



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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Honorable Helene Weinstein
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 923
Albany, NY 12248

Honorable Liz Krueger
New York State Senate
172 State Street, Capitol Bldg., Room 416
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Members Weinstein and Krueger:

Thank you allowing me the opportunity to testify at the Joint Legislative Human Service's Budget Hearing. As promised, I am writing to follow up in response to information requested at the hearing. Please share amongst your colleagues.

Why is the NYSHIP and the ESSHI program reimbursed at different rates?

The New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP) has legacy roots to the former Single Room Occupancy Support Services Program (SRO) and dates back to 1987. Over its 30 years in existence there have been incremental increases to the reimbursement rate. The reimbursement rate for NYSSHP primarily supports service provision, while ESSHI also funds operations of permanent supportive housing.

Is HHAP oversubscribed, and if so, by how much?

The Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP) is administered via an open procurement. Meaning, OTDA continues to accept applications until funds are exhausted. Since doubling of the program in SFY 2020-21 to the current appropriation of \$128 million, OTDA has fully obligated each year's appropriation. OTDA fully anticipates once again to exhaust the current appropriation supporting development of permanent supportive housing, transitional facilities, and emergency shelters.

Can IV-D funding be used for an expedited child support conference – relates to bill she sponsored last session - Relates to the administrative procedures for establishing support?

Yes, IV-D funding can be used for expedited case conferencing as an allowable child support activity eligible for federal financial participation (FFP). The FFP rate for child support activities is 66% of allowable expenditures. The FFP is authorized in Section 455 of the Social Security Act and implementing regulations at 45 CFR Part 304.

Can you tell me why districts are not opting in to provide the shelter supplement?

Local districts are given discretion as to instituting a Public Assistance (PA)-funded shelter supplement program and whether it would assist recipients in obtaining and retaining permanent housing. Six districts currently operate PA shelter supplement programs for families, while another five districts have submitted family plans for OTDA approval. Twenty districts currently operate PA shelter supplement programs for singles/childless couples, while one additional district has submitted a singles/childless couples plan for OTDA approval. Local needs vary across the state and the decision to institute a shelter supplement program is left to local administrators. Such plans must also be approved by OTDA and DOB prior to initiation. OTDA will emphasize this option with all districts at upcoming statewide meetings. With the availability of \$100M in Rent Supplement Program (RSP) state funding, most districts have opted to provide shelter supplements by way of this funding stream.

What resources are available for HIV housing in ROS?

The Bureau of Housing within OTDA administers an array of programs providing valuable resources in addressing homelessness. Specific resources available for HIV housing in ROS include Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Operational Support for AIDS Housing (OSAH), Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI), and the Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP). HHAP, which is a capital source of funding, maintains a specific set aside in support of developing units serving persons with HIV.

1. An individual that is applying for or is receiving public assistance and identifies that they have HIV/AIDS is eligible for an Emergency Shelter Allowance (ESA). The ESA is \$480 for the individual that has HIV/AIDS and is more than the shelter allowance provided under 18 NYCRR 352.3(a).
 - If there is more than one individual in the household, then the household can receive an additional \$330 per household member but cannot receive more than the household's actual shelter expense.
 - The provision for the \$480/\$330 ESA is outlined in 18 NYCRR 352.3(k).
2. With the release of 18-ADM-05, OTDA advised districts of an option that allows districts to provide an ESA up to a district's current Fair Market Rent (FMR). In addition, the ADM advised districts that they could also opt-in to limit the monthly shelter costs of an eligible individual with HIV to 30% of their income at the current local district/State cost shares of 71 and 29%, respectively.
3. In 2020, OTDA released 20-ADM-02. This guidance document advised districts that they may enter into a partnership with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and/or other third-party payors to assist with long-term housing stability for individuals with HIV. NYS would initially match, dollar for dollar, up to \$1 million per district, the costs of the FMR for ESA plan and the 30% income contribution plan, as well as any services for these individuals. However, once the \$1 million in matching funds were exhausted the partners would assume the entire cost of funding the FMR for ESA, 30% income contribution, and services.
4. As of today, OTDA has not received any plan requests from districts under the 2018 or the 2020 provisions.

Can you tell me the number of pending NYCHA applications?

We have roughly 31,500 NYCHA ERAP applications.

How many veterans have been served by ESSHI?

To date, ESSHI supports 358 units that veterans can call home. The annual award amount exceeds \$7.9 million.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Tietz
Commissioner