



MRT AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORK GROUP CHARGE

The MRT Affordable Housing Workgroup will reconvene this year to continue their work on supportive housing initiatives. Below is an outline of their charge and meeting schedule.

The Workgroup will meet five times during the course of 2012 and 2013, beginning in November: November 2012, December 2012, February 2013, April 2013, and June 2013

CHARGE/NEXT STEPS

1. Make recommendations to the state on MRT Affordable Housing Workgroup approved initiatives:
 - a) Develop principles behind a possible NY/NY IV agreement with NYC and other interested counties (MRT #5701);
 - b) Advise the state on the appropriate set-asides and incentives for supportive housing construction in HCR Qualified Allocation Plan (MRT# 5705);
 - c) Develop a plan to create a pilot program for “social impact investment bonds” for supportive housing (MRT#5707);
 - d) Develop a plan to improve interagency coordination of supportive housing policy and implementation (MRT#5708);
 - e) Identify and improve the supportive/affordable housing capital development process (MRT#5709);
 - f) Evaluate and provide advice in regard to perceived barriers to proper utilization of existing supportive housing units such as the state’s interpretation of Section 504 requirements for accessible housing, whether existing special needs stock reserved for those with mobility impairments are occupied by such individuals, whether providers are maximizing opportunities for accessible housing units and whether effective compliance reviews are included in regulatory agreements for set-aside projects (MRT#5710);
 - g) Identify barriers to moving high-need individuals into supportive housing. The group will review state and local application procedures, eligibility guidelines, and waitlist policies; and develop solutions that may include new assessment tools, geographically-based registries of highest need individuals and new service models. This would include the development of a “Moving On” initiative to incentivize and support tenants who are ready to live in independent living. (MRT#5711).



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2. Advise the state on the SFY13-14 and SFY14-15 allocation plan of the \$75 million in MRT state general fund spending.
3. Advise the state on the allocation plan for the dedicated fund for supportive housing development (i.e. Medicaid savings generated from hospital and nursing home closures).
4. Provide advice on overall coordination and implementation of supportive housing policy. Efficiencies can be achieved if agencies regularly engaged in policy discussions related to supportive housing, shared best practices, and pooled resources. The content and timing of RFPs and other funding allocations would be considered.
5. Identify ways to maximize federal and private funding leverage and replicating state and local agency best practices. Work group efforts should be coordinated with the Regional Economic Development Councils. Specifically, the group should provide advice on a) improving coordination of multiple agency funding application processes; b) coordinating awards of capital, service and operating funds; c) the need for adequate pre-development and acquisition funds; d) regulatory requirements with an focus on flexibility and innovation; e) ensuring an adequate share of tax-exempt bonds are made available for affordable and supportive-housing; f) streamlining development and construction oversight in multiagency projects; g) creating state financed development targets in each community, with a focus on additional state rent subsidies and maximization of existing resources; and h) developing cost-effective housing.
6. Identify New Affordable/Supportive Housing Models.