

**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**  
**MUNICIPAL HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT INITIATIVE**

The Department of Housing (Department) is administering a one-time program using State Fiscal Recover Funds to provide grant funding to municipalities that host new or expanded overnight shelters and winter emergency hubs. Awards are to be used to assist municipalities with public safety expenses and other municipal services that support individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

**Grant Types:** Grants will be awarded across two categories:

(1) **Competitive Grants:** Municipalities with new overnight shelters or where existing shelters have expanded their capacity since October 1, 2022 and where the new or expanded capacity will remain in service until at least April 15, 2025 are eligible to apply for additional grant support. Up to \$350,000.00 in total funding is available for one or more awards.

(2) **Winter Emergency Hub Competitive Grants:** Awards will also be made for supporting new winter emergency hubs that open in response to severe weather protocols or existing shelters that expand capacity in response to severe weather protocols. Up to \$523,617.00 in total funding is available for one or more wards.

**Eligible Grantees:** Please note that only municipalities within the State of Rhode Island in which new overnight shelter(s) have been opened or expanded are eligible to apply. Shelter capacity will be validated by the Department of Housing (e.g., based on registration in the Homeless Management Information System, funding by Consolidated Homeless Fund Partnership entities, etc.).

**Eligible Activities:** Municipalities must use grants for public safety expenses and other municipal services that support individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Grants must directly or indirectly benefit individuals and/or families served by the new or expanding overnight shelter(s). These benefits may be facilitated through partnerships with organizations and other stakeholders. Potential municipal services for both grant opportunities may include but are not limited to:

- Emergency medical services and/or security
- Waste management and/or sanitation services
- Transportation for individuals within the shelter
- Day programs, professional development, education services
- Behavioral health services and substance use disorder services
- Public facility improvements near shelter location
- Meal programs
- Housing resource counseling
- Outreach services
- Community and business outreach
- Emergency warming/cooling center costs (inclusive of emergency hubs)

Proposed services must not already be funded by the Department or another funder. The Department's goal is to provide the additional support a municipality may need while preventing duplication of funding.

**Application process:** All applications for funds under this solicitation must be submitted to Linda Makhoulf, Department of Housing, at [linda.k.makhoulf@housing.ri.gov](mailto:linda.k.makhoulf@housing.ri.gov). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning on September 16, 2024, and until funds are fully obligated or until October 31, 2024, whichever is earlier. The Department may require the submission of additional information from municipalities and/or providers in connection with any application or the revision of an application, may consider additional information about the shelter project for projects funded through the Consolidated Homelessness Fund, and may permit the resubmission of an application rejected as being incomplete or deficient.

**A. Competitive Grants:** To apply, municipalities must submit the following information:

1. The name, title and contact information for the municipal employee or elected official that will serve as the point person for the Municipal Homelessness Support Initiative Grant.
2. Budget: Line-item budget for grant funded services.
3. Information about the shelter project(s) located in the municipality:
  - a. Name of the provider operating the shelter.
  - b. Location of shelter.
  - c. Number of pre-existing and new shelter beds.
  - d. Timeline for the shelter including when operations began (or are planned to begin).
  - e. Justification: Brief description of the significance of the project, e.g.: that it fills a gap in shelter services in a geographic area or time period.
  - f. Services to be provided through the shelter project by the homeless service provider.

**B. Winter Emergency Hub Competitive Grants:** Municipalities may seek grant support to host winter emergency warming center hubs during triggering events (e.g., when temperatures drop below thresholds established in collaboration with RIEMA). The Department will select a small number of municipalities for funding to host emergency overnight shelters for qualifying events. Applications shall contain the following information:

1. The name, title and contact information for the municipal employee or elected official that will serve as the point person for the Municipal Homelessness Support Initiative Grant.
2. Scope: Location of emergency warming center; capacity of the emergency warming center, and the name of the provider operating the emergency warming center.
3. Implementation Plan: Identify all entities who will be involved in opening the emergency warming center and the role for each; a schedule for starting operations of the emergency warming center when called upon; and a letter from each such entity acknowledging their respective responsibilities and the schedule.
4. Budget: Line-item budget for grant funded services to open center hubs for a minimum of 10 days. Applicants may propose per day rates for additional days.
5. Impact: Brief description of the significance of the project, e.g.: that it fills a gap in shelter services in a geographic area or time period.

**Evaluation Criteria:** The Department will issue awards to eligible grantee applicants according to the following criteria and subject to the continued availability of funds.

**A. Competitive Grants:** Municipalities may seek additional grant support. The Department aims to award grants to multiple municipalities. In determining whether to approve an award or awards, the

Department shall consider the following when evaluating each applicant's need for additional grant support:

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| <b>1. Strategic importance of supported shelter project</b>  | <b>25 PTS</b> |
| This will evaluate the strategic nature of the overnight shelter project the application will support. This includes:  |               |
| a. The project's timeline/readiness to proceed (projects that could become available quickly or may become available to meet a needed timeline)                                    | 10 PTS        |
| b. Need for the overnight shelter project (including whether the project fills a gap such as a critical time period or geographic area).   | 10 PTS        |
| c. The specific services offered to clients are high quality, consistent with housing first principles, and directly relate to the needs of the clients being served.              | 5 PTS         |
| <b>2. Cost</b>   | <b>30 PTS</b> |
| This will evaluate the amount of funding requested and the number and strength of applications received.   |               |
| <b>3. Impact of requested funding</b>  | <b>25 PTS</b> |
| This will evaluate the specific funding requests on a relative basis including the extent the proposed services support the department's goals to reduce unsheltered homelessness. |               |

**B. Winter Emergency Hub Competitive Grants:** Applications that are complete will be scored based on the following criteria:

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| <b>1. Strategic Importance</b>  | <b>35 Pts</b> |
| a. Capacity (number of people served) of the Warming Center   | 15 Pts        |
| b. Fills a geographic gap in the provision of emergency warming centers   | 10 Pts        |
| c. Active collaboration or service within the municipality's region   | 10 Pts        |
| <b>2. Implementation Plan</b>   | <b>30 Pts</b> |
| a. Complete and achievable  | 20 Pts        |
| b. The specific services offered to clients are high quality, consistent with housing first principles, and directly relate to the needs of the clients being served. | 10 Pts        |
| <b>3. Project Cost</b>  | <b>30 Pts</b> |
| This will evaluate the amount of funding requested and the number and strength of applications received.  |               |