

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) RFI-HMS-224-17-03-HPO
STATE HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)
BENEFIT, EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION (BESSD)
HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE (HPO)**

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 service providers to assist homeless individuals and families to access housing, income, health, and social services so that they may be able to obtain and retain permanent housing. Outreach services will also assist unsheltered homeless people to connect to services to meet their basic needs and access the array of services offered by the homeless system.

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.

The information and recommendations received through this RFI will assist the DHS in preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) 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 September 16, 2016, 4:30 PM Hawai'i Standard Time (HST), to:

Department of Human Services
Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division
Homeless Programs Office
820 Mililani Street, Suite 606
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Attn: June Tong, Program Specialist

Phone: (808) 586-7254
JTong@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.