

**FY 2019 Intensive Long-term Support  
Announcement of Funding (AOF) – Submitted Questions & Responses  
8/28/18**

**Question 1**

I am reviewing the ILS funding and I am not sure if this can be answered but I did not see anything stating sub-contracting is not allowed. We recently contracted with MCOs for a “medically fragile” level of care and opened our first facility last month. It is very much in-line with ILS (licensed MH Adult Supportive Residential to serve non-ambulatory, vision and hearing impairments) and we have plans to open possibly 2 more during FY19 so I thought it was worth asking.

- **The Announcement of Funding (AOF) for the Intensive Long-term Support (ILS) program details specific requirements that all potential grantees will be required to provide, if awarded said contract for the ILS program. Of particular interest for this program is the development of community partnerships that collectively will increase the available resources and sharpen the service delivery of adult supportive residential programming.**

**Question 2**

I would also like clarification on the issue of additional ILS beds. The AOF seems clear that funds are not to be spent for purchase of land or structure. Are the funds intended for enhancing services at existing licensed supportive living homes?

- **As stated in the AOF *Section 1.1: Funding Information*, the goal of this funding is to establish new ILS beds in Middle Tennessee and West Tennessee. The re-purposing of existing licensed supportive living homes into licensed mental health adult supportive residential homes is not the intended purpose of this funding.**

**Question 3**

If funds are only for new homes/ILS beds is there any financial support for structure/purchase of property?

- **As referenced in question 2, and as stated in the AOF *Section 1.1: Funding Information*, the goal of this funding is to establish new ILS beds in Middle Tennessee and West Tennessee. Further, the source funding for this grant opportunity is the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG). Accordingly, *Section 1.5: Prohibitions on Use of Federal Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) Funds* of this AOF states that the purchasing of land or building(s) is a prohibited use of this source funding. *Section 1.1: Funding Information* of this AOF states that any proposer requiring additional funds to support acquisition, rehabilitation, and/or new construction of facilities, then a separate budget and budget justification should be submitted with this proposal.**

**Question 4**

Is there an expectation for two different sites or one (a location in West and Central Tennessee, or one location to combine admissions from both areas)?

- **Section 1.1: Funding Information** of this AOF states that approximately \$1,050,000 will be awarded in both the Middle Tennessee and West Tennessee grand regions of the State. It is the position of the TDMHSAS that a service delivery best-practice for the ILS program is to assist individuals exiting the RMHIs, CSUs, and SCPHs in their home region. Thus, the expectation is for a minimum of one ILS home in each of the above-referenced grand region sections.

**Question 5**

Is there an established daily rate for this service? If so, what is it or where is it published?

- There is not an established rate for the Intensive Long-Term Support service. Further, it is the intention of the TDMHSAS to solicit service rates for the proposed number of client beds from potential grantees.

**Question 6**

How many admissions (per site and in total) does the state anticipate in year one?

- The AOF does not specify an anticipated number of admissions, neither per site nor in total, in year one. Proposals will be scored based on the criteria detailed in the AOF. The State recognizes the need to ensure that funding provided for the Intensive Long-Term Support (ILS) program provides maximum benefit to the citizens of Tennessee.

**Question 7**

Is it the State's preference for the facility to be a single home or multiple apartments/sites?

- The TDMHSAS does not identify a preference between single-home or multiple sites for any established ILS facility/facilities. Further, the mental health adult supportive residential licensure and programmatic design is not conducive to an apartment or independent congregate housing approach. The acuity-level of the population of focus for this funding is much higher than found in traditional supportive living facilities and/or independent congregate housing settings. Thus, proposals should be limited to single homes/buildings with appropriate 24-hour adult supportive residential care.

**Question 8**

Will there be ongoing funding of the program through the state Managed Care Organizations and Behavioral Health SafetyNet? If so, how much?

- Any current third party revenue sources that contribute to the long term sustainability of the Proposing entity should be reflected in "Attachment D" as part of a submitted proposal. As

indicated in AOF Section 2.1, Statement of Need, “...the intent is to serve these individuals who are TennCare enrollees as well as those who are not (i.e. uninsured).”

**Question 9**

What is the funding allowed for the building acquisition and construction?

- **AOF Section 1.5, Prohibitions on Use of Federal Mental Health Block Grant Funds, item c) states “Pursuant to federal laws and regulations, the Grantee shall not use any federal Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (now MHBG, formerly CMHS BG) funds made available under this Grant Contract... to purchase or improve land, purchase, construct or permanently improve (other than minor remodeling) any building or other facility, or to purchase major medical equipment;”. AOF Section 1.1 states “Proposers should submit a budget based on a full year of program services implementation. If the proposer requires additional funds to support acquisition, rehabilitation, and/or new construction of facilities, then a separate budget and budget justification should be submitted with this proposal.”**

**Question 10**

Does the block grant include community housing vouchers?

- **The Federal Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) funding to support the program services under this announcement does not include community housing vouchers.**

**Question 11**

What is the anticipate[d] length of stay for admitted individuals?

- **An anticipated length of stay for Intensive Long-term Support service recipients is not identified; however, please review the proposed Scope of Services in the AOF, which can be found in Attachment E, for more specific information related to service delivery.**

**Question 12**

Is there a time cap on length of stay for admitted individuals?

- **The mental health adult supportive residential program (ILS) is considered permanent housing; thus, the length of stay is not artificially limited in any way.**

**Question 13**

Is this program expected to serve populations with intellectual developmental disability?

- **The MHBG program funds targets adults with serious mental illnesses. This includes persons age 18 and older who have a diagnosable behavioral, mental, or emotional condition—as defined by the Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of Mental Disorders. Their condition substantially interferes with, or limits, one or more major life activities, such as: Basic daily living (for example, eating or dressing); Instrumental living (for example, taking prescribed medications or getting around the community); Participating in a family, school, or workplace.**

- **Attachment E, Section A.4., “Service Recipients”, does not exclude service to populations with intellectual and/or developmental disability. Specifically, if a dual-diagnosis is present, then said client will have to meet the criteria for program admittance, as found in Attachment E of the AOF (Scope of Services).**

**Question 14**

Are startup funds available, outside of the block grant?

- **Proposers should submit a budget based on a full year of program services implementation. If the proposer requires additional funds to support acquisition, rehabilitation, and/or new construction of facilities, then a separate budget and budget justification should be submitted with this proposal.**

**Question 15**

Is the 15 hours a week for all mental health services for all admitted individuals at a location, or is it 15 hours per person per week?

- **This particular question is not addressed in the AOF proper and is most-appropriately addressed through the licensure requirements for the mental health adult supportive residential program, which limits mental health services for residents of a licensed mental health supportive residential program to no more than 15 hours per week.**

**Question 16**

Who is responsible for assessing and approving the referral to the program (Hospital, MCO, etc.?)

- **This is not specifically addressed in neither the AOF nor the Scope of Services for the ILS program.**

**Question 17**

Regarding construction to a facility, what is considered an exclusionary major repair that will not be paid for by the block grant?

- **Pursuant to federal laws and regulations, the Grantee shall not use any federal Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (now MHBG, formerly CMHS BG) funds made available under this Grant Contract for any of the following purposes: a) to provide inpatient services; b) to make cash payments to intended recipients of health services; c) to purchase or improve land, purchase, construct or permanently improve (other than minor remodeling) any building or other facility, or to purchase major medical equipment; d) to satisfy any requirement for the expenditure of non-federal funds for the receipt of federal funds; e) to provide financial assistance to any entity other than a public or non-profit private entity.**
- **The TDMHSAS provides a Regional Housing Facilitator (RHF) to each of the Planning and Policy Council regions. Each RHF is trained in the leveraging of funds to support land acquisition, land/building renovations, and other major housing repairs.**

**Question 18**

What are the expected outcomes or goals for graduation from this program for admitted individuals?

- **In the proposal narrative, applicants are required to describe how the agency will assess residents' progress in recovery and their readiness to move to a less intensive, less restrictive supportive housing or alternative community living environment.**
- **Services and supports within the Intensive Long-Term Support program shall be delivered in a manner that promotes resiliency, recovery, and independence for individuals and families served.**

**Question 19**

Does the State anticipate that referred patients to this program are eligible for the State's 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers?

- **The MHBG program funds targets adults with serious mental illnesses. This includes persons age 18 and older who have a diagnosable behavioral, mental, or emotional condition—as defined by the Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of Mental Disorders. Their condition substantially interferes with, or limits, one or more major life activities, such as: Basic daily living (for example, eating or dressing); Instrumental living (for example, taking prescribed medications or getting around the community); Participating in a family, school, or workplace.**
- **Attachment E, Section A.4., "Service Recipients", does not exclude service to populations with intellectual and/or developmental disability who also meet the stated service recipient eligibility criteria, as indicated in Attachment E of the AOF.**
- **Pursuant to federal laws and regulations, the Grantee shall not use any funds paid or services rendered under the federal Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (now MHBG, formerly CMHS BG) to supplant any other funds available for the services provided under this Grant Contract.**

**Question 20**

Does the State anticipate needing placement in this program for registered sex offenders?

- **The purpose of Intensive Long-Term Support (ILS) residential services is to provide community-based residential recovery services that safely and successfully meet the recovery needs of people experiencing serious mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders, who would otherwise require longer stays in Regional Mental Health Institutes (RMHI) or State-Contracted Psychiatric Hospitals, and (1) who may also have non-emergent medical needs (e.g. assistance with Diabetes control, etc.), (2) who may have a history of behavioral problems in group homes, and/or (3) who may have a criminal history.**
- **Attachment E, Section A.4., "Service Recipients", does not exclude service to individuals listed on the sex offender registry. Although this type of housing is open to individuals on the sex offender registry, any proposals related to said population would need to provide housing in an appropriate location that doesn't violate the local zoning or legal restrictions.**

**Question 21**

Does the state anticipate needing placement in this program for individuals with a history of sexually challenging behavior?

- **The purpose of Intensive Long-Term Support (ILS) residential services is to provide community-based residential recovery services that safely and successfully meet the recovery needs of people experiencing serious mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders, who would otherwise require longer stays in Regional Mental Health Institutes (RMHI) or State-Contracted Psychiatric Hospitals, and (1) who may also have non-emergent medical needs (e.g. assistance with Diabetes control, etc.), (2) who may have a history of behavioral problems in group homes, and/or (3) who may have a criminal history.**

**Question 22**

How many other ILTS's exist in Middle and Western Tennessee today?

- **There is currently one (1) Intensive Long-Term Support program in operation in the West Tennessee grand region; there are currently no Intensive Long-Term Support programs in operation in the Middle Tennessee grand region.**

**Question 23**

Will the admitted individual be charged rent or will this be paid for by the MCO and/or grant?

- **Attachment E, Section A.3.a. states "The ILS program provides funding to maintain the service recipients in the community in ILS facilities".**
- **Food stamps for eligible clients and rent from disability payments that are utilized to assist with daily operational costs are considered allowable collections by the award recipient.**
- **Any current third party revenue sources that contribute to the long term sustainability of the Proposing entity should be reflected in "Attachment D" as part of a submitted proposal. As indicated in AOF Section 2.1, Statement of Need, "...the intent is to serve these individuals who are TennCare enrollees as well as those who are not (i.e. uninsured)."**

**Question 24**

Will additional funds be available to accommodate admitted members with a hearing or vision impairment?

- **The ILS program provides funding to maintain the service recipients in the community in ILS facilities. The purpose of Intensive Long-Term Support (ILS) residential services is to provide community-based residential recovery services that safely and successfully meet the recovery needs of people experiencing serious mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders, who would otherwise require longer stays in Regional Mental Health Institutes (RMHI) or State-Contracted Psychiatric Hospitals, and (1) who may also have non-emergent medical needs (e.g. assistance with Diabetes control, etc.), (2) who may have a history of behavioral problems in group homes, and/or (3) who may have a criminal history.**

**Additionally, Section 1.3 of the AOF appropriately addresses these eligibility criteria for submitted proposals.**

**Question 25**

How many beds does the State expect the award recipient will make available when applying for the full potential grant award in a single region?

- **The AOF does not specify an anticipated number of available beds, neither per site nor in total. Proposals will be scored based on the ability to demonstrate the intended success of the project. The State recognizes the need to ensure that funding provided for the Intensive Long-Term Support (ILS) provides maximum benefit to the citizens of Tennessee.**

**Question 26**

Could the states response to the number of expected beds in question [25], be split between two homes within the same grand region?

- **The AOF does not specify whether established ILS beds shall be in one location or multiple locations. Note that the AOF indicates that the Middle Tennessee and West Tennessee Grand Divisions of the State will be awarded an estimated \$1,050,000 to support creation of ILS beds.**

**Question 27**

In current community living models, food stamps for eligible clients and rent from disability payments are utilized to assist with daily operational costs. Will these be allowable collections by the award recipient?

- **Food stamps for eligible clients and rent from disability payments that are utilized to assist with daily operational costs are considered allowable collections by the award recipient.**

**Question 28**

Once TennCare is instated for a client residing in ILS, will the [S]tate[']s expectation for step-down to TennCare supported community living homes be based on a timeline or a Level of Care assessment and appropriateness determination?

- **The step-down of any ILS client is not determined by any arbitrary timelines; rather, the progress of any given client, based upon clinical assessments, progress notes, and client-choice is a collaborative decision and process that is determined over time and with close consultation of key staff members and family. The specific expectations can be found in Attachment E of the AOF.**

**Question 29**

Is the state need male, female or co-ed housing?

- **The population of need relative to this AOF includes both male and female.**