

Questions for Mercer County, Department of Human Services response to the Bidders Conference for the CoC Voucher RFP 2017.

1. QUESTION- If the vouchers are assisting 9 or 10 individuals, is there a formula for the \$150,000 County dollars?

The maximum amount of supportive services dollar allocated to each of the vouchers is \$10,000.

2. QUESTION- With regards to the \$150,000 County funds, can the State standard of using \$3,000 for move in costs for each individual be applied and the rest of the county funds be dedicated to support a case manager's salary and fringe?

As long as the expenditure was within the cap of \$10,000 per unit maximum, we would allow up to \$3,000 in "start- up" expenses. This state standard is specifically allocated by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and not standardized by other funding streams. This should be included in your budget submission.

3. QUESTION- Can an agency use \$300.00 for utilities as the allocation for "set up costs"?

The maximum amount of allocation for each individual supported is \$10,000. This can certainly include \$300.00 for utilities.

4. QUESTION- Is there any required credential for the social service component (county funds)?

We would utilize case management standards from the level of supportive housing that the agency provides. High need supportive housing clients (such as Housing First at a DMHS licensed agency) will require a higher level of credentialed staff than clients who have lower service needs. We'll evaluate the application on the level of support services provided. The State Division of Mental Health and Addiction services has a Medicaid rate for provision of supportive services (CSS) based upon the credentials of the staff and we will accept those standard rates.

HUD's primary focus for these vouchers are chronically homeless individuals, we encourage collaborations between mental health and substance abuse providers and agencies that do not have this expertise on their teams to provide the high level of supportive services needed by this population.

5. QUESTION- Can any county money be utilized for repairs?

This isn't a standard cost associated with ongoing supportive services, so it will not be considered.

6. QUESTION – How do you insure that the clients receiving the services/vouchers are consumers of mental health and substance abuse services?

The CEAS system works from a “by name” list of all individuals who meet the HUD standards for Chronic Homelessness and permanent supportive housing. Only those individuals who have a certified disability are eligible to be considered a candidate. Therefore the CEAS system will oversee all referrals into these vouchers and services.

7. QUESTION – What are the County Budget forms?

Please find the County Budget forms attached.

Please also note:

Mercer County is committed to insuring that all individuals access every benefit that they are entitled to under the law including income and medical benefits.

Individuals who may not be eligible for Community Support Services (CSS under Medicaid) when they are first identified and housed, but later may become CSS eligible can be moved from this supportive services program to CSS and the resource can be allocated to another CoC vouchered individual.