

**The State of Connecticut
Department of Housing**

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Homeless Shelter Capital Needs

Deadline for Submission of Applications: Rolling

This Notice of Funding Availability (this “NOFA”) is directed to existing emergency homeless shelters seeking funding to make capital improvements to their facilities to improve the quality of the services provided to shelter residents. Proposals to create new emergency homeless shelters are not eligible under this NOFA.

A. Goal of this NOFA:

The State of Connecticut Department of Housing (“DOH”) is committed to supporting emergency shelters to provide for the basic needs of homeless individuals and families. Shelters are often the first engagement point with individuals who have lost their permanent housing and the location where a plan to quickly end the homeless episode begins. DOH is also committed to facilitating access to permanent housing for homeless individuals as quickly as possible.

The goal of this NOFA (“the Goal”) is to provide capital funding to upgrade the condition of existing emergency shelter facilities, including upgrades to support the overall health and safety of shelter residents. Examples include, improvements to kitchens, bathrooms and sleeping areas, beds, generators, painting, plumbing and electrical repair and upgrades, heating and air conditioning systems, and energy conservation.

DOH seeks to prioritize emergency shelters that need to make changes to their properties to become compliant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) requirements. Specifically, DOH seeks to prioritize projects that:

1. make modifications to existing emergency shelter space that enable emergency shelters that serve families to ensure, for example, teenage boys, will not be separated from their family due to emergency shelter facility limitations during their homeless episode.
2. make modifications to existing emergency shelter space that enable emergency shelters to better serve homeless individuals who are transgendered. State and federal law prohibits discrimination based on gender identity, and as a result, all federal or state funded emergency shelters must provide shelter to any transgendered individual that presents to the shelter according to that person’s self-identified gender, as long as there is available space. Modifications may include creating gender-neutral bathrooms and having bed space dedicated to transgendered individuals located close to shelter staff to make the emergency shelter more hospitable and safer for these individuals.
3. make modifications to existing emergency shelter space that enable emergency shelters to better serve the needs of homeless youth. Often homeless youth report difficulties in

engaging the traditional homeless system, so DOH is seeking applications that may reduce these barriers and create a designated youth emergency shelter space at existing shelters, which would include increased safety considerations based on national best practices specific to serving homeless youth. Given the proportion of homeless youth who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgendered and Questioning (LGBTQ), the plans for the adaptation would need to include accommodations for transgender youth as well.

Any emergency shelter that applies for this funding must demonstrate its participation in the local Coordinated Access Network (“CAN”), including providing evidence of attendance in local CAN meetings, the percentage of individuals and/or families in the shelter that have completed a Vulnerability Index/Services Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (“VI/SPDAT”) assessment, and commitment to a Housing First/Harm Reduction model of service delivery for the homeless served in shelter. Any project funded through this NOFA must enter client level data for the shelter into the Homeless Management Information System (“HMIS”).

B. Eligible Applicants and Projects:

Applicants eligible for consideration under this NOFA include any entity that currently is an owner or operator of an emergency homeless shelter. Proposals to create new emergency homeless shelter, or increase the capacity of an existing emergency homeless shelter will not be considered for funding.

C. Funding Amount:

The aggregate amount of funding to be made available under this NOFA is approximately \$10 million. DOH will reserve \$3 million of this amount for applicants applying for any of the above listed priorities until May 2, 2016. After this date, DOH will reassess the remaining funding and determine how to best allocate funding based on applications received by that date.

D. Funding Source:

It is anticipated that funding for projects selected under this NOFA will be provided through the Affordable Housing Program (the “Flex Program”). Such funding is subject to the requirements of CGS § 8-37pp, et seq., including the limitation that such funds serve persons and families whose household incomes do not exceed 100% of the applicable area median income (“AMI”). All proposed projects must be eligible under CGS § 8-37pp.

E. Application Submission Requirements and Process:

The application can be found [here](#). Applications for funding under this NOFA will be accepted on a rolling basis. If a permit is required by the local building department for the completion of the proposed work, then documents related to the proposed work scope must be submitted to DOH.

Applications must be submitted to Steve DiLella either electronically at steve.dilella@ct.gov or by mail at the offices of DOH, 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106-7106. Applicants may contact Steve DiLella via email at steve.dilella@ct.gov with any questions regarding this NOFA.

All such questions will be answered on a rolling basis and the questions and answers will be posted on the DOH website (www.ct.gov/doh). Announcements of awards of funding under this NOFA are anticipated to be made within forty-five (45) days of the submission of each application.

F. Selection Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following:

1. How proposals address the Goal of the NOFA
2. Urgency of the proposed repairs
3. Need/impact of the capital improvements
4. Cost reasonableness of the proposal
5. Utility of proposal to the CAN
6. Readiness of the project to proceed

G. Reservations:

All applications submitted in response to this NOFA are the sole property of the State and subject to the provisions of Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act, CGS §1-200 et seq., which provides that public records and documents are subject to public access and copying unless specific exemptions to disclosure exist. If an applicant believes that portions of its application are exempt from disclosure, the applicant should mark the specific portions as confidential. Acceptance of an application by DOH that contains such reservations is not an agreement that the material is confidential or exempt from disclosure. DOH reserves the right to amend or cancel this NOFA, to modify or waive any requirement, condition or other term set forth in this NOFA, to request additional information at any time from one or more applicants, to select any number of applications submitted in response to this NOFA, or to reject any or all such applications, in each case at DOH's sole discretion. DOH may exercise the foregoing rights at any time without notice and without liability to any applicant or any other party. Applications submitted in response to this NOFA shall be prepared at the sole expense of the applicant and shall not obligate DOH to procure any of the services described therein or herein from any applicant. DOH shall not be obligated to any applicant until a final written agreement has been executed by all necessary parties thereto and all applicable approvals have been obtained.