

Hawaii Department of Health
Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD)
Request for Information (RFI) Response Summary
RFI No. AMHD 420-2-18
24-Hour Group Home and 8-16 Hour Group Home Services
Statewide

A Request for Information for 24-Hour Group Home and 8-16 Hour Group Home services was issued on July 14, 2017. Written responses were received from two (2) organizations. Below is a summary of the responses received through this process as they relate to the questions from the RFI.

One respondent is currently providing group home services in the State of Hawaii. Both respondents are interested in providing 24-Hour and 8-16 Hour Group Home services for the AMHD.

Both respondents indicated an interest in submitting a proposal for this service, but were concerned with the State's ability to address some of their concerns/challenges:

1. Low unemployment in the state which makes it increasingly difficult to hire, train, and retain qualified staff.
2. Need to adjust reimbursement rate to account for inflation and adjusting to market forces to compensate for the increased competition for employees.
3. Increasingly difficult to obtain affordable housing and initiating housing services in a new geographical location.
4. Difficult to identify and confirm the consistent level of need for group home services.
5. Securing appropriate size property and floor plan.
6. Addressing aging and frail consumer needs with concerns of incontinence, dementia and sores from inactivity, etc.
7. Other barriers include working with homeowners, community associations, access to public transportation and securing sites near retail establishments for job opportunities.

It was suggested that the AMHD work with other state agencies to identify underused properties in the state. Respondent cited that the AMHD should create an emergency fund for consumers. Often consumers lack funds to pay for food and medication at the onset of placement. Respondent also stated the Rights of Tenancy appears to favor consumer rights, but it should be balanced with provider rights too. For example, providers must give consumers forty-five (45) days eviction notice, but consumers provide only twenty-eight (28) days advance notice to the provider.

A respondent suggested access to nursing services within the home to administer in-home medication support for the consumers to assist the aged or frail consumers.

One respondent stated that the 24-Hour Group Home would necessitate that all housing service providers become medication certified or have a certified nursing assistance on staff. For the 8-16 Hour Group Home, staff would need to determine if the consumer is capable of managing their own medications. If the service housing providers are not present to remind or measure the proper dosage or frequency of the medication it could cause the consumers to miss their needed medications.

One respondent indicated major concerns for life skill assessment is consumer hygiene, cleanliness of environment, cooking and nutrition, understanding legal documents and government benefits. They also cited the need for basic budgeting skills and assistance with employment.

Some concerns expressed by the respondent on attending Treatment Planning meetings are location of meetings, availability of reliable transportation, and flexibility on the use of video conferencing. The respondent did not appear to have any barriers in data reporting.

The AMHD appreciates the level of interest and observations made regarding the RFI for 24-Hour Group Home and 8-16 Hour Group Home services. These observations and recommendations will be reviewed and taken into consideration when drafting the Scope of Service for the program. An RFP is planned to be issued for this program.