected to identify and deliver supports that foster consumers' stability, recovery and independence. Peer contracts play a critical role in implementing this model effectively, ensuring clients receive additional support and resource linkage outlined in the deliverables.



Question 8

Are there any specific requirements for the housing itself? For example, do our clients need to meet certain criteria or have a particular type of housing arrangement to qualify? What type of housing is required under this program? For example, is it similar to Level 3.1 settings where individuals can have roommates, or does each person need to have their own unit? What are the specific parameters or definitions of acceptable housing for each individual?

Answer:

Clients must meet the program's eligibility criteria and satisfy property management leasing requirements to become the leaseholder. Each case may vary depending on the client's rental history or Residential Rehabilitation Program (RRP) requirements.

The types of housing supported under this program include RRP settings or independent housing, such as apartment complexes. In settings similar to Level 3.1, clients may have roommates; however, this depends on their level of care and individual needs. Providers should consult with the BHSB Program Lead if there is any uncertainty or need for clarification regarding placement.

The specific parameters or definitions of acceptable housing for each individual are determined through a level-of-care assessment during intake, which helps identify the most appropriate housing option. The grant will cover the participant's security deposit.

Question 9

Do I need to obtain a 3.0 residential license before submitting this proposal? In your explanation, you mentioned that individuals will choose where they want to live. Does that mean the residential license is required for participation, or not?

Answer: No, you do not need to obtain a 3.0 residential license to apply for this RFP.

Question 10

How does HUD fit into this process? I know they follow the Housing First model, but is it the same approach here?

Answer: Yes, the approach is closely aligned with HUD principles. The funder requires providers to implement the Housing First model and evidence-based practices (EBPs) for permanent supportive housing. These practices are



designed to promote housing stability, community integration, and recovery, and are supported by decades of research showing reduced emergency service use and improved health outcomes.

The project uses a HUD-aligned rental subsidy structure to meet both immediate and ongoing housing needs:

- Immediate needs: Security deposits, first month's rent, utilities, basic furniture, kitchen essentials, and household cleaning supplies.
- Ongoing needs: Rental subsidies to maintain affordability, guided by the Maryland Department of Health's Rent Reasonableness Form and Rent Calculation Worksheet, with standards reviewed annually by BHSB.

Question 11

Can the reward money be used to pay for the peer certification process?

Answer: BHSB will connect the selected provider with the Consumer Inclusion Coordinator and other supports and resources, to link peers to the necessary trainings to successfully obtain certification.

Questions from November 17, 2025, Pre-Proposal Conference

Question 1

Will there be more than one provider selected for this program?

Answer: There will only be one provider selected for this project.

Question 2

Are we responsible for compiling a comprehensive list of landlords for the apartments, or do you already have a list available?

Answer: No, BHSB does not maintain a comprehensive list of landlords we contract with. Providers are responsible for compiling their own list by establishing partnerships with landlords. This approach ensures flexibility and supports consumer choice.

As part of the process, the Peer Support Specialist will accompany the consumer to view multiple housing options based on their preferences. The consumer selects the housing option that fits their needs and adheres to program guidelines.

Question 3



What about individuals currently served in our programs that qualify for this?

Answer: The selected applicant will be responsible for supporting and managing the transition of 25 eligible individuals into community-based housing. Currently, all slots are filled due to the grant's allocation for 25 participants that will be transferred from the current provider. Enrollment for additional individuals will occur only when a slot becomes available, and they come from your current program if they fit the criteria.

Question 4

The RFP states that participants must *"reside or be willing to reside in Baltimore City."* Can you please confirm whether an organization headquartered outside Baltimore City, but licensed under COMAR 10.63 and able to establish Baltimore City housing capacity, would be considered fully eligible to apply?

Answer: Yes, an organization headquartered outside Baltimore City can be considered fully eligible to apply for this procurement. All housing placements for consumers must be within Baltimore City. The provider should be committed to delivering services within Baltimore City, actively engaging with landlords or property managements, and fulfilling all service deliverables as outlined in the RFP.

End of Questions and Answers