

NEW PROJECTS

CARES of NY- Rensselaer County Portion of the Capital Region

HMIS Expansion (2024)

Project Description: The CARES Collaborative Homeless Management Information System (CCHMIS) is a well-run, comprehensive HMIS system that has been active since 2004 and fulfills HUD's current mandates on providing data management. We have grown in both scope and geographic territory over the past 19 years, but have specifically worked to expand data quality reporting, technical assistance, and training, often held up by HUD as an example and peer mentor for other communities. We are not, however, currently providing community level data analysis with modeling and predictive analytics. HUD has made it clear that this is now an expectation of all CoCs and that we should be using the data from the HMIS and STELLA to a far greater extent than we are. This grant would be put towards adding those services to the CCHMIS and having dedicated staff to work with the collaborative applicant, CCHMIS Advisory Committee and CoC Board to look at CoC priorities and provide the data and analysis. This work will assist the CoC in understanding their populations, monitoring the impact of new and current initiatives, use data more inclusively in Rank and Review activities, model the impact of new projects prior to their implementation, understand gaps in services and adopt a data-driven approach to service delivery and gaps analysis. This additional funding will also ensure that participating agencies are no longer required to pay supplemental HMIS fees.

Joseph's House and Shelter Inc.

JH Consolidated Expansion 2024

Project Description: This project will serve an additional 2 units and increased supportive services to chronically homeless adults with disabling conditions. This expansion will ensure financial stability and the ability to be more competitive when recruiting staff. The project will provide an extremely low-demand Housing First services environment to support individuals to not only obtain permanent housing but also keep it. In our experience as a provider of site-based PSH, many tenants will have had a number of experiences that make them extremely distrustful of formal mental health and substance abuse treatment programs. The Housing Advocate will work with each tenant in the context of that tenant's goals, aspirations, and articulated desires. While treatment and recovery are not a requirement of program participation, we work hard to provide an environment where they are desired goals. Where employment is possible and available, tenants are supported in this goal. All services are tenant-driven based on articulated goals and desires, and include advocacy and support, coordination with physical and behavioral health providers, life skills development, constructive use of leisure time, and budgeting limited resources. The support services provided by Joseph's House are generally designed to meet the housing needs of our tenants - primarily case management aimed at assisting the tenant with maintaining their housing. At tenant request, we also provide referrals to other providers with whom we have had extremely long-standing linkage agreements for various services such as clinical, legal, and educational or employment related assistance. More recently, JH staff is using newer technology for referrals and has become a member of the Healthy Alliance IPA in order to make use of their Healthy Together electronic referral network and platform as well as its non-medical transportation service. The overall goal and anticipated outcome of the project is to enable the men and women we serve to maintain their housing and end the cycle of homelessness.

St. Paul's Center

St. Paul's-PSH Expansion

Project Description: St Paul Center – PSH is a scattered-site permanent supportive housing program for families with minor children experiencing homelessness which provides monthly rental assistance and support services; those considered chronically homeless are prioritized for placement. The head of household must have a documented disabling condition (e.g. mental health and/or substance use disorder, co-occurring conditions). Through this expansion, 20 families representing 65 individuals will be served during the grant term. Support services include those needed to ensure housing stability: assistance with housing search and once found, help locating furnishings; life skills training and household management guidance; support securing benefits/entitlements; training in understanding leases and assisting with landlord-tenant relationships; referrals to services that address medical, physical and emotional health, food insecurity, education, and employment training and/or support.

RENEWAL PROJECTS

Unity House of Troy, Inc.

Unity House Troy -UH 309

Grant PIN: NY0668

Project Description: Unity House of Troy requests continued funding to support the Permanent Supported Housing (PSH) program which serves homeless victims and survivors of domestic violence (DV) who live with a serious mental illness (with or without other disabling condition/s). The project provides tenant-based rental assistance and comprehensive, trauma-informed services to a minimum of nine clients (beds) across five households (units) each contract year.

Unity House Troy - UH 352

Grant PIN: NY0152

Project Description: Unity House of Troy requests continued funding to support a Rapid Rehousing (RRH) program in Rensselaer County, NY. This Rapid Rehousing project provides rent stipends for three households and support services for an additional 20 households headed by survivors of domestic violence.

Unity House Troy - UH 800

Grant PIN: NY0146

Project Description: Unity House of Troy requests continued funding to support a PSH program in Rensselaer County, NY. This supportive housing project provides rent stipends and support services for ten households, five of which are dedicated to youth living with a disabling condition, who meet the HUD definition of homelessness. The heads of households are all survivors of domestic violence, and many meet the definition of chronically homeless.

Unity House Troy- Coordinated Entry for RCHSC

Grant Pin: NY1210

Project Description: UHDVS requests continued funding for the SSO-CE project designed to enhance the CE process across the Rensselaer County CoC for homeless and those fleeing victims and survivors of domestic violence. This project dedicates time for policy-making managers, UHDVS Service Director and a program director to work with the CoC to implement enhanced policies, procedures, and practices in an effort to more efficiently and sensitively serve homeless and fleeing domestic violence survivors.

Joseph's House & Shelter, Inc.

JH - Bert's Place

Grant PIN: NY0804

Project Description: Joseph's House and Shelter requests continued funding to support a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program in Rensselaer County, NY. This project is a low demand site-based supported housing project for 22 adults with history of chronic homelessness. The tenants all have a disabling condition—the majority have a serious and persistent mental

illness. Most tenants have a co-occurring diagnosis of a mental illness and alcohol/drug abuse or addiction.

JH - Consolidated

Grant PIN: NY0143

Project Description: Joseph's House and Shelter requests continued funding to support a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program in Rensselaer County, NY. The adult men and women served by the Joseph's House project live in apartments in one of two services-enriched buildings operated by Joseph's House (The Lansing Inn and the Hill Street Inn). Individuals served by this project have access to 24/7 supportive services provided at the Lansing Inn and the Hill Street Inn. The target population for this project is approx. 34 households who typically have histories of chronic homelessness, and the majority have a severe and persistent mental health diagnosis. Many of the persons served are dually diagnosed with chronic substance abuse disorders, but occasionally the program serves clients for whom this is the primary diagnosis.

JH - Rensselaer Coordinated Entry

Grant PIN: NY1094

Project Description: Joseph's House and Shelter requests funding for the current CE program and expansion SSO - Coordinated Entry project in Rensselaer County, NY. The current CE system in effect in the community uses a Housing First approach to systematically outreach and engage the most vulnerable homeless households in our community and enroll eligible households in permanent supportive housing projects. The RCHSC adopted a "No Wrong Door" approach to providing coordinated entry into permanent supportive housing, and the RCHSC Coordinated Entry committee has provided a significant level of outreach and engagement training to funded agencies as well as other community partners, to guide staff in understanding who is eligible for PSH opportunities and how to refer eligible persons to PSH. Although most referrals for PSH come from CoC- and ESG- funded community providers, the application form is brief and designed so that it is easy to complete. Homeless households applying for services are requested to provide basic demographic information, data necessary to establish eligibility for PSH, as well as information relating to circumstances under which a household may be prioritized for PSH opportunities. Prospective tenant choice is encouraged, as applicants are able to choose the specific projects for which they would like to apply. As established in the Rensselaer County Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, persons experiencing chronic homelessness are the highest priority population for entry into PSH - currently 5 priority points are given to households who meet this criteria. Persons who are unsheltered, are youth under 24, veterans, have two or more disabling conditions, are homeless due to sex trafficking or work in the sex industry, or are currently pregnant also receive an additional point for each situation that applies to them. If not for CoC financial support for this program, the continuum would be unable to meet the CE requirements of the HEARTH Act and other CE-related HUD requirements.

YWCA of the Greater Capital Region, Inc.

YWCA - GCR - Apartment Program

Grant PIN: NY0139

Project Description: YWCA of Troy – Cohoes Inc., also known as YWCA of the Greater Capital Region, requests continued funding to support a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program in Rensselaer County, NY. This project provides 7 scattered site units of permanent supportive housing for homeless women with histories of substance abuse/mental illness and their children. Women served by the program are often referred from the YWCA’s Women in Transition program, as well as local shelters. In some cases, the women are able to reunite with their children.

YWCA – GCR - Family Apartment Program

Grant PIN: NY0585

Project Description: YWCA of Troy – Cohoes Inc., also known as YWCA of the Greater Capital Region, requests continued funding to support a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program in Rensselaer County, NY. This project is a four unit on-site supported housing project for women with children who are homeless and have a disability. The project provides housing in a one-bedroom apartment, case management and supportive services to the program participants.

Catholic Charities Housing Office

St. Peters PSH II Consolidated

Grant PIN: NY1209

Project Description: Catholic Charities Housing Office requests continued funding to support a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program in Rensselaer County, NY. This project serves 41 homeless adults with disabling conditions such as mental illness, chronic substance abuse, or dual diagnoses. The single room occupancies have on-site 24-hour staff coverage for support, crisis intervention, and security. A full-time case manager provides service coordination, counseling, and referral services to all tenants.

St. Paul’s Center

St. Paul’s Center - PSH

Grant PIN: NY1093

Project Description: St. Paul’s Center requests continued funding to support a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program in Rensselaer County, NY. SPC PSH serves 21 families with children where the head of household has a disability or life challenge that impairs housing stability. Priority is shown to those experiencing chronic homelessness, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS. PSH features tenant-based rental vouchers for permanent scattered-site housing with support services. Support services include parent support and teen focused services. Parents' support services focus on any issue affecting housing stability with the goal of gaining financial independence. Support services for teens focus on housing readiness success & financial independence.

CARES of NY, Inc.

Rensselaer County Portion of the Capital Region HMIS (2021)

Grant Pin: NY1047

Project Description: The CARES Regional HMIS currently serves Rensselaer County with HMIS services, including Coordinated Entry, Annual reporting to HUD (LSA, System Performance Measures, CoC Grant Application) State (Homeless Services Plans Outcomes Reports), the CoC (Racial Inequity data, Monthly, Quarterly and Annual reporting) and individual agencies (ad hoc and internal reporting supports). CARES provides all training, monitoring, software access, data management, reporting and regulatory oversight of the HMIS program. CARES is dedicated to keeping up with the growing and evolving needs of the community to track, report on and expedite care for homeless consumers. CARES will use this funding to expand reporting services, reduce the financial burden for HMIS access to agencies and enhance the use of the Coordinated Entry system to better target the most vulnerable consumers while creating better quarterly and annual reporting to the Ten-Year Plan, Data and Strategic Planning Committees.

Rensselaer CoC Planning Project

Project Description: CARES requests funds to support the operations of the CoC. Proposed funds will support coordination and facilitation of the CoC's processes; including strengthening the current CoC system, assisting with the development and implementation of a coordinated assessment system, project evaluation and monitoring, conducting an annual gaps analysis and Point-in-Time Count, participating in the Consolidated Plan, and preparing and submitting the CoC's application to HUD.

CARES of NY, Inc.

HMIS Expansion

Project Description: CARES is seeking to expand HMIS to allow for community level data analysis with modeling and predictive analytics. This will assist the CoC in understanding their populations, monitoring the impact of new and current initiatives, use data for more inclusivity in Rank and Review activities, model the impact of new projects prior to their implementation, understand gaps in services and adopt a data-driven approach to service delivery and gaps analysis.

Joseph's House & Shelter

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