



Interagency Council on the Homeless

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Community Planning and Development

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS HIV Multiple-Diagnoses Initiative

SUMMARY: HUD published a notice in the Federal Register on February 28, 1996 that announces the availability of approximately \$7,000,000 in funds for an initiative for multiply-diagnosed homeless persons who are living with HIV/AIDS and have chronic alcohol and/or other drug abuse problems and/or serious mental illness. The funds will be allocated by competition for housing assistance and supportive services under the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program for Grants for Special Projects of National Significance -- HIV Multiple-Diagnoses Initiative.

This new feature of the 1996 competition responds to recommendations expressed during the 1995 White House Conference on HIV and AIDS, to recommendations to HUD by residents and providers of HIV/AIDS housing, and to recommendations and a survey of priority unmet needs of homeless providers and advocates cited in Priority: Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness, issued by the Interagency Council on the Homeless in March, 1994. The HIV Multiple-Diagnoses Initiative is a collaborative effort between HUD and the Department of Health and Human Services to establish, evaluate and disseminate information on model programs to provide the integration of health care and other supportive services with housing assistance for eligible persons. The initiative targets assistance to homeless persons who often have complex needs and for whom service systems are often least developed.

The announced HOPWA assistance is being offered in conjunction with related assistance being announced under the Special Projects of National Significance component of the Ryan White CARE Act under Department of Health and Human Services notices. HHS funds will support the development and evaluation of programs for the integration of medical, substance abuse, and mental health services in residential facilities or home health care agencies. Additionally, HHS will fund an Evaluation Technical Assistance Center which will undertake national and multi-site evaluations of the Special Projects of National Significance, including grants for Housing for Homeless Persons with HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse and/or Mental Illness. In addition, the Center will provide for assessment and technical support for projects selected under this initiative for HUD projects that request program development support.

The HUD notice contains information concerning eligible applicants, the funding available, the application package, its processing, the selection of applications, and may be obtained as noted below. The notice was published on February 28, 1996, 61 FR 7664.

STATEMENT OF WORK

Meeting the Needs of Homeless Persons with Multiple Diagnoses through Supportive Housing and Services

**A Joint Technical Assistance Project of the
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
and the
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

I. Background

About one-third of the 600,000 people who find themselves literally homeless on any given night in the United States suffer from serious mental illness¹; another 50% suffer from chemical dependency problems²; and approximately 15% are living with HIV/AIDS.³ In addition, many homeless persons suffer from a array of serious primary health care problems, including tuberculosis and diabetes. Any one of these problems creates tremendous obstacles to overcoming homelessness, but in combination they provide an almost insurmountable set of impediments which are difficult for both the individual and the existing social service, health, and housing systems to overcome. Homeless persons with multiple-diagnoses, for the most part are not getting services, not taking medications, and living what appear to be very difficult lives on the streets of our nation's cities and towns.

The need to address this problem has been raised by numerous constituencies, including those attending the White House Conference on HIV/AIDS; AIDS housing providers and residents meeting with HUD Secretary Cisneros; HUD and HHS grantees; and homeless persons, service and housing providers, elected officials, and other concerned citizens who participated in the interactive forums in 18 cities to develop *Priority: Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness*. Almost universally, those who have raised their voices on behalf of homeless persons with multiple diagnoses have called for better integrated systems to meet the housing, health care (including mental health services and alcohol and drug abuse treatment), and other service needs of this population.

¹ Task Force on the Homeless and Severe Mental Illness, "Outcasts on Main Street: Report of the Task Force on Homelessness and Severe Mental Illness," February 1992.

² Fischer, Pamela, "Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Problems Among Homeless Persons: A Review of the Literature, 1980-1990." Rockville, MD: National Institute on Alcohol, Abuse and Alcoholism, March 1991.

³ National Commission on AIDS, "Housing and the HIV/AIDS Epidemic," July 1992.

At the same time that meeting the needs of multiply diagnosed homeless persons is being identified as a high priority, HUD has been focusing on the development the Continuum of Care concept. The Continuum of Care is a planning model for building a system of housing and service delivery to meet the diverse needs of any community's homeless population. In order to undergird the implementation of the Continuum of Care process and expand supportive housing and services for homeless persons the Clinton Administration has significantly increased resources for McKinney Homeless programs at HUD.

Similarly, HHS has been testing integrated service models through the ACCESS program and other initiatives. Thus, it is an opportune time to use these new approaches to implement efforts to address the needs of multiply diagnosed homeless persons.

Through this Statement of Work, HUD and HHS are seeking to create a vehicle for transferring the knowledge gained regarding services and housing for multiply diagnosed homeless persons through special research and demonstration programs sponsored by both HHS and HUD (e.g., ACCESS, HOPWA and Ryan White SPNS programs) to communities and supportive housing and service providers. The vehicle being outlined, here, is a joint HUD-HHS technical assistance initiative. The goals of this initiative are outlined below.

II. Technical Assistance Goals

The joint HHS-HUD technical assistance initiative is designed to:

1. Provide communities information on the special needs of homeless persons with multiple diagnoses to inform their continuum of care planning processes
2. Enhance the ability of communities to develop and evaluate programmatic responses to address the needs of homeless persons with multiple diagnoses using the McKinney Supportive Housing as core resource.

These goals will be operationalized through two main approaches::

1. Providing a select group of cities, which currently receive HUD McKinney Supportive Housing funding, with intensive technical assistance on current state-of-the-art methods of addressing the needs of homeless persons with multiple diagnoses.
2. Developing materials for broad distribution on current state-of-the-art methods for addressing the needs of homeless persons with multiple diagnoses.

III. Funding

This technical assistance initiative is being jointly sponsored by HUD and HHS. Funding for the initiative will come from HUD Community Planning and Development Supportive Housing Technical Assistance resources, and from the resources of various HHS agencies, including the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), the Office of the

Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), the Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA), the National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT).

III. Tasks

A. Overview

IIUD and IIHS are committed to working with localities and homeless service providers to ensure that they have the knowledge needed to address the special needs of multiply diagnosed homeless persons through the Continuum of Care planning process and the development of supportive housing and services. The goals of the technical assistance initiative will be addressed via the following activities

1. The development of a working paper on the state-of-the-art knowledge regarding the needs, characteristics of homeless persons with multiple diagnoses, and most successful methods of addressing the needs of homeless persons with multiple diagnoses. This paper will serve as a tool for designing the proposed conference (#3 below).
2. The creation of an advisory panel of researchers, service providers, consumers and others knowledgeable on the needs of homeless persons with multiple diagnoses and programs which successfully serve them. This panel would be charged with helping to design the conference (#3 below).
3. A conference, to be held in the Washington, D.C. area which would include invitees from 20-25 cities. Each city would be required to send a team of people which would, tentatively, include a government official who deals with homelessness and/or mental health issues, a non-profit service provider, a consumer, and a researcher/evaluator. The conference would involve presentations by persons with expertise in the area of providing services to homeless persons with multiple diagnoses, and directed planning activities for the community participants.
4. The creation of technical assistance materials, specifically a workbook and a video, for the use of other communities who could not participate in the conference. The video would be developed using footage from the conference as well as other appropriate information.
5. The dissemination of the technical assistance materials to localities and states receiving Supportive Housing Program funding.
6. Follow-up activities with cities that participated in the conference for mentoring and evaluation purposes.

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SAMHSA



Outcasts on **Main Street**

Implementation Report



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Center for Mental Health Services