

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Balance of State Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program Request for Proposals

The State of Connecticut, Department of Housing (the Department) is seeking proposals from eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit providers to provide housing and supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS in the Balance of State (BOS) Eligible Metropolitan Service Area (EMSA) who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The geographic areas that comprise the BOS EMSA are Litchfield County, Middlesex County, New London County, and Tolland County.

The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide states and localities with resources and incentives to devise and implement long-term, comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing needs of low-income persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and related diseases, and their families.

The RFP is available in electronic format on the State Contracting Portal at [http://www.biznet.ct.gov/SCP Search/Default.aspx?AccLast=2](http://www.biznet.ct.gov/SCP_Search/Default.aspx?AccLast=2) or from the Department's Official Contact:

Name: Steve DiLella, Director, Individual and Family Support Programs,
Department of Housing
Address: 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860-270-8081
E-Mail: Steve.DiLella@ct.gov

The RFP is also available on the Department's website at <http://www.ct.gov/doh/site/default.asp>. A printed copy of the RFP can be obtained from the Official Contact upon request. Deadline for submission of proposals is Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 3:00 PM.

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. INTRODUCTION

1. **RFP Name and Number.** Balance of State Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program 2018_29147
2. **Summary.** The State of Connecticut, Department of Housing (the Department), is seeking proposals from eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit providers to provide housing and supportive services for people living with HIV/AIDS in the Balance of State (BOS) Eligible Metropolitan Service Area (EMSA) who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The geographic areas that comprise the BOS EMSA are Litchfield County, Middlesex County, New London County, and Tolland County.
3. **Synopsis (Optional).** The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide states and localities with resources and incentives to devise and implement long-term, comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing needs of low-income persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and related diseases, and their families.
4. **Commodity Codes.** The services that the Department wishes to procure through this RFP are as follows:
 - 2000: Community and Social Services

B. ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS / DEFINITIONS

ACT	AIDS Connecticut
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
BFO	Best and Final Offer
C.G.S.	Connecticut General Statutes
CHRO	Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CT)
CT	Connecticut
DAS	Department of Administrative Services (CT)
DMHAS	Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (CT)
DOH	Department of Housing
EMSA	Eligible Metropolitan Service Area
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act (CT)
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development (US)
IRS	Internal Revenue Service (U.S.)

LOI	Letter of Intent
OAG	Office of the Attorney General (CT)
OPM	Office of Policy and Management (CT)
OSC	Office of the State Comptroller (CT)
POS	Purchase of Service
P.A.	Public Act (CT)
RFP	Request for Proposals
SEEC	State Elections Enforcement Commission (CT)
STRMU	Short-term Rent, Mortgage and Utilities
TBRA	Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
U.S.	United States

- *contractor*: a 501(c)(3) nonprofit provider organization that enters into a POS contract with the Department as a result of this RFP
- *respondent*: a 501(c)(3) nonprofit provider organization that has submitted a proposal to the Department in response to this RFP
- *prospective respondent*: a 501(c)(3) nonprofit provider organization that may submit a proposal to the Department in response to this RFP, but has not yet done so
- *subcontractor*: an individual (other than an employee of the contractor) or business entity hired by a contractor to provide a specific health or human service as part of a POS contract with the Department as a result of this RFP

C. INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Official Contact.** The individual below is the Official Contact for purposes of this RFP. The Official Contact is the **only authorized contact** for this procurement and, as such, handles all related communications on behalf of the Department. Proposers, prospective proposers, and other interested parties are advised that any communication with any other Department employee(s) (including appointed officials) or personnel under contract to the Department about this RFP is strictly prohibited. Proposers or prospective proposers who violate this instruction may risk disqualification from further consideration.

Name: Steve DiLella, Director, Individual and Family Support Programs,
Department of Housing
Address: 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860-270-8081
E-Mail: Steve.DiLella@ct.gov

Please ensure that e-mail screening software (if used) recognizes and accepts e-mails from the Official Contact.

SECTION I. GENERAL INFORMATION

2. RFP Information. The RFP, amendments to the RFP, and other information associated with this procurement are available in electronic format from the Official Contact or from the Internet at the following locations:

- Department's Web Page
<http://www.ct.gov/doh/site/default.asp>
- State Contracting Portal
http://www.biznet.ct.gov/SCP_Search/Default.aspx?Acclast=2

It is strongly recommended that any proposer or prospective proposer interested in this procurement subscribe to receive e-mail alerts from the State Contracting Portal. Subscribers will receive a daily e-mail announcing procurements and addendums that are posted on the portal. This service is provided as a courtesy to assist in monitoring activities associated with State procurements, including this RFP.

Printed copies of all documents are also available from the Official Contact upon request.

3. Contract Offers. The offer of the right to negotiate any contract pursuant to this RFP is dependent upon the availability of funding to the Department. The Department anticipates the following:

- Total Funding Available: \$235,613 in federal funds annually dependent upon the Department's annual HOPWA allocation from HUD
- Number of Offers: Up to four (4)
- Contract Term: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021

The Department may select as few as one successful proposal or as many as four (4) proposals dependent upon the evaluation process and the funding requested. Not necessarily all eligible EMSAs will be funded.

4. Eligibility. Private provider organizations (defined as non-state entities that are 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporations or partnerships) with principal place of business in Connecticut are eligible to submit proposals in response to this RFP. Individuals who are not a duly formed business entity are ineligible to participate in this procurement.

5. Minimum Qualifications of Respondents. To be considered for the right to negotiate a contract, a respondent must have demonstrated experience and focus on serving persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Balance of State Eligible Metropolitan Service Area (EMSA). The geographic areas that comprise the Balance of State EMSA are Litchfield County, Middlesex County, New London County, and Tolland County. Demonstration of abilities will occur in the proposal and must include, but not be limited to the following:

- Successfully provided supportive housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS for a minimum of two (2) years, or equivalent, for example, supportive housing for other individuals with special needs such as persons with mental illness, substance use disorders, homelessness, or other disabilities;
- Currently provide case management services in conjunction with supportive housing;
- Currently provide services within the eligible EMSA(s) for which the respondent is seeking funding from the Department (the respondent's principal office need not be located within the EMSA).
- Provide services in accordance with the Housing First model

- v. Are active participants in the Coordinated Access Network (CAN) in which the respondent is seeking funding from the Department

The Department reserves the right to reject the submission of any respondent that is in default of any current or prior contract.

6. Procurement Schedule. See below. Dates after the due date for proposals (“Proposals Due”) are target dates only (*). The Department may amend the schedule, as needed. Any change will be made by means of an addendum to this RFP and will be posted on the State Contracting Portal, ACT’s web site, and the Department’s RFP Web Page.

- RFP Released: September 15, 2017
- Deadline for Questions: October 13, 2017
- Answers Released : October 20, 2017
- Proposals Due: November 15, 2017 at 3pm
- (*) Start of Contract: July 1, 2018

7. Letter of Intent. A Letter of Intent (LOI) is not required by this RFP.

8. Inquiry Procedures. All questions regarding this RFP or the Department’s procurement process must be directed, in writing, to the Official Contact before the deadline specified in the Procurement Schedule. The early submission of questions is encouraged. Questions will not be accepted or answered verbally – neither in person nor over the telephone. All questions received before the deadline will be answered. However, DOH will not answer questions when the source is unknown (i.e., nuisance or anonymous questions). Questions deemed unrelated to the RFP or the procurement process will not be answered. At its discretion, DOH may or may not respond to questions received after the deadline. DOH may combine similar questions and give only one answer. All questions and answers will be compiled into a written addendum to this RFP. If any answer to any question constitutes a material change to the RFP, the question and answer will be placed at the beginning of the addendum and duly noted as such. The answers to the questions will be released on the date established in the Procurement Schedule. Any and all amendments or addenda to this RFP will be published on the State Contracting Portal, on ACT’s website, and on the Department’s RFP Web Page.

9. Proposal Due Date and Time. The Official Contact is the **only authorized recipient** of proposals submitted in response to this RFP. Proposals must be received by the Official Contact on or before the due date and time:

- Due Date: November 15, 2017
- Time: 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Faxed or e-mailed proposals will not be evaluated. DOH shall not accept a postmark date as the basis for meeting the proposal due date and time. Respondents should not interpret or otherwise construe receipt of a proposal after the due date and time as acceptance of the proposal, since the actual receipt of the proposal is a clerical function. DOH suggests the respondent use certified or registered mail, or a delivery service such as United Parcel Service (UPS) to deliver the proposal when the respondent is unable to deliver the proposal by courier or in person. When hand-delivering proposals, respondents should allow extra time to comply with building security procedures. Proposals shall not be considered received by DOH until they are in the hands of the

Official Contact or another representative of DOH designated by the Official Contact. At the discretion of DOH, late proposals may be destroyed or retained for pick-up by the submitters.

An acceptable submission must include the following:

- one (1) original proposal; and
- five (5) conforming electronic copies of the original proposal on Compact Disk (CD) or flash drive clearly labeled with the Legal Name of the respondent and the RFP Name: **HOPWA RFP 2018_29147**.

The original proposal must carry original signatures and be clearly marked on the cover as "Original." Unsigned proposals will not be evaluated. The original proposal and each conforming copy of the proposal must be complete, properly formatted and outlined, and ready for evaluation by the Evaluation Team. **The electronic copy of the proposal must be compatible with Microsoft Office Word except for the Budget, which may be compatible with Microsoft Office Excel.** For the electronic copy, only the required Appendices and Forms identified in Section IV may be scanned and submitted in Portable Document Format (PDF) or similar file format.

10. Multiple Proposals. The submission of multiple proposals is not an option with this procurement; however one proposal may include more than one EMSA.

11. Declaration of Confidential Information. Respondents are advised that all materials associated with this procurement are subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Privacy Act, and all rules, regulations and interpretations resulting from them. If a respondent deems that certain information required by this RFP is confidential, the respondent must label such information as CONFIDENTIAL. In Section C of the proposal submission, the respondent must reference where the information labeled CONFIDENTIAL is located in the proposal. *EXAMPLE: Section G.1.a.* For each subsection so referenced, the respondent must provide a convincing explanation and rationale sufficient to justify an exemption of the information from release under the FOIA. The explanation and rationale must be stated in terms of (a) the prospective harm to the competitive position of the respondent that would result if the identified information were to be released and (b) the reasons why the information is legally exempt from release pursuant to C.G.S. § 1-210(b).

12. Conflict of Interest - Disclosure Statement. Respondents must include a disclosure statement concerning any current business relationships (within the last three (3) years) that pose a conflict of interest, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-85. A conflict of interest exists when a relationship exists between the respondent and a public official (including an elected official) or State employee that may interfere with fair competition or may be adverse to the interests of the State. The existence of a conflict of interest is not, in and of itself, evidence of wrongdoing. A conflict of interest may, however, become a legal matter if a respondent tries to influence, or succeeds in influencing, the outcome of an official decision for their personal or corporate benefit. The Department will determine whether any disclosed conflict of interest poses a substantial advantage to the respondent over the competition, decreases the overall competitiveness of this procurement, or is not in the best interests of the State. In the absence of any conflict of interest, a respondent must affirm such in the disclosure statement: *"[name of respondent] has no current business relationship (within the last three (3) years) that poses a conflict of interest, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-85."*

D. PROPOSAL FORMAT

1. **Required Outline.** All proposals must follow the required outline presented in Section IV. Proposal Outline. Proposals that fail to follow the required outline will be deemed, at the discretion of DOH, non-responsive and not evaluated.
2. **Cover Sheet.** The Cover Sheet is Page 1 of the proposal. Respondents must complete and use the Cover Sheet form that is embedded in this section as a hyperlink. http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/cover_sheet_hopwa.docx
3. **Table of Contents.** All proposals must include a Table of Contents that conforms to the required proposal outline. (See Section IV.)
4. **Executive Summary.** Proposals must include a high-level summary, not exceeding one double-sided page (two pages total), of the main proposal and cost proposal. The Executive Summary shall include: a) the respondent's minimum of two (2) years experience providing supportive housing services for persons living with HIV/AIDS; b) case management services the respondent currently provides in conjunction with supportive housing in Connecticut; c) principal place of business (need not be located within the EMSA); d) provide services in accordance with the Housing First model; and e) are active participants of the CAN in which the respondent is seeking funding from the Department
5. **Attachments.** Attachments other than the required Appendices and Forms identified in Section IV are not permitted and will not be evaluated. Further, the required Appendices and Forms must not be altered or used to extend, enhance, or replace any component required by this RFP. Failure to abide by these instructions will result in disqualification.
6. **Style Requirements.** The original proposal and each of the five (5) conforming electronic copies must conform to the following specifications:

Binding Type:	The original and on each electronic copy: Loose leaf binders with the Legal Name of the respondent and the RFP Name appearing on the outside front cover of binder: HOPWA RFP 2018_29147
Dividers:	The original: A tab sheet keyed to the table of contents must separate each subsection of the proposal; the title of each subsection must appear on the tab sheet
Paper Size:	8½" x 11", portrait orientation
Page Limit:	No more than 10 double-sided consecutively numbered pages (20 pages total) <u>excluding</u> all required Appendices and Forms
Print Style:	2-sided
Font Size:	Minimum 11 point
Font Type:	Arial or Tahoma
Margins:	The binding edge margin of all narrative pages (not forms or Appendices) shall be a minimum of one and one half inches (1½"); all other margins shall be one inch 1".
Line Spacing:	Single-spaced
7. **Pagination.** The respondent's name must be displayed in the header of each page. All pages, from the Cover Sheet through the required Appendices and Forms, must be numbered consecutively in the footer.

8. Packaging and Labeling Requirements. All proposals must be submitted in sealed envelopes or packages and be addressed to the Official Contact. The Legal Name and Address of the respondent must appear in the upper left corner of the envelope or package. The RFP Name must be clearly displayed on the envelope or package: **HOPWA RFP 2018_29147**. Any received proposal that does not conform to these packaging and labeling instructions will be opened as general mail. Such a proposal may be accepted by DOH as a clerical function, but it will not be evaluated. At the discretion of DOH, such a proposal may be destroyed or retained for pick-up by the submitters.

E. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

- 1. Evaluation Process.** It is the intent of DOH to conduct a comprehensive, fair, and impartial evaluation of proposals received in response to this RFP. When evaluating proposals, negotiating with successful respondents, and offering the right to negotiate contracts, the Department will conform to its written procedures for POS procurements (pursuant to C.G.S. § 4-217) and the State's Code of Ethics (pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 1-84 and 1-85).
- 2. Evaluation Team.** The Department will designate an Evaluation Team to evaluate proposals submitted in response to this RFP. The contents of all submitted proposals, including any confidential information, will be shared with the Evaluation Team. Only proposals found to be responsive (that is, complying with all instructions and requirements described herein) will be reviewed, rated, and scored. Proposals that fail to comply with all instructions will be rejected without further consideration. Attempts by any respondent (or representative of any respondent) to contact or influence any member of the Evaluation Team may result in disqualification of the respondent.
- 3. Minimum Submission Requirements.** All proposals must comply with the requirements specified in this RFP. To be eligible for evaluation, proposals must (a) be received on or before the due date and time; (b) meet the Proposal Format requirements; (c) follow the required Proposal Outline; and (d) be complete. Proposals that fail to follow instructions or satisfy these minimum submission requirements will not be reviewed further. DOH will reject any proposal that deviates significantly from the requirements of this RFP.
- 4. Evaluation Criteria.** Proposals meeting the Minimum Submission Requirements will be evaluated according to the established criteria. The criteria are the objective standards that the Evaluation Team will use to evaluate the technical merits of the proposals. Only the criteria listed below will be used to evaluate proposals. The criteria are weighted according to their relative importance.
 - Organizational Requirements
 - Service Requirements
 - Staffing Requirements *see note*
 - Data and Technology Requirements
 - Subcontractors
 - Financial Requirements
 - Budget and Budget Narrative
 - Appendices

Note:

As part of its evaluation of the Staffing Requirements, the Evaluation Team will consider the respondent's demonstrated commitment to affirmative action, as required by the Regulations of CT State Agencies § 46A-68j-30(10).

- 5. Respondent Selection.** Upon completing its evaluation of proposals, the Evaluation Team will submit the rankings of all proposals to the Department head. The final selection of a successful respondent is at the discretion of the Department head. Any respondent selected will be so notified and offered an opportunity to negotiate a contract with the Department. Such negotiations may, but will not automatically, result in a contract. Successful respondents will not be allowed to negotiate for either a higher amount of total funds or a higher percentage for administrative/indirect costs than those submitted in their proposals. All unsuccessful respondents will be notified by e-mail or U.S. mail, at the Department's discretion, about the outcome of the evaluation and respondent selection process.
- 6. Debriefing.** After receiving notification from the Department, any respondent may contact the Official Contact and request a Debriefing of the procurement process and its proposal. If respondents still have questions after receiving this information, they may contact the Official Contact and request a meeting with the Department to discuss the procurement process. The Department shall schedule and conduct Debriefing meetings that have been properly requested, within fifteen (15) days of the Department's receipt of a request. The Debriefing meeting must not include or allow any comparisons of any proposals with other proposals, nor should the identity of the evaluators be released. The Debriefing process shall not be used to change, alter, or modify the outcome of a competitive procurement. More detailed information about requesting a Debriefing may be obtained from the Official Contact.
- 7. Appeal Process.** Any time after the submission due date, but **not later than thirty (30) days** after the Department notifies respondents about the outcome of a competitive procurement, respondents may submit an Appeal to the Department. The e-mail sent date or the postmark date on the notification envelope will be considered "day one" of the thirty (30) days. Respondents may appeal any aspect of the Department's competitive procurement; however, such Appeal must be in writing and must set forth facts or evidence in sufficient and convincing detail for the Department to determine whether during any aspect of the competitive procurement there was a failure to comply with the State's statutes, regulations, or standards concerning competitive procurement or the provisions of the RFP. Any such Appeal must be submitted to the Agency Head with a copy to the Contract Administrator. The respondent must include the basis for the Appeal and the remedy requested. The filing of an Appeal shall not be deemed sufficient reason for the Department to delay, suspend, cancel, or terminate the procurement process or execution of a contract. More detailed information about filing an Appeal may be obtained from the Official Contact.
- 8. Contest of Procurement or Offer.** Pursuant to Section 4e-36 of the Connecticut General Statutes, "Any bidder or proposer on a state contract may contest the solicitation or award of a contract to a subcommittee of the State Contracting Standards Board..." More detailed information is available on the State Contracting Standards Board web site at <http://www.ct.gov/scsb/site/default.asp>.

9. **Contract Execution.** Any contract developed and executed as a result of this RFP is subject to the Department's contracting procedures, which may include approval by the Office of the Attorney General.

II. MANDATORY PROVISIONS

A. POS STANDARD CONTRACT, PARTS I AND II

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, the respondent implicitly agrees to comply with the provisions of Parts I and II of the State's "standard contract" for POS:

Part I of the standard contract is maintained by the Department and will include the scope of services, contract performance, quality assurance, reports, terms of payment, budget, and other program-specific provisions of any resulting POS contract. A sample of Part I is available from the Department's Official Contact upon request.

Part II of the standard contract is maintained by OPM and includes the mandatory terms and conditions of the POS contract. Part II is available on OPM's website at: [OPM: POS Standard Contract Part II](#).

Note:

Included in Part II of the standard contract is the State Elections Enforcement Commission's notice (pursuant to C.G.S. § 9-612(g) (2)) advising executive branch State contractors and prospective State contractors of the ban on campaign contributions and solicitations. If a respondent is offered an opportunity to negotiate a contract with the Department and the resulting contract has an anticipated value in a calendar year of \$50,000 or more, or a combination or series of such agreements or contracts has an anticipated value of \$100,000 or more, the respondent must inform the respondent's principals of the contents of the SEEC notice.

Part I of the standard contract may be amended by means of a written instrument signed by the Department, the selected respondent (contractor), and, if required, the Attorney General's Office. Part II of the standard contract may be amended only in consultation with, and with the approval of, the Office of Policy and Management and the Attorney General's Office.

B. ASSURANCES

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, a respondent implicitly gives the following assurances:

1. **Collusion.** The respondent represents and warrants that it did not participate in any part of the RFP development process and had no knowledge of the specific contents of the RFP prior to its issuance. The respondent further represents and warrants that no agent, representative, or employee of the State participated directly in the preparation of the respondent's proposal. The respondent also represents and warrants that the submitted proposal is in all respects fair and is made without collusion or fraud.
2. **State Officials and Employees.** The respondent certifies that no elected or appointed official or employee of the State has or will benefit financially or

materially from any contract resulting from this RFP. The Department may terminate a resulting contract if it is determined that gratuities of any kind were either offered or received by any of the aforementioned officials or employees from the respondent, contractor, or its agents or employees.

3. **Competitors.** The respondent assures that the submitted proposal is not made in connection with any competing organization or competitor submitting a separate proposal in response to this RFP. No attempt has been made, or will be made, by the respondent to induce any other organization or competitor to submit, or not submit, a proposal for the purpose of restricting competition. The respondent further assures that the proposed costs have been arrived at independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement with any other organization or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition. Nor has the respondent knowingly disclosed the proposed costs on a prior basis, either directly or indirectly, to any other organization or competitor.
4. **Validity of Proposal.** The respondent certifies that the proposal represents a valid and binding offer to provide services in accordance with the terms and provisions described in this RFP and any amendments or addenda hereto. The proposal shall remain valid for a period of 180 days after the submission due date and may be extended beyond that time by mutual agreement. At its sole discretion, the Department may include the proposal, by reference or otherwise, into any contract with the successful respondent.
5. **Press Releases.** The respondent agrees to obtain prior written consent and approval of the Department for press releases that relate in any manner to this RFP or any resultant contract.

C. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, a respondent implicitly agrees to comply with the following terms and conditions:

1. **Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action.** The State is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate in its hiring, employment, or business practices. The State is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services, or activities.
2. **Preparation Expenses.** Neither the State nor the Department shall assume any liability for expenses incurred by a respondent in preparing, submitting, or clarifying any proposal submitted in response to this RFP.
3. **Exclusion of Taxes.** The Department is exempt from the payment of excise and sales taxes imposed by the federal government and the State. Respondents are liable for any other applicable taxes.
4. **Proposed Costs.** No cost submissions that are contingent upon a State action will be accepted. All proposed costs must be fixed through the entire term of the contract.

5. **Changes to Proposal.** No additions or changes to the original proposal will be allowed after submission. While changes are not permitted, the Department may request and authorize respondents to submit written clarification of their proposals, in a manner or format prescribed by the Department, and at the respondent's expense.
6. **Supplemental Information.** Supplemental information will not be considered after the deadline for submission of proposals, unless specifically requested by the Department. The Department may ask a respondent to give demonstrations, interviews, oral presentations or further explanations to clarify information contained in a proposal. Any such demonstration, interview, or oral presentation will be at a time selected and in a place provided by the Department. At its sole discretion, the Department may limit the number of respondents invited to make such a demonstration, interview, or oral presentation and may limit the number of attendees per respondent.
7. **Presentation of Supporting Evidence.** If requested by the Department, a respondent must be prepared to present evidence of experience, ability, data reporting capabilities, financial standing, or other information necessary to satisfactorily meet the requirements set forth or implied in this RFP. The Department may make onsite visits to an operational facility or facilities of a respondent to evaluate further the respondent's capability to perform the duties required by this RFP. At its discretion, the Department may also check or contact any reference provided by the respondent.
8. **RFP Is Not An Offer.** Neither this RFP nor any subsequent discussions shall give rise to any commitment on the part of the State or the Department or confer any rights on any respondent unless and until a contract is fully executed by the necessary parties. The contract document will represent the entire agreement between the respondent and the Department and will supersede all prior negotiations, representations or agreements, alleged or made, between the parties. The State shall assume no liability for costs incurred by the respondent or for payment of services under the terms of the contract until the successful respondent is notified that the contract has been accepted and approved by the Department and, if required, by the Attorney General's Office.

D. RIGHTS RESERVED TO THE STATE

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, a respondent implicitly accepts that the following rights are reserved to the State:

1. **Timing Sequence.** The timing and sequence of events associated with this RFP shall ultimately be determined by the Department.
2. **Amending or Canceling RFP.** The Department reserves the right to amend or cancel this RFP on any date and at any time, if the Department deems it to be necessary, appropriate, or otherwise in the best interests of the State.
3. **No Acceptable Proposals.** In the event that no acceptable proposals are submitted in response to this RFP, the Department may reopen the procurement process, if it is determined to be in the best interests of the State.
4. **Offer and Rejection of Proposals.** The Department reserves the right to offer in part and/or to reject any and all proposals in whole or in part, for misrepresentation or if the proposal limits or modifies any of the terms, conditions, or specifications of this RFP. The Department may waive minor

technical defects, irregularities, or omissions, if in its judgment the best interests of the State will be served. The Department reserves the right to reject the proposal of any respondent who submits a proposal after the submission date and time.

5. **Sole Property of the State.** All proposals submitted in response to this RFP are to be the sole property of the State. Any product, whether acceptable or unacceptable, developed under a contract offered as a result of this RFP shall be the sole property of the State, unless stated otherwise in this RFP or subsequent contract. The right to publish, distribute, or disseminate any and all information or reports, or part thereof, shall accrue to the State without recourse.
6. **Contract Negotiation.** The Department reserves the right to negotiate or contract for all or any portion of the services contained in this RFP. The Department further reserves the right to contract with one or more respondents for such services. After reviewing the scored criteria, the Department may seek Best and Final Offers (BFO) on cost from respondents. The Department may set parameters on any BFOs received.
7. **Clerical Errors in Offer.** The Department reserves the right to correct inaccurate offers resulting from its clerical errors. This may include, in extreme circumstances, revoking the offering of a contract already made to a respondent and subsequently offering the contract to another respondent. Such action on the part of the State shall not constitute a breach of contract on the part of the State since the contract with the initial respondent is deemed to be void *ab initio* and of no effect as if no contract ever existed between the State and the respondent.
8. **Key Personnel.** When the Department is the sole funder of a purchased service, the Department reserves the right to approve any additions, deletions, or changes in key personnel, with the exception of key personnel who have terminated employment. The Department also reserves the right to approve replacements for key personnel who have terminated employment. The Department further reserves the right to require the removal and replacement of any of the respondent's key personnel who do not perform adequately, regardless of whether they were previously approved by the Department.

E. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

By submitting a proposal in response to this RFP, the respondent implicitly agrees to comply with all applicable State and federal laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. **Freedom of Information, C.G.S. § 1-210(b).** The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) generally requires the disclosure of documents in the possession of the State upon request of any citizen, unless the content of the document falls within certain categories of exemption, as defined by C.G.S. § 1-210(b). Respondents are generally advised not to include in their proposals any confidential information. If the respondent indicates that certain documentation, as required by this RFP in Section I.C.11 above, is submitted in confidence, the State will endeavor to keep said information confidential to the extent permitted by law. The State has no obligation to initiate, prosecute, or defend any legal proceeding or to seek a protective order or other similar relief to prevent disclosure of any information pursuant to a FOIA request. The respondent has the burden of establishing the availability of any FOIA exemption in any proceeding where it is an issue. While a respondent may claim an exemption to the State's FOIA, the final administrative authority to release or

exempt any or all material so identified rests with the State. In no event shall the State or any of its employees have any liability for disclosure of documents or information in the possession of the State and which the State or its employees believe(s) to be required pursuant to the FOIA or other requirements of law.

2. Contract Compliance, C.G.S. § 4a-60 and Regulations of CT State Agencies § 46a- 68j-21 thru 43, inclusive. CT statute and regulations impose certain obligations on State agencies (as well as contractors and subcontractors doing business with the State) to ensure that State agencies do not enter into contracts with organizations or businesses that discriminate against protected class persons.

3. Consulting Agreements, C.G.S. § 4a-81. Proposals for State contracts with a value of 50,000 or more in a calendar or fiscal year, excluding leases and licensing agreements of any value, shall require a consulting agreement affidavit attesting to whether any consulting agreement has been entered into in connection with the proposal. As used herein "consulting agreement" means any written or oral agreement to retain the services, for a fee, of a consultant for the purposes of (A) providing counsel to a contractor, vendor, consultant or other entity seeking to conduct, or conducting, business with the State, (B) contacting, whether in writing or orally, any executive, judicial, or administrative office of the State, including any department, institution, bureau, board, commission, authority, official or employee for the purpose of solicitation, dispute resolution, introduction, requests for information or (C) any other similar activity related to such contract. Consulting agreement does not include any agreements entered into with a consultant who is registered under the provisions of C.G.S. Chapter 10 as of the date such affidavit is submitted in accordance with the provisions of C.G.S. § 4a-81.

The respondent may upload the Consulting Agreement Affidavit (OPM Ethics Form 5) through an automated system hosted by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)/Procurement Division, and the Department of Social Services will review said document online. The [DAS guide to uploading affidavits and nondiscrimination forms online](#) is embedded in this RFP as a hyperlink.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A respondent must complete and submit OPM Ethics Form 5 by the due date and time for proposals in response to this RFP.

4. Gift and Campaign Contributions, C.G.S. §§ 4-250 and 4-252(c); Governor M. Jodi Rell's Executive Orders No. 1, Para. 8 and No. 7C, Para. 10; C.G.S. § 9-612(g)(2). If a respondent is offered an opportunity to negotiate a contract with an anticipated value of \$50,000 or more in a calendar or fiscal year, the respondent must fully disclose any gifts or lawful contributions made to campaigns of candidates for statewide public office or the General Assembly. Municipalities and CT State agencies are exempt from this requirement. The successful respondent may upload the Gift and Campaign Contributions Certification (OPM Ethics Form 1) through an automated system hosted by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)/Procurement Division, and the Department of Social Services will review said document online. The [DAS guide to uploading affidavits and nondiscrimination forms online](#) is embedded in this RFP as a hyperlink.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The successful respondent must complete and submit OPM Ethics Form 1 prior to contract execution.

5. Nondiscrimination Certification, C.G.S. §§ 4a-60(a)(1) and 4a-60a(a)(1). If a respondent is offered an opportunity to negotiate a contract, the respondent must provide the Department with *written representation or documentation* that certifies the respondent complies with the State's nondiscrimination agreements and warranties. A

nondiscrimination certification is required for all State contracts – regardless of type, term, cost, or value. Municipalities and CT State agencies are exempt from this requirement. The successful respondent may upload the Nondiscrimination Certification through an automated system hosted by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)/Procurement Division, and the Department of Social Services will review said document online. The [DAS guide to uploading affidavits and nondiscrimination forms online](#) is embedded in this RFP as a hyperlink.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The successful respondent must complete and submit the appropriate nondiscrimination certification form prior to contract execution.

III. PROGRAM INFORMATION

A. DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Department of Housing strengthens and revitalizes communities by promoting affordable housing opportunities. The Department seeks to eliminate homelessness and to catalyze the creation and preservation of quality, affordable housing to meet the needs of all individuals and families statewide to ensure that Connecticut continues to be a great place to live and work.

The Department of Housing (DOH) works in concert with municipal leaders, public agencies, community groups, local housing authorities, and other housing developers in the planning and development of affordable homeownership and rental housing units, the preservation of existing multi-family housing developments, community revitalization and financial and other support for our most vulnerable residents through our funding and technical support programs. As the State's lead agency for all matters relating to housing, DOH provides leadership for all aspects of policy and planning relating to the development, redevelopment, preservation, maintenance and improvement of housing serving very low, low, and moderate income individuals and families. DOH is also responsible for overseeing compliance with applicable statutes, regulations and financial assistance agreements for funded activities through long-term program compliance monitoring.

Department Mission

A Connecticut where affordable housing, in strong and vibrant communities, is accessible to individuals and families across the state and homelessness is a thing of the past.

B. PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Program Title: Balance of State Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The HOPWA program was authorized by the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 and revised under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, to provide states and localities with the resources and incentives to devise and implement long-term, comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing needs of low-income persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and related diseases, and their families.

Eligible respondents are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with experience and focus on serving persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Balance of State Eligible Metropolitan Service Area (EMSA). The geographic areas that comprise the Balance of State EMSA are Litchfield County, New London County, Middlesex County, and Tolland County.

Contractors shall administer HOPWA assistance to eligible persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, supporting HUD's HOPWA program goals and the State's Consolidated and Annual Action Plan goals and objectives, primarily:

- HOPWA-assisted households will establish or better maintain a stable living environment;

- HOPWA-assisted households will have improved access to care and support; and
- HOPWA-assisted households will have a reduced risk of homelessness.

Respondents may request HOPWA funds for the following eligible activities, per HUD regulations 24 CFR 574:

- **Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA):** A housing subsidy provided for use on the open rental market. The tenant holds a lease with a private landlord for a unit that is rented at or under Fair Market Rent and that meets Housing Quality/Habitability Standards. Costs include rent, utility costs, and security deposits.
- **Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utilities (STRMU):** A housing subsidy provided to prevent homelessness of mortgagors or renters in their current place of residence. Contractors may provide assistance for rent, mortgage, and/or utilities for a period of up to 21 weeks in any 52-week period. Ongoing assessment of need is required and individual service plans must address housing stability.
- **Facility-Based Housing Assistance:** Expenditures to support housing facilities including community residences, single-room occupancy dwellings, project-based units, and master-leased units.
- **Supportive Services:** Expenditures for services that improve the health and well-being of eligible persons and their households. Services may be provided in conjunction with housing assistance or separately. Examples include case management, meals and nutritional services, adult day care, education, employment assistance, alcohol and drug abuse services, mental health services, and transportation assistance.
- **Administrative/Indirect Costs:** For general management, oversight, coordination, evaluation, and reporting on eligible activities. Cannot exceed 7 percent of the total funding request.

An eligible client is a person with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or tested to be seropositive for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who is also an individual with low income (not earning in excess of 80 percent of the median income for the area, as defined in Title 24 Code of Federal Regulations Section 574.3). The household of an eligible client is also eligible for assistance. Residence within the Balance of State EMSA is also required. No minimum income requirement for HOPWA-eligible clients is permitted and programs may not establish their own.

For more information on the HOPWA program, see the Administering HOPWA Housing Assistance Fact Sheet, which is embedded in this section as a hyperlink.

<http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/administeringhopwahousingassistance.pdf>

C. MAIN PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

1. Organizational Requirements

Private provider organizations (defined as nonstate entities that are 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporations or partnerships) with principal place of business in Connecticut are eligible to submit proposals in response to this RFP. Individuals who are not a duly formed business entity are ineligible to participate in this procurement. To be considered for the right to negotiate a contract, a respondent must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- a. Successfully provided supportive housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS for a minimum of two (2) years, or equivalent, for example, supportive housing for other individuals with special needs such as persons with mental illness, substance use disorders, homelessness, or other disabilities;
- b. Currently provide case management services in conjunction with supportive housing;
- c. Principal place of business in Connecticut (need not be located within the EMSA).
- d. Provide services in accordance with the Housing First model, and
- e. Are active participants of the CAN in which the respondent is seeking funding from the Department

The Department reserves the right to reject the submission of any respondent that is in default of any current or prior contract.

A responsive proposal shall include a summary of the respondent's overall qualifications to manage a Balance of State HOPWA program. If the respondent is proposing the use of any subcontractors or partners to provide any of the services required by this RFP, provide this information about each subcontractor and partner. At a minimum, the respondent must include the following specific details regarding the respondent's organization:

- a. Purpose/Mission: Describe how the proposed HOPWA program fits within the organization's mission and current programs configuration. Summarize the services the organization currently provides within the CAN(s) for which the respondent is seeking funding. Summarize the participation in the CAN for which the respondent is seeking funding.
- b. Entity Type/Years of Operation: Give a brief overview of the organization. Demonstrate a minimum of two years of experience providing supportive housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS or equivalent, for example, supportive housing for other individuals with special needs such as persons with mental illness or substance use disorders, homelessness, or other disabilities, and providing case management services in conjunction with housing. Detail the current number of clients being served, client-to-staff ratio, funding source(s), and successes. Demonstrate commitment to and experience using a Housing First approach to delivering support services.
- c. Qualifications and Relevant Experience: Summarize the respondent's ability to administer city, state and/or federal grants. Describe any potential risks to the Department and risks that could be encountered by acting as a Department contractor; propose solutions or approaches for managing those risks that show the respondent's familiarity and sensitivity with managing the program described in this RFP.
- d. References: Provide three (3) specific programmatic references (not letters of

reference). References must be persons able to comment on the organization's capability to perform the services specified in this RFP. References must include the company name, and the name, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address of a specific contact person. The contact person must be an individual familiar with the organization and its day-to-day performance. References cannot be the organization's current employees. If the organization has been a State of Connecticut contractor within the past five years, the organization must include a State of Connecticut reference. The organization may include a DOH reference in the proposal; however, the individual may have to refuse if s/he will be involved in the evaluation of proposals received in response to this RFP. Organizations are strongly encouraged to contact their planned references to ensure the accuracy of their contact information and their willingness and ability to provide references. DOH expects to contact these references as part of the evaluation process.

- e. Dun & Bradstreet (D-U-N-S) Number: Indicate the respondent's nine-digit Dun & Bradstreet (D-U-N-S) identification number.
- f. Collaboration: Describe the current and/or previous collaboration with other housing and supportive service providers within the CAN(s) and its impact on improving service delivery and reducing barriers to effectively keep clients in stable housing. Provide a specific list of the providers and describe the benefit of the collaboration. Describe agency participation in regular CAN meetings, Continuum of Care meetings, Community Care Teams and CT Opening Doors committee meetings, if any.

2. Service Requirements

A responsive proposal shall thoroughly address each of the following including the use of any subcontractors or partners:

- a. Eligible Activities: Eligible activities shall include one or more of the following:
 - i. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (project the number of clients to be assisted);
 - ii. Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utilities Assistance (project the number of clients to be assisted);
 - iii. Facility-Based Housing Assistance (indicate the total number of units in the housing facility and the number of units to be assisted by these funds);
 - iv. Supportive Services (not to exceed \$3,500.00 per unit in TBRA or per client in Facility-Based Housing Assistance programs);
 - v. Administrative/Indirect Costs (not to exceed 7 percent of the total funding request).
- b. Service/Catchment Area(s): Identify the proposed CAN for this proposal, and the specific cities and towns where the potential clients will reside.
- c. Service Populations: Identify who will receive such services, and include specific populations, if any (for example, women with children, single men, single women, etc.)
- d. Service Capacity/Delivery Plan/Systems/Processes/Protocols: Describe the proposed supportive housing program(s) for persons living with HIV/AIDS including:
 - i. the mechanisms that will be used to determine that clients served are low- and moderate-income;
 - ii. how the proposed program will work with the local CAN to identify

individuals that may be eligible for your proposed program model

- iii. a description of the proposed supportive services and how they will be made available to households receiving HOPWA housing assistance (households shall be defined as a unit of one (1) or more individuals living together in one dwelling);
 - iv. for TBRA programs, how the program will assist clients with locating apartments that meet housing quality standards; how client services and resources will be coordinated with other service providers to improve service delivery and reduce barriers to effectively keep clients in stable housing.
 - v. if applicable, the proposed mechanisms for providing a housing subsidy directly to a landlord;
 - vi. how federal HOPWA requirements will be met including, but not limited to rent calculations, housing quality standard inspections, lead-based paint inspections, conflict of interest, confidentiality, and all other regulations under Title 24 Part 574:
http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_05/24cfr574_05.html;
 - vii. how a supportive housing care plan will be created in a Housing First model and implemented with each individual/household that meets AIDS CT “Standards of Care”; which are embedded in this section as a hyperlink;
<http://www.aids-ct.org/qata.html>
 - viii. other sources of funding the program receives (for example, DSS, DMHAS) and how these funds will be used to complement HOPWA services; and
 - ix. hours of operation.
- e. Culturally Competent Services: Describe the respondent’s ability to ensure a culturally responsive delivery of services that recognizes and affirms diversity.
 - f. Client Eligibility: Describe the process for determining client eligibility for housing and supportive services including HIV status and income limitations.
 - g. Goals: Since permanent housing and/or a stable living environment is the ultimate goal and expected outcome, describe the procedures that will be in place to monitor the progress of clients from entrance into the program to permanent placement and beyond.
 - h. Funding Contingency Plan: Describe how the respondent will be prepared to transition clients from this program to other stable housing should funding no longer be provided by the Department after the contract period.
 - i. Housing First: Describe how the respondent uses a Housing First approach, as explained here: Housing First is a programmatic and systems approach that centers on providing homeless people with housing quickly and *then* providing services as needed using a low barrier approach that emphasizes community integration, stable tenancy, recovery and individual choice.

Low barrier approach to entry:

Housing First offers individuals and families experiencing homelessness immediate access to permanent supportive housing without unnecessary prerequisites. For example:

1. Admission/tenant screening and selection practices do not require abstinence from substances, completion of or compliance with treatment, or participation in

services.

2. Applicants are not rejected on the basis of poor or lack of credit or income, poor or lack of rental history, minor criminal convictions, or other factors that might indicate a lack of “housing readiness.”
3. Blanket exclusionary criteria based on more serious criminal convictions are not applied, though programs may consider such convictions on a case by case basis as necessary to ensure the safety of other residents and staff.
4. Generally, only those admission criteria that are required by funders are applied, though programs may also consider additional criteria on a case by case basis as necessary to ensure the safety of tenants and staff. Application of such additional criteria should be rare, and may include, for example, denial of an applicant who is a high risk registered sex offender by a project serving children, or denial of an applicant who has a history of domestic violence involving a current participant.

Community integration and recovery:

Housing is integrated into the community and tenants have ample opportunity and are supported to form connections outside of the project.

1. Housing is located in neighborhoods that are accessible to community resources and services such as schools, libraries, houses of worship, grocery stores, laundromats, doctors, dentists, parks, and other recreation facilities.
2. Efforts are made to make the housing look and feel similar to other types of housing in the community and to avoid distinguishing the housing as a program that serves people with special needs.
3. Services are designed to help tenants build supportive relationships, engage in personally meaningful activities, and regain or develop new roles in their families and communities.
4. Services are recovery-based and designed to help tenants gain control of their own lives, define their personal values, preferences, and visions for the future, establish meaningful individual short and long-term goals, and build hope that the things they want out of life are attainable. Services are focused on helping tenants achieve the things that are important to them and goals are not driven by staff priorities or selected from a pre-determined menu of options.

Lease compliance and housing retention

Tenants are expected to comply with a standard lease agreement and are provided with services and supports to help maintain housing and prevent eviction.

1. Leases do not include stipulations beyond those that are customary, legal, and enforceable under Connecticut law.
2. No program rules beyond those that are customary, legal, and enforceable through a lease are applied (e.g., visitor policies should be equivalent to those in other types of permanent, lease-based housing in the community).
3. Services are designed to identify and reduce risks to stable tenancy and to overall health and well-being.

Retention in housing is contingent only on lease compliance and is not contingent on abstinence from substances or compliance with services, treatment or other clinical requirements. For example:

1. Tenants are not terminated involuntarily from housing for refusal to participate in services or for violating program rules that are not stipulated in the lease.
2. Transitional housing programs offer participants due process to resolve issues that may result in involuntary discharge (unless immediate risk to health and safety)
3. PH providers only terminate occupancy of housing in cases of noncompliance with the lease or failure of a tenant to carry out obligations under Connecticut's Landlord and Tenant Act (Chapter 830 of the Connecticut General Statute https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_830.htm)
4. In order to terminate housing, PH providers are required to use the legal court eviction process.

Separation of housing and services

Projects are designed in such a manner that the roles of property management (e.g., housing application, rent collection, repairs, and eviction) and supportive services staff are clearly defined and distinct.

1. Property management and support service functions are provided either by separate legal entities or by staff members whose roles do not overlap.
2. There are defined processes for communication and coordination across the two functions to support stable tenancy.
3. Those processes are designed to protect client confidentiality and share confidential information on a need to know basis only.

Tenant Choice

- Efforts are made to maximize tenant choice, including type, frequency, timing, location and intensity of services and whenever possible choice of neighborhoods, apartments, furniture, and décor.
 - Staff accepts tenant choices as a matter of fact without judgment and provides services that are non-coercive to help people achieve their personal goals.
 - Staff accepts that risk is part of the human experience and helps tenants to understand risks and reduce harm caused to themselves and others by risky behavior.
 - Staff understands the clinical and legal limits to choice and intervenes as necessary when someone presents a danger to self or others.
 - Staff helps tenants to understand the legal obligations of tenancy and to reduce risk of eviction.
 - Projects provide meaningful opportunities for tenant input and involvement when designing programs, planning activities and determining policies.
- j. Harm Reduction: Describe how the respondent will incorporate harm reduction in program policies and practices. Harm reduction can be described as a strategy directed toward individuals that aims to reduce the harms associated with certain

behaviors. When applied to substance abuse, harm reduction accepts that a continuing level of drug use (both licit and illicit) in society is inevitable and defines objectives as reducing adverse consequences. It emphasizes the measurement of health, social and economic outcomes, as opposed to the measurement of drug consumption.

3. Staffing Requirements

A responsive proposal shall include the following information about the number and qualifications of staff that the respondent intends to employ to deliver the services required by this RFP. If the respondent is proposing the use of any subcontractors or partners to provide any of the services required by this RFP, provide this information about each subcontractor and partner.

- a. Key Personnel: Provide the names and/or titles of proposed personnel, the number of hours per week and percentage of time to be dedicated to the program, and how this staffing pattern will successfully meet this RFP's requirements in light of any other similar obligations for any other entity. Indicate vacant or new positions. Summarize the organization's procedures to secure and retain professional staff, and the method of evaluating personnel performance. Identify who will be responsible for program management responsibilities that shall include, but not be limited to: a) day- to-day oversight of the program; b) attending all program meetings at the request of the Department; and c.) responding to the Department's requests for program status updates, and ad hoc and interim reports. Summarize what training and/or continuing education each person has received in the past 12 months, if any.
- b. Job Descriptions/Resumes: Attach current job descriptions in Section IV.H. Appendices for all proposed funded positions, and resumes for all key personnel that are currently employed by the organization.
- c. Staff-to-Client Ratio: Describe the support staff (case manager) to client ratio proposed for the program and the rationale used to arrive at that ratio.

NOTE: There is no pre-set ratio determined by the Department.

4. Data and Technology Requirements

A responsive proposal shall provide the following information about the respondent's information management and performance measurement systems. If the respondent is proposing the use of any subcontractors or partners to provide any of the services required by this RFP, provide this information about each subcontractor and partner.

- a. Data Reporting and Technology Capacity

Describe the respondent's capacity to collect client level data using HMIS or the respondent's ability to implement such data collection no later than three months after the resulting contract start date.

Please describe how you use data (HMIS or other system) to determine program effectiveness, analyzing the attached HMIS report submitted, if applicable. Current providers of AIDS residential or HOPWA services to the Department shall submit a copy of the HOPWA APR report from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, in Section IV.H. Appendices to demonstrate the ability to utilize HMIS and analyze reports.

- b. Program Outcome Requirements

HUD's Office of HIV/AIDS Housing identified three national performance measures related to client outcomes: (1) HOPWA-assisted households will establish or better maintain a stable living environment; (2) HOPWA-assisted households will have

improved access to care and support; and (3) HOPWA-assisted households will have a reduced risk of homelessness. The respondent must identify from one to three (1-3) specific and quantifiable performance measure(s) for its funded activities. Examples of such are as follows:

- i. *20 clients will receive TBRA subsidies, enabling them to meet their rent payments, reducing their risk of homelessness. Clients will be tracked for eligibility and the amount of rental assistance provided through annual income re-certifications and resident rent payment determination.*
- ii. *35 clients will meet with a case manager and establish a comprehensive service plan to improve their access to care and support. Clients will be re-assessed at least every six months, with progress and communications documented.*
- iii. *10 residents of the contractor's supportive living program will receive supportive services and rental assistance, allowing them to maintain a stable living environment. A plan will be developed for clients that recognizes residents' short- and long-term needs with specific dates, time frames, and plan for future housing as appropriate.*

c. Quality Assurance Requirements

- i. Internal Quality Assurance Process: Describe the respondent's internal quality assurance process and its impact upon program operations. Describe current and planned activities to ensure service quality and how services enable clients to access and maintain stable housing.
- ii. External Quality Assurance Process: Indicate the score and any recommendations from the respondent's 2017 ACT Quality Assurance Review Process (also known as the ACT audit). If the respondent has not participated in the ACT audit, indicate in what type of external quality assurance process the respondent has participated and the results. If the respondent has not participated in an external quality assurance process, state such.
- iii. Client Satisfaction Process: Describe the respondent's client satisfaction process (surveys, etc.). Summarize feedback (number and percent of returned surveys, summary of concerns expressed by clients, etc.). Give a brief narrative of the respondent's follow-up actions or plans regarding concerns raised by clients. Include a copy of the respondent's client satisfaction survey, if applicable, in Section IV.H. Appendices.
- iv. Program Audit Compliance: State the respondent's experience being in compliance with past contracts and/or directives. State any deficiencies identified in recent annual program audits, monitoring or corrective action plans, and if applicable, steps taken to complete any recommendations.

5. Subcontractors

The use of subcontractors and partnerships is allowed. If the respondent is proposing the use of any subcontractors or partners to provide any of the services required by this RFP, each subcontractor and partner must be identified in the proposal. Landlords are not considered subcontractors/partners. All subcontractors and partners are subject to the Department's prior approval. Information that is requested about the respondent must also be provided about

each subcontractor and partner where indicated throughout the RFP.

In addition, **a responsive proposal must include** the following information about each proposed subcontractor and partner.

- a. Legal Name, Mailing Address, Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), and DUNS number
- b. Contact Person Name, Title, Telephone Number, FAX Number, E-mail Address
- c. Services to be provided
- d. Subcontract or Partnership Agreement Cost and Term
- e. A Selected respondents shall be required to submit a copy of a written agreement with each subcontractor and partner prior to contract execution with the Department.
- f. A letter of support from each subcontractor and partner, indicating willingness to perform all the services to be provided throughout the entire contract period, shall be included in Section IV.H. Appendices. Each letter must specify the services that will be provided and be signed by an authorized official of the subcontractor or partner.

D. COST PROPOSAL COMPONENT

1. Financial Requirements

A responsive proposal shall include the following information about the proposer's fiscal stability, accounting and financial reporting systems, and relevant business practices.

- a. Audited Financial Statements: Submit one (1) copy of the respondent's most recent annual financial statements prepared by an independent Certified Public Accountant, and reviewed or audited in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)(USA) and one copy of Form 990. The copies shall include all applicable financial statements, auditor's reports, management letters, and any corresponding reissued components. These copies do not count toward the total page limit of the proposal. One copy only of each shall be included with the original proposal (not 5 additional copies) in Section IV.H. Appendices.
- b. Financial Capacity: Describe the respondent's financial capacity to properly isolate HOPWA-related income and expenditures. Discuss the internal controls used to ensure that i) a thorough record of expenditures can be provided for purposes of an audit and ii) administrative/indirect costs on HOPWA funds that were previously administered by the respondent did not exceed 7 percent.
- c. Leveraged Funds: Describe the respondent's long-term strategy to sustain funding for the program and explain how HOPWA funds may be used to leverage other funding.
- d. Mixed Funding: If the respondent proposes to assign staff to this program that are paid from various funding sources, describe how staff time utilized for this program will be tracked for HOPWA-eligible expenditures only. In addition, demonstrate how HOPWA-eligible clients will be distinguished from the respondent's other housing programs, which might have different eligibility requirements.

2. Budget Requirements

- a. Cost Standards: All proposed costs are subject to federal cost policy guidance and the standards developed by the State Office of Policy and Management for determining the cost of contracts, grants, and other agreements with organizations that receive funding from the State. In the event of any inconsistency, the federal

- cost policy guidance shall supersede the OPM cost standards. The applicable federal cost policy guidance is available at [OMB Circular A-133](#). Be advised that the cost proposal is subject to revision prior to contract execution in order to ensure compliance with the OPM cost standards and federal cost policy guidance. More information about the cost standards is available on OPM's web site: [Cost Standards](#).
- b. **Budget:** A responsive proposal shall include a line item budget that depicts the allowable costs associated with the program, utilizing the budget form that is embedded in this section as a hyperlink.
http://www.ct.gov/doh/lib/doh/annual_budget_form.xlsx
 - c. All pages should be submitted and, as they are forms, are not included in the page limit. Start-up costs should be minimal and prudent; proposals will be competitively scored on financial feasibility.
 - d. **Budget Narrative:** A responsive proposal shall detail how costs included in the line item budget were calculated. Either Microsoft Office Word or Excel format is acceptable. Allowable costs are those associated with the following eligible activities.
 - i. Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (detail the number of units requested x the approximate subsidy per unit per month x 12 months), factoring in participants' portion of rent based on 30% of income.
 - ii. Short-Term Rent, Mortgage, and Utilities Assistance for a period of up to 21 weeks within any 52-week period
 - iii. Facility-Based Housing Assistance, factoring in participants' rent/fee based on 30% of income.
 - iv. Supportive Services costs may include both personnel and program costs. Personnel cost calculations must include the number and/or percent of case manager positions (Full-Time Equivalent) that will be funded by the Department. Administrative salaries cannot be included in the Supportive Services line item, but may be included in the Administrative line item. Program costs that support the operation of the HOPWA program are allowed and must be itemized and justified in the narrative. Total Supportive Services (comprised of both personnel and program costs) allowed per subsidy per unit must not exceed \$3,500. This amount may not be re-negotiated upward during contract negotiations.
 - v. Administrative/Indirect Costs cannot exceed 7 percent of the total funding requested. This amount may not be re-negotiated upward during contract negotiations.

Note 1: The Department reserves the right to fund portions of a proposed budget and/or require adjustments.

Note 2: The Department reserves the right to consider all factors including cost in the final selection of a successful respondent. The opportunity to negotiate a contract with the Department will not be awarded based on cost alone.

IV. PROPOSAL OUTLINE

*This section presents the **required** outline that must be followed when submitting a proposal in response to this RFP. Proposals must include a Table of Contents that exactly conforms to the required proposal outline (below). Proposals must include all the components listed below, in the order specified, using the prescribed lettering and numbering scheme. Incomplete proposals will not be evaluated.*

A. Cover Sheet	.
B. Table of Contents	.
C. Declaration of Confidential Information	.
D. Conflict of Interest – Disclosure Statement	.
E. Executive Summary	.
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1. Organizational Requirements	
a. Purpose/Mission	.
b. Entity Type/Years of Operation	.
c. Qualifications, Relevant Experience	.
d. References	.
e. Dun & Bradstreet (D-U-N-S) Number	.
2. Service Requirements	.
a. Eligible Activities	.
b. Social Service Catchment Area(s)	.
c. Service Populations	.
d. Culturally Competent Services	.
e. Client Eligibility	.
f. Goals	.
g. Funding Contingency Plan	.
3. Staffing Requirements	.
a. Key Personnel	.
b. Staff to Client Ratios	.
4. Data and Technology	.
a. Data Reporting and Technology Capacity	.
b. Program Outcome Requirements	.
c. Quality Assurance Requirements	.
i. Internal Quality Assurance	.

ii. External Quality Assurance

G. Cost Proposal..... 15-20

1. Financial Requirements.

- a. Financial Capacity.
- b. Leveraged Funds
- c. Mixed Funding

2. Budget and Budget Narrative

- a. Budget
- b. Budget Narrative

H. Appendices

- a. Agency organizational chart
- b. HOPWA APR HMIS Report
- c. Client Satisfaction Survey.
- d. Partnership/Subcontract
- e. Job descriptions
- f. Audited Financial Statements and

