

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) RFI-HMS-224-21-04-HPO
STATE HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BENEFIT, EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION
HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE**

The State of Hawai'i, through the Department of Human Services (DHS), Benefit, Employment & Support Services Division (BESSD), Homeless Programs Office (HPO) issues this Request for Information (RFI) to seek information and recommendations from the general public, private sector, and community-based organizations, as well as religious organizations pursuant to Section 104, Public Law 104-193.

The mission of the DHS is to provide quality, efficient and effective services designed to help homeless individuals and families access permanent housing. The DHS seeks to enter into a contract with qualified outreach service providers to provide quality, efficient and effective outreach services by multidisciplinary canvassing teams which shall consist of outreach case manager, peer (someone with formerly lived homelessness experience), licensed social worker, licensed medical and mental health professionals. Essential services shall include building rapport with unsheltered homeless individuals and families where they are, connecting them with emergency shelter, permanent housing, and/or critical services, and/or providing them with urgent, non-facility-based care and civil legal services designed to help homeless individuals and families access permanent housing.

Under the State Homeless Outreach Program, every outreach engagement shall be robust in scope with focus on increasing opportunities to assess the needs of each homeless person, improving and stabilizing their physical and mental health, and progressing toward the goal of permanent housing placement.

In addition, DHS seeks to enter into a contract with a qualified legal service Provider staffed with attorneys who are licensed to practice law in Hawaii. The selected agency shall provide legal services in association with the outreach program. The primary focus shall be to provide assistance to obtain identification documents required for permanent housing placement.

Programs funded under this opportunity will use a Housing First (HF) approach. The goals of the HF approach are to help homeless people access permanent housing as rapidly as possible by assisting with quickly locating and accessing housing options and connecting them to services and supports that will support housing stabilization. In HF, staff use assertive engagement strategies and assist people to develop housing plans, obtain needed documents for the housing application process, obtain income through public benefits and employment, identify and locate suitable housing options and provide support through the housing location and access processes. Outreach staff will also help with preparation for housing by teaching tenancy skills and how to meet lease obligations.

Contracts shall be awarded for an initial term of one (1) year, starting June 15, 2021, with the possibility of three (3), one (1) year extensions thereafter, subject to the availability of State funds and subject to the satisfactory performance of services by the Provider as determined by the HPO. The maximum contract term shall not exceed four (4) years, June 15, 2021 through June 14, 2025.

The information and recommendations received through this RFI will assist the DHS in preparing a Request for Proposals to procure the aforementioned services for the State Homeless Outreach Program.

An orientation meeting will not be held. Responses to this RFI are to be submitted in writing, no later than December 30, 2020, 12:00 PM Hawai'i Standard Time (HST), to:

Department of Human Services
Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division
Homeless Programs Office
1010 Richards Street, Suite 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Attn: Diane "Dee Dee" Kammunkun, Program Specialist
Phone: (808) 586-7070
dkammunkun@dhs.hawaii.gov

The Department may engage in further informal discussions to gather additional information and recommendations. The Department reserves the right to incorporate in a solicitation, if issued, for such contract, any information and recommendations present and/or submitted in response to this RFI. Neither the Department nor any respondent to the RFI bears any obligation under this RFI.