

## **RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

### **MUNICIPAL HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT INITIATIVE – ROUND 3**

The Department of Housing (Department) is administering a program using State Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide grant funding to for new or expanded 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. This is a re-issuance of a prior solicitation.

**Winter Emergency Hub Competitive Grants:** Awards will 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 \$65,474 in funding is available for one or more awards. Additional funds may be added.

**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 emergency hubs. These benefits may be facilitated through partnerships with organizations and other stakeholders. Potential municipal services 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
- 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 Dave Schnell, Department of Housing, (David.schnell@ema.ri.gov) Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning on January 17, 2025, and until funds are fully obligated or until February 14, 2025, 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.

**Winter Emergency Hub Competitive Grants:** Municipalities may seek grant support to host winter emergency warming center hubs during cold weather that is life threatening. The Department will select eligible 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.

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

<b>1. Strategic Importance</b>	<b>35 Pts</b>
a. Capacity (number of people served) of the emergency hub	15 Pts
b. Fills a geographic gap in the provision of emergency hub	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 reasonableness of the amount of funding requested to accomplish the implementation plan.	