

Funding Opportunity Questions and Answers



This resource has been prepared by the Cook County Justice Advisory Council (JAC) to provide answers to questions received about the 2024 Housing Services and Wraparound Supports RFQ funding opportunity.

Questions received by June 12, 2024 have been consolidated and adapted for clarity, and questions pertaining to specific organizations are not included. Questions and answers will be made available to the public on the JAC website [CookCountyIL.gov/JACGrants] on Wednesday June 19, 2024. Following this date, additional questions and answers may be added to the document but are not guaranteed. Questions are grouped under the following categories:

- Eligibility
- Housing Requirements and Services
- Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Application Process
- Financial Requirements and Compliance
- Next Steps and Contracting

Eligibility

Q: Would a new non-profit organization with housing availability qualify?

A: *Yes, so long as you already provide housing services, you may apply.*

Q: If you are a 501c3 organization that provides listed wraparound services: e.g. employment, training but you are not a housing organization, can you apply?

A: *Being a housing services provider is required to apply for this opportunity.*

Q: Can you apply if you provide housing, but none of the wraparound services?

A: *Yes, the provision of housing services is a requirement, but the wraparound services are optional (though desirable).*

Q: Can you apply if you are already working with judges to receive clients in the justice system, and you are providing housing and the supportive services?

A: *Yes, you may apply, though the services you might be contracted for under this opportunity would be for separate initiatives—likely involving different referrals pathways—and would not fund programs you already perform.*

Q: Do you need to provide all the wraparound services listed or would any number of them would be acceptable?

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A: Providing one or any number of the listed wraparound services is acceptable. For this opportunity, the provision of wraparound services is optional—though desirable—so you can apply even if you provide none of the wraparound supports but offer housing services.

Q: Will housing providers with wraparound services be prioritized over those organizations that provide housing but no wraparound services?

A: The provision of wraparound services would give an applicant more opportunities to gain points on during the evaluation of the application and therefore, organizations with wraparound service offerings are, overall, more likely to be placed on the qualified list. However, scores are given for a number of factors outside of wraparound supports including readiness and experience and fiscal capacity to deliver services on an ongoing basis so there is no guarantee of this trend holding true in any particular case.

Q: What is the minimum number of housing units/beds required to be considered for the program? Is there an ideal range?

A: There is no minimum, nor is there an ideal range.

Q: Why is there a qualification to be a 501c3 nonprofit?

A: This qualification is to ensure that organizations are organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes.

Housing Requirements and Services

Q: What is meant by housing services?

A: The ability to reasonably provide a dwelling place for an individual referred to you to live in, whether that be in an apartment, room (with access to bathrooms, etc.), hotel accommodations, or more.

Q: Is a specific housing model required or preferred?

A: For the RFQ there is no specific required or preferred housing model. However, for any particular program we develop and contract for through this qualified list, there may be preferences or requirements. For example, the 'no place to stay' electronic monitoring alternative housing program would require that housing providers have staff available on site 24 hours a day to be able to interact with – if needed – the electronic monitoring supervising authorities.

Q: Is there a preferred geographic area for the housing programs (e.g. south or west)?

A: No, just that they exist in Cook County.

Q: Does this RFQ require applicants to have one housing site, or can multiple sites can be used?

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A: Multiple sites can be used.

Q: Do the referrals for this housing opportunity come only through the Cook County NPTS (No Place to Stay), or there are other referring sources?

A: The NPTS program is just one project that we are hoping to serve with this qualified list of providers. Other projects are intended to be developed that will have other referral sources and designs.

Q: Can a collaborative apply for this opportunity: Ex. a housing provider and other organizations that offer supportive services? If so, is it ok for the sub organization/partner to deliver housing services vs the lead applicant?

A: Yes, collaboratives may apply. And yes, a partner who is part of the application may be the one providing housing services rather than the lead.

Q: Can wraparound services such as life coaching, counseling, anger management classes be included in this RFQ?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there a minimum number of beds/rooms an organization must maintain at any given time to keep the contract?

A: There is no set minimum. We would arrive at a number for each qualified applicant we would form agreements with and would then expect the provider to maintain whatever numbers we agreed to with them.

Q: Is the housing for single individuals only or there are family units as well?

A: We are looking for both single individual housing options as well as family unit options, and would encourage providers with either housing option to apply.

Q: Can organizations be helped with acquiring property (gift deed) from county to provide wrap around services?

A: Not through this opportunity, no. We are looking to create agreements to fund organizations to provide housing and services they already supply, not to invest to expand the capacity of organizations or facilitate them acquiring property. Please [subscribe to the JAC mailing list](#) to learn about other funding opportunities that may support this goal.

Q: Does each participant have to have a separate bedroom or just a bed? How much space, in square footage, is required for each bed? What is the ratio of the bathrooms needed to number of participants?



A: This will vary depending on which program we seek to form agreements with you to support. For example, for the 'No Place To Stay' Electronic Monitoring Alternative Housing Program we would first have the supervising EM authorities approve sites for placement before entering into agreements, this may or may not include a review of the specifics of layout and amenities.

Q: Are the participants referred to residential recovery homes all in recovery, or anyone in need of housing can be referred?

A: Anyone in need of housing and involved in a contracted program can be referred. But if your organization would like to serve only those in recovery, we would discuss that as part of the formulation of the agreement.

Q: If you are chosen as a provider, would you still be able to use your own intake process to determine who to accept into your program?

A: Yes, we would work to incorporate your intake process into our referral system to prevent individuals being sent to you who you would then want to reject.

Q: If after accepting a participant it is determined that they need to be removed from the program, would the housing provider have the autonomy to make such a decision?

A: Yes, though we would want an understanding regarding how such rejection decisions were made. For the NPTS EM Alternative Housing Program, for example, you would report a rejection of an individual to the EM supervising authority and also include the JAC in a description of the circumstances of rejection.

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Application Process

Q: Are you using this RFQ to shortlist the most qualified candidates for the actual RFP?

A: No, there will not be an RFP following this. Once the qualified list is assembled, the JAC will reach out directly to providers to form agreements with.

Q: Can a new organization apply if they have a housing site, a program and 501c3, but is unable to complete the financial audit before the deadline?

A: Yes. The applicant should submit an operating budget. If they do not have audited financials they do not have to submit, but if they do have them, they must provide those.

Q: Do you need actual letters of support from your references, or only names and contact information on one reference page?

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A: You do not need actual letters of support, just the contact information and description detailed in the RFQ document.

Q: Can an organization with different housing locations apply for funding under one application, or is a separate application is needed for each site?

A: Please apply under one application, describing that you offer multiple sites.

Financial Requirements and Compliance

Q: What is the deadline for submitting a budget?

A: There is no deadline set for this, it is not a requirement of the RFQ stage. For organizations placed on the qualified list, we would reach out individually if we wanted to form an agreement for services. Organizations would provide a budget during this contracting phase.

Q: Will you require a budget during the RFQ stage?

A: The RFQ stage does not require a proposed budget.

Q: How much is the min/max of funding request?

A: The RFQ stage does not ask for a funding request; this happens during the agreement formulation stage were you found qualified and then selected for an agreement.

Q: Does the rate of billing increase based on the number of services provided and proven?

A: The rate of billing will be determined during the agreement formulation stage and will take into account all the services and expenses taken on by the provider.

Q: Can any of the funds be used to convert a space into bedrooms? Such as basement conversions

A: No. These funds will be to pay for services the applicant organizations would provide, not for investments, improvements, or capital projects.

Next Steps and Contracting

Q: Will this involve a contract with IDOC, IDES, or SUPR?

A: This will be grant and/or professional services agreement with Cook County government.

Q: What is the duration of the contract?

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A: There is no set duration at this time. A typical duration is a one-year agreement with a number of renewal opportunities.

Q: What is the duration of the participants program term?

A: This depends on the different programs we are seeking to stand up under this RFQ. For example, the NPTS EM Alternative Housing Program's participant's duration is determined by the length of their pre-trial period on EM, typically 4-5 months, but it varies greatly.

Q: Is there an option to extend the housing arrangements when pretrial ends (if not incarcerated) or does that end the participants housing program?

A: Yes, we would discuss these options during the contracting/agreement formulation period.