

Supportive Housing for People with Problematic Substance Use 2010/11 –Phase 2 Call for Proposals

Background

In 2008, 1,000 units of supportive housing for people with problematic substance use in Ontario were announced in the Provincial Budget. This program will focus on people with complex addictions who may have a concurrent disorder.

Clients with severe and chronic addiction issues are routinely admitted to hospitals with severe medical problems due to complications from their addiction, and most have a history of involvement with the criminal justice system. The complexity of issues associated with concurrent disorders requires intensive service provision and workers skilled and knowledgeable with both mental health and addiction treatment approaches.

Research shows that the provision of supportive housing to people with complex addiction issues increases the likelihood of success in meeting treatment goals and in reducing repeat use of withdrawal management services, emergency rooms and acute care services.

Effective treatment for people with chronic complex substance use problems or concurrent disorders requires comprehensive, integrated and client-centred services, and stable housing including:

- being given the right supports when they want them using a harm reduction approach;
- being in an environment that is not too restrictive or rigid or heavily controlled;
- having a residential treatment model in which housing and treatment are not tightly bundled.

The goal of this initiative is to increase the health and social outcomes of people with problematic substance use issues who are frequent users of the addiction treatment system and emergency services by providing stable housing and appropriate support services.

Phase 1 Allocation

In the Toronto Central LHIN, 104 units were allocated in the first phase of this initiative. Final approvals are pending and will be announced accordingly.

Phase 2 Allocation

The following pages outline the 2010/11 – Phase 2 Call for Proposals for 96 additional units.

Toronto Central LHIN 2010/2011-Phase 2 Call for Proposals

The LHIN is now seeking applicants for **96 supportive housing units for people with problematic substance use** to be allocated in the 2010/11 fiscal year as base funding. The LHIN is seeking proposals demonstrating partnerships between housing providers and addictions health service providers that will address the objectives, criteria and target population outlined in the call below.

The 2010/11-Phase 2 Call for Proposals focuses on initiatives that support the following objectives:

1. Support MOHLTC provincial priorities (through a continued focus on reducing Emergency Room (ER) Wait Times and on reducing Alternate Level of Care (ALC) days))
2. Reduce the frequency of re-admissions to addiction programs
3. Reduce contact with the criminal justice system
4. Increase successful tenancy
5. Reduce repeated use of emergency and acute care systems

The program will be based on the Housing First model, which provides supportive housing to people without requirements for engagement in addiction treatment or abstinence. The supports to housing will be proactive but voluntary. Toronto Central LHIN is seeking proposals that demonstrate a strong partnership among community mental health, addictions, and housing in meeting the needs of clients with problematic substance abuse. Applicants will need to clearly indicate the number of supportive housing units for the purpose of allocating rent supplements. Applicants will also need to clearly describe the support services to be provided to the clients in those units.

Rent Supplements:

Clearly define the number of supportive housing units, and if possible the location (address(s)) of the units. The rent supplements will be geared to a person's income as well as market rate for apartments. Housing will be in the community and clients will have their own apartments. Rent supplement costs are based on average market rents across the province.

Support Services:

Support staffing costs to the organization is based on an allocation of an 8:1 staff/client ratio, Clients will be assessed to benefit from the stability of supportive housing in combination with a history of problematic substance use and multiple entries into various levels of addiction treatment care/mental health services/emergency services. The support services provided through this initiative will build on existing addiction service systems.

Clients will also be assessed by addiction organizations for the likelihood of success with supportive housing (e.g., having the additional supports will ensure success in maintaining housing and breaking the cycle of addiction treatment service use) through the use of Admission and Discharge Criteria and Assessment Tools (ADAT) together with additional information about the client's personal situation.

Applicants should also describe how existing community services will be leveraged to support clients.

Program Framework Principles

All submission should clearly demonstrate in the project description section how the following principles will be addressed within the proposed initiative.

- Incorporate people with lived experience in the development and implementation of the project
- Client - centred and responsive to unique needs
- Clients should feel safe and secure
- Based on Housing First model
- Housing is integrated into community
- Responsive to relapsing nature of substance use
- Based on harm reduction approach and recovery model
- Support services are provided through integrated, multi-disciplinary teams
- Support services have strong linkages to other community services (e.g. income supports, social and recreational, community development, peer supports/engagement)
- Evidence of support services provided under the 8:1 ratio
- Services build on existing addiction treatment system including strong partnerships with withdrawal management system and other addiction services
- Services link with shelters, short term residential beds and transitional housing providers
- Services will be trauma informed
- Staff competency and skill sets are addressed
- Housing providers demonstrate long-term financial capacity to maintain units
- No wrong door regional coordination of access and application process

Target Population

The program is targeted to youths, adults and seniors who:

- Use addiction treatment services multiple times in a single year (especially withdrawal management services, acute or emergency health services)
- Have few social supports
- Are homeless or inadequately housed
- Have complex chronic substance use problems
- May have concurrent mental health problem
- May have high rates of hospitalization
- May have high rates of incarceration
- May be HIV+ or Hep C+

Who can Apply

Preference in awarding allocations will be made to organizations with current accountability agreements with the LHINs for support services and to organizations with current agreements with the ministry for the rent supplement portion of the program.

Criteria for Selection

Please consult the **H-SIP Manual** on the Toronto Central LHIN website under Health Service Providers, and Health System Improvement Pre-Proposal.

Organizations applying for funding under this program must complete a Health System Improvement Proposal (H-SIP) and include a description of the population to be served, experience of the organization in serving this population, benefit to the community, collaboration with other organizations, budget and workplan for implementation.

In addition to the overarching Toronto Central LHIN criteria and considerations outlined in the H-SIP Manual, the following criteria and considerations will also be used to assess all submissions.

- ability to demonstrate how the project principles will be addressed;
- alignment with the target population;
- demonstrated partnership experience within the addiction and mental health system (e.g. referral sources, access to treatment, medical, social and peer support services);
- knowledge of best practices in provision of addiction services;
- staff skilled and knowledgeable with treatment approaches for people with concurrent mental health and addiction disorders;

- experience with or ability to partner with a transfer payment organization who has administered rent supplement supportive housing units, including experience with the Residential Tenancies Act and landlord/tenant issues;
- ability to submit all mandatory documentation and data, including compliance with evaluation requirements; and
- ability to implement initiative in a timely manner.

Process

For the 2010/11- Phase 2 Supportive Housing for People with Problematic Substance Use Call for Proposals, please complete a *Health System Improvement Pre-Proposal (H-SIP)* found on the Toronto Central LHIN website.

- **All** sections of the H-SIP Form must be completed in order for the application to be considered.
- Each proposal submitted must identify the proposed housing provider (recipient of rent supplement funding) **AND** the proposed support services provider with a description of the partnership.

Submit proposals to torontocentral@lhins.on.ca by 5pm on Monday, May 17, 2010.

Questions from Health Service Providers regarding the 2010/11 Phase 2 Supportive Housing for People with Problematic Substance Use Call for Proposals will be **accepted prior to May 6th, 2010 at noon**. This process allows for all questions and answers to be posted on the Toronto Central LHIN website for all potential applicants to benefit from. Questions will not be accepted after May 6th, 2010.

Questions must be submitted in writing to torontocentral@lhins.on.ca. Please include "Phase 2 Supportive Housing Question" in the subject line and provide contact information so that the LHIN team can get clarification on questions as needed. All questions and answers will be posted on the Toronto Central LHIN website the week of **May 10th, 2010**.

Timelines

Activity	Timeline
Criteria for call for proposals validated by targeted advisory and working groups	April 30 th , 2010
Call: Request for Proposals posted on TC LHIN website	Monday May 3 rd , 2010
Submission of questions from HSPs	May 3 rd - May 6 th , 2010
Questions and answers published on Toronto Central LHIN website	Week of May 10 th , 2010
Proposals submission deadline	5pm, Monday, May 17 th , 2010
Toronto Central LHIN reviews all H-SIPs	May 18 th - 28 th , 2010
Submission of Toronto Central LHIN recommendations to Ministry of Health and Long Term Care	Monday, May 31 st , 2010