

Number	Questions	Topic Area	OPWDD Response
1	<p>We are considering developing a drop-in center for independent living skills for people who are in non-certified living situations both within and outside our agency, which can be used for promoting self-direction and skill acquisition via Recreation, SEMP, Without Walls, or Community Prevocational, it would be collocated with a supportive housing model (using smart technology), which would be paid for by agency funds and the individuals monthly social security benefits. Can we purchase property that is dual use, with the agency paying for the supportive residential portion and the FMAP covering the staffing hub?</p>	Dual Use	<p>If an agency seeks to use grant funds to develop a resource that may be used by multiple programs, the costs should be allocated between the portion of the resource associated with Supportive IRA or Family Care services (eligible for grant funding) and the other program areas (not eligible for grant funding). Approval would be subject to review of the details provided in the proposal.</p>
2	<p>For the development of staffing hubs, once established can the hub be used by supervised residences as well, particularly when there is a staffing issue?</p>	Dual Use	<p>This grant opportunity is designed to support the expansion of Supportive Residential Habilitation and Family Care opportunities (RFA 1.1.1.). If an agency seeks to use grant funds to develop a resource that may be used by multiple programs, the costs should be allocated between the portion of the resource associated with Supportive IRA or Family Care services (eligible for grant funding) and the other program areas (not eligible for grant funding).</p> <p>Applicants may propose projects that would benefit Supportive Residential Habilitation and other services. However, per section 2.2 of the RFA, the purpose of this grant opportunity is to support the expansion of Supportive Residential Habilitation and Family Care services. Therefore, if an agency seeks to use grant funds to develop a resource that may be used by multiple programs, the costs should be allocated between the portion of the resource associated with Supportive IRA or Family Care services (eligible for grant funding) and the other program areas (not eligible for grant funding).</p> <p>Agencies have the flexibility to assign staff to respond to the changing needs of the individuals served in their residential programs.</p>
3	<p>In 2.2.7.1, it states that grant funds may be used for "leveraging new tools and technologies to maximize available Direct Support Professional (DSP) staffing." May applicants propose projects that would use new tools/technologies to help "maximize DSP staffing" for both Supportive and Supervised Residential Habilitation services? In other words, can applicants propose projects that holistically consider and address interconnected DSP staffing concerns throughout its programs and that would benefit services beyond Supportive Residential Habilitation? Or applicants limited to projects that would only benefit Supportive Residential Habilitation?</p>	Dual Use	<p>Applicants may propose projects that would benefit Supportive Residential Habilitation and other services. However, per section 2.2 of the RFA, the purpose of this grant opportunity is to support the expansion of Supportive Residential Habilitation and Family Care services. Therefore, if an agency seeks to use grant funds to develop a resource that may be used by multiple programs, the costs should be allocated between the portion of the resource associated with Supportive IRA or Family Care services (eligible for grant funding) and the other program areas (not eligible for grant funding).</p>
4	<p>Can we purchase property that is dual use, with the agency paying for the supportive residential portion and the FMAP covering the staffing hub?</p>	Dual Use	<p>If an agency seeks to use grant funds to develop a resource that may be used by multiple programs, the costs should be allocated between the portion of the resource associated with Supportive IRA or Family Care services (eligible for grant funding) and the other program areas (not eligible for grant funding).</p> <p>Any new certification/capacity has to follow established development processes, including the approval of a CON, any applicable Padavan law requirements, as well as the Prior Property Approval (PPA) process. The PPA request/application must be accompanied by key documents depending on whether the site is leased or acquired. Development reps at the local DDRO will be made available to assist providers with process/request.</p> <p>As stated in section 2.2.8. of the RFA: In accordance with federal requirements, funding for this initiative cannot be used for individuals' room and board costs. Therefore, funding through this grant cannot fund acquisition of property in which the HCBS enrollee will live.</p>
5	<p>Can we use a single building to house both supervised and supportive opportunities?</p>	Dual Use	<p>A single building may have separate operating certificates, but this is subject to the existing processes for site development.</p>

6	I did not see a discussion of rates or rate setting in the RFP. Can you please detail that process for us	Funding & Rates	<p>This grant opportunity provides time-limited funding. Per 2.2.7.: Grant resources are available for initial investment activities that address barriers to creating, and transitioning people to live in, Supportive IRAs and Family Care opportunities. In addition, preference will be given to applications that demonstrate sustainable strategies, which may be replicated and/or maintained after the funding period ends (2.2.4.).</p> <p>During and after the grant period, Supportive Residential Habilitation and Family Care Residential Habilitation Services will be reimbursed at the provider's current rate. If a provider does not currently operate Supportive IRAs, newly created Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation services would be reimbursed at the regional average rate, which effective 4/1/21 is:</p> <p>Region 1: \$3,964.99 Region 2: \$2,871.71 Region 3: \$2,457.60 Region 4: \$1,862.72</p> <p>These rates were presented at the 4/18/22 webinar. Providers may confirm rates by e-mailing: mhrrs@health.ny.gov.</p> <p>Family Care Residential Habilitation Services Fees, effective 4/1/21, are available here: HTTPS://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/rates/mental_hygiene/2021/2021-04-01/family_care_rh.htm</p>
7	Upon the expiration of the grant period on March 31, 2024, will funding cease for programs we have initiated? For example, if we establish a new supportive IRA facility, will the funding to maintain that facility and staff cease? What exactly will cease?	Funding & Rates	Please see response to Question #6.
8	<p>Our agency is interested in responding to this RFP. We currently operate supervised IRAs. We do not operate any supportive IRA. We are interested in expanding our housing to include supportive IRA and taking advantage of this RFP.</p> <p>Since we do not currently have a supportive IRA rate, how would the rate be calculated?</p>	Funding & Rates	Please see response to Question #6.
9	What is the regional daily rate for supportive IRA?	Funding & Rates	<p>Supportive Residential Habilitation is a monthly unit of service.</p> <p>Please see response to Question #6.</p>
10	If an agency has an existing supportive IRA rate lower than the new supportive IRA rate, can the agency request an increase in the current rate.	Funding & Rates	<p>No, agencies will use their approved/current Supportive Residential Habilitation rate unless the individual qualifies for Higher Needs funding.</p> <p>Please see response to Question #6.</p> <p>See also the responses to questions in the Regulatory Framework section (Questions #67 - #74).</p>
11	How is the enhanced clinical supports reimbursed and for how long? Will this become part of the rate?	Funding & Rates	<p>Agencies will use their approved/current Supportive Residential Habilitation rate unless the individual qualifies for Higher Needs funding.</p> <p>Please see response to Question #6.</p> <p>See also the responses to questions in the Regulatory Framework section (Questions # 67 - #74).</p>
12	<p>Section 2.2.7. Referencing "initial investment activities..."</p> <p>Our intention is to use any awards to establish a new certified IRA Supportive facility and to hire requisite staff. We understand that the development grant period ends in March 2024. Does that date imply that as of April 2024 OPWDD's initial support of the new program will cease? Please advise as to what support would cease at the conclusion of the grant period.</p>	Funding & Rates	<p>Please see responses to Questions 14 and 116.</p> <p>The funding for the Supportive Residential Habilitation services will continue in accordance with the approved OPWDD HCBS Waiver: https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/10/cms-approved-10-1-20-amendment.pdf</p> <p>As stated in section 2.2.8. of the RFA, "In accordance with federal requirements, funding for this initiative cannot be used for individuals' room and board costs".</p> <p>Therefore, funding through this grant cannot fund acquisition of property in which the HCBS enrollee will live. Please see response to Question #6.</p>

13	If the grant funding supports a higher cost per unit for existing supportive IRA rates but achieves significant savings through supervised IRA bed conversion, is OPWDD considering the partial re-investment of those savings to sustain programs that demonstrate success through the 24-month grant period?	Funding & Rates	No, the provider will bill Medicaid for Residential Habilitation Services and will receive grant funds separately per the approved contract. Per the RFA 2.2.7.: Grant resources are available for initial investment activities that address barriers to creating, and transitioning people to live in, Supportive IRAs and Family Care opportunities. During and after the grant period, Supportive Residential Habilitation and Family Care Residential Habilitation Services will be reimbursed at the provider's current rate. See response to #8 for further information regarding rates. See also the responses to questions in the Regulatory Framework section (Questions # 67 - #74) of this document.
14	If we are awarded a grant, will we receive a new higher monthly rate for Supportive residential habilitation services delivered during the grant period? Or, does this grant only provide funding for initial investments to support Supportive Residential Habilitation services?	Funding & Rates	No, the provider will bill Medicaid for Residential Habilitation Services and will receive grant funds separately per the approved contract. Per the RFA 2.2.7.: Grant resources are available for initial investment activities that address barriers to creating, and transitioning people to live in, Supportive IRAs and Family Care opportunities. During and after the grant period, Supportive Residential Habilitation and Family Care Residential Habilitation Services will be reimbursed at the provider's current rate. See response to #8 for further information regarding rates. See also the responses to questions in the Regulatory Framework section (Questions # 67 - #74).
15	What are the funding parameters or limitations? i.e. how much can we ask for?	Funding & Rates	Funding for this grant opportunity is based upon the New York State ARPA Spending Plan. The total maximum funding allocated to this RFA is \$10 million. There is no maximum or minimum award amount per vendor. The ARPA Spending Plan is available here: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/hcbs/enhanced_funding/docs/2021-07-08_hcbs_spending_plan.pdf . Additionally, per 4.15 of the RFA, OPWDD has sole discretion regarding the number of grants and the grant amounts awarded, which are based on applications received and awarded in accordance with Section 4: Evaluation of Applications of this RFA.
16	Are those rates per month?	Funding & Rates	Supportive Residential Habilitation is a monthly per person rate; please see page 332 for units of service in the HCBS Waiver: https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/06/cms-approved-7-1-21-amendment.pdf
17	Will the higher needs funding of current supervised IRA residents follow the person to the person to a family care / supportive IRAS?	Funding & Rates	If the person is already approved for higher needs funding in the Supervised IRA, the person would be eligible for Supportive Residential Habilitation Higher Needs Funding; see page 377 of the HCBS Waiver: https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/06/cms-approved-7-1-21-amendment.pdf .
18	Are the rates per person?	Funding & Rates	Yes, Supportive Residential Habilitation is a monthly per person rate; please see page 332 for units of service in the HCBS Waiver: https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/06/cms-approved-7-1-21-amendment.pdf
19	What is the total amount of grant funding available? Relatedly, is there a minimum or maximum award amount?	Funding & Rates	Please see response to Question #15.
20	Why are the rates lower for region 4	Funding & Rates	The Regional Average Rates are calculated in accordance with approved rate setting methodology beginning on page 337 in the HCBS Waiver: https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/06/cms-approved-7-1-21-amendment.pdf
21	Why is the rate lower in Region 4 lower than the other regions? How are you making this determination? If an agency chooses to use a vacancy in a supervised setting and reinvest /closes the bed to open a supportive apartment would OPWDD adjust the rate for the supervised IRA to make up for the loss of operational/room and board costs. i.e. make the supervised IRA rate support property costs associated with the capacity before the bed is closed	Funding & Rates	The Regional Average Rates are calculated in accordance with approved rate setting methodology beginning on page 337 of the approved HCBS Waiver, and all rates will continue to be established in accordance with the HCBS Waiver: https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/06/cms-approved-7-1-21-amendment.pdf . The room and board will be paid in accordance with the methodology for both Supportive and Supervised settings.
22	How do we know what our finalized enhanced supportive rate will be?	Funding & Rates	Agencies will use their approved/current Supervised Residential Habilitation rates unless the individual qualifies for Higher Needs funding. Please see page 377 of the HCBS Waiver: https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/06/cms-approved-7-1-21-amendment.pdf Please see response to Question #116. If the person is transitioning from the agency's Supervised Residential services to a Supportive opportunity, the agency would be eligible for the additional short-term funding.
23	Will templates be provided for all application documents referenced in Section 4.2.1?	Grant Admin	Per 4.2.1. of the RFA, applicants must provide all information requested in the Grants Gateway Application. Templates for the following application documents are provided in the Pre-Submission Uploads section of the Forms Menu tab of the Supportive Residential Habilitation Transformation Grant Opportunity (Application) in Grants Gateway: Cover Letter, eFMAP Attachment documents, Diversity Questionnaire, Work Plan. Applicants MUST utilize and complete the Revised Cost Proposal Template now located at https://opwdd.ny.gov/procurement-opportunities/grant-opportunity-supportive-residential-habilitation-transformation , and upload it to the Cost Proposal field located on the Pre-Submission Uploads page of the Upload Properties tab in Grants Gateway. The Program Specific Questions are located in the Program Information section of the Forms Menu tab of the Application.
24	What is the expected duration of grant projects? Is there a maximum duration for grant projects and/or a date by which awarded funds are to be expended?	Grant Admin	With the pending changes to the Key Events and Dates, section 1.1.2. of the RFA, the contract resulting from this RFA will begin upon contract execution and end on March 31, 2024, unless otherwise extended . It is expected that all grant-funded resources be fully expended by the contract end date.

25	Will there be an opportunity for questions after application documents referenced in Section 4.2.1 become available on the Grants Gateway?	Grant Admin	The Questions Due Date was Thursday, April 14th, 2022 per 1.2 of the RFA. There will not be an opportunity to have additional questions answered following the publication of this Response to Questions document. Per 3.1.2.1. of the RFA, submission of questions related to this RFA will be accepted before, during and after the Applicant's Conference.
26	In developing the Work Plan, are applicants required to develop three objectives for their project? Or do applicants have leeway to propose fewer or more objectives as appropriate to fit their project design? Is there an expected or required number of milestones and performance measures that applicants are asked to develop?	Grant Admin	The applicant is not required to develop three or more objectives for their project, neither is there an expected nor required number of milestones and performance measures. The applicant may develop one, or more than one, program objective(s), milestone(s) and performance measure(s) as needed, per the instructions provided in the Overview section of the Work Plan template in the Upload Properties of the Opportunity Application in Grants Gateway.
27	Does OPWDD have an estimated number of vendors or maximum number of awards that they anticipate awarding under this grant? Does OPWDD have a maximum award amount that each vendor can be awarded?	Grant Admin	No, OPWDD does not have an estimated number of vendors, nor maximum number of awards, nor maximum amount of award for each vendor anticipated for award. Please see response to Question #15.
28	Staffing Plan Document EEO Staffing Plan (MWBE 101) We are not permitted to compile information about employees' race or ethnicity. What is OPWDD's expectation considering that prohibition?	Grant Admin	Applicants must submit the MWBE 101 form per New York State Executive Law § 312(5) and the associated regulations found at 5 NYCRR Part 143, which permit the Office of People With Developmental Disabilities to require contractors of any size to provide equal employment opportunity data, including gender and ethnicity information relative to employees working on State contracts. In the event Applicants have questions, they should consult with their labor attorney.
29	Section 6.3.1 lists several quantitative data metrics that applicants might be asked to collect for evaluating their project. The instructions for the Workplan template note that applicants should align their performance measures and milestones with metrics from Section 6.3 "as appropriate." •Are applicants free to select and collect data on the metrics that best align with their project? •Will all successful applicants be expected to track the metrics listed in 6.3 regardless of their project? If all metrics in 6.3 are not mandatory, would applicants be free to propose metrics that are not listed in 6.3 to measure project outputs and outcomes? (For instance, for projects involving trainings, I'm envisioning the need for measures relating to outputs/outcomes for staff, etc.) Or is the expectation that all applicants will be using at least one of the metrics listed in Section 6.3?	Grant Admin	OPWDD will work with successful applicants to identify appropriate metrics, including those on the list in section 6.3, but also potentially others as identified by OPWDD or the applicant.
30	Do providers have to include total cost of the program and other sources of anticipated revenue in the Cost Proposal or only show how the grant money would be used? (Section 4.5)	Grant Admin	Applicants must include total cost of the program, detailing all sources of anticipated revenue in the revised Cost Proposal, distinguishing one from the other, with the total amount of funding being requested under this opportunity clearly indicated. The Cost Proposal and Instructions have been revised to accommodate other sources of revenue and are provided with this document, and included as an addendum to the RFA.
31	Can a group of providers submit a unified proposal and, if so, can a single provider be considered the lead provider for purposes of a single contract representing the entire group?	Grant Admin	The lead provider may use the approach described in RFA section 7.13. Subcontracting: The application must indicate if any part of the applicant's program will be provided by a subcontractor (including an organization or an individual who is an independent contractor). To the extent subcontractors have been identified, please name the individual or organization that would be the subcontractor, describe the qualifications and scope of services to be provided by the contractor, and provide a statement of the percentage of the work to be performed by each subcontractor. Subcontractors must also meet the Minimum Qualifications for Selection set forth in Section 1.3 of this RFA. Providers involved in such proposals should ensure that arrangements between them comply with any applicable Medicaid fraud and abuse laws.
32	Will we get a budget template like in the past?	Grant Admin	Per the revised version of the RFA, section 4.5.1: Applicants must utilize and complete the Revised Cost Proposal Template located at: https://opwdd.ny.gov/procurement-opportunities/grant-opportunity-supportive-residential-habilitation-transformation , and upload the completed Revised Cost Proposal to the Cost Proposal field of the Pre-Submission Uploads page of the Upload Properties tab in Grants Gateway.
33	If we have several ideas or things, we would like to do within this grant opportunity, should all be submitted on one proposal/application?	Grant Admin	An applicant should submit a single application. The single application can address more than one project.
34	My company is pre-qualified to do work with NYS through the Grants portal, but can you please tell me why I cannot submit a response to your RFA for OPD01-FMAP-2-2022? I cannot see an option in the menus to submit the documents	Grant Admin	Please contact the Grants Gateway Team at (518) 474-5595 or grantsgateway@its.ny.gov .
35	Section 7.12.1.5.1 In the MWBE Utilization Plan, Column 5 requests a dollar value of subcontracts/supplies. We have a preferred MWBE supplier in mind, but we are not able to predict accurately how the dollar value of the supplies we will purchase. How are we supposed to complete the plan?	Grant Admin	Per section 7.12.1.5.1. of the RFA, "Any modifications or changes to an accepted MWBE Utilization Plan after the Contract award and during the term of the Contract must be reported on a revised MWBE Utilization Plan and submitted to OPWDD for review and approval."

36	Section 7.12.3.3 Please explain "The SDVOB goal established under this RFA is 0 percent (0%)." Does this mean that unless the intention is to employ a SDVOB entity, there is no need to supply the eFMAP RFA attachment document detailing that intention?	Grant Admin	Applicants must sign and submit the "Use of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises in Contract Performance" form, certifying "By submission of this Plan, the Bidder/Contractor commits to making good faith efforts in the utilization of SDVOB subcontractors and suppliers as required by the SDVOB goals contained in the Solicitation/Contract," even if the goals are zero. For more information on Division of Service-Disabled Veterans' Business Development Compliance and Reporting, please see https://ogs.ny.gov/veterans/division-service-disabled-veterans-business-development-compliance-and-reporting .
37	When will the pre-submissions tab appear in the Grants Gateway (Section 4.5.1)?	Grant Admin	As soon as the Grantee initiates an application and clicks on the Forms Menu button, they will have access to the pre-submission uploads. If you continue to experience problems, please contact the Grants Gateway Team at (518) 474-5595 or grantsgateway@its.ny.gov.
38	Will there be an opportunity for additional questions after RFA answers have been published on April 18th, 2022 (Section 3.2.1)?	Grant Admin	No, there will not be an opportunity to have additional questions answered following the publication of this Response to Questions document. Per 3.1.2.1. of the RFA, submission of Questions related to this RFA will be accepted before, during and after the Applicant's Conference.
39	Can applicants propose more than one project or submit more than one application?	Grant Admin	An applicant should submit a single application. The single application can address more than one project.
40	Do you need to already have supportive IRA settings to participate in the grant?	New v. Existing Capacity	No, you do not need to operate Supportive settings in order to apply for this grant; however, the following minimum qualifications are noted in section 1.3 of the RFA. 1.3.1.3. The Applicant must be a provider certified by OPWDD under the 1915(c) OPWDD Comprehensive Waiver to deliver Residential Habilitation Services and must not be on OPWDD's Early Alert list at the time of application. 1.3.1.4. The Applicant must have experience operating Supportive Residential Habilitation and/or Family Care services. If the Applicant does not have this experience, it must demonstrate a commitment of the Board of Directors to develop new Supportive Residential Habilitation opportunities and/or Family Care services.
41	Our agency has both 24/7 IRA and ICF residential beds and a smaller number of Supportive Apartment beds. Our current Supportive apartment beds are full, and we do not anticipate a meaningful number of vacancies in the near or distant future. We have been contacted by many family members on behalf of individuals residing in the community and/or in our current 24/7 housing program that would benefit from a Supportive Apartment. Can we apply for and use the Transformation Grant money to "develop new capacity" by increasing our number of Supportive Housing beds by, for example 10-15 additional beds, and thereby enable more individuals from the community and/or our own 24/7 housing to live in a more independent and integrated setting?	New v. Existing Capacity	Applicants that are seeking to develop new capacity that expands the provider's current overall approved capacity may apply for this grant opportunity, but the application will not be prioritized. Additionally, as stated in section 2.2.2. of the RFA: Preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity. OPWDD's objective is, in part, to use existing capacity in the system, that is not today being used. Any new certification/capacity has to follow established development processes, including the approval of a CON, as well as the Prior Property Approval (PPA) process. The PPA request/application must be accompanied by key documents depending on whether the site is leased or acquired. Development reps at the local DDRO will be made available to assist providers with the process upon selection.
42	The grant announcement notes at section 2.2.2., "Preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity." This may not be feasible or desirable in geographic areas with long waitlists. Would OPWDD also give preference to those applications that propose to demonstrate how internal movement from certified supervised residential programs can create backfill opportunities that will serve to avoid investment in expansion of supervised residential programs? This would result in an increase in combined certified capacity, but such increase would be in the lower cost Supportive IRA program.	New v. Existing Capacity	As stated in section 2.2.2. of the RFA: Preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity. OPWDD's objective is, in part, to use existing capacity in the system, that is not today being used. Any new certification/capacity has to follow established development processes, including the approval of a CON, as well as the Prior Property Approval (PPA) process. The PPA request/application must be accompanied by key documents depending on whether the site is leased or acquired. Development reps at the local DDRO will be made available to assist providers with the process upon selection.
43	If an agency chooses to use a vacancy in a supervised setting and reinvest /closes the bed to open a supportive apartment would OPWDD adjust the rate for the supervised IRA to make up for the loss of operational/room and board costs. i.e. make the supervised IRA rate support property costs associated with the capacity before the bed is closed	New v. Existing Capacity	Please see response to Question #21.

44	Is this grant solely for expansion of the program, increasing the number of residents?	New v. Existing Capacity	As stated in section 2.2 of the RFA, the purpose of this grant program is to expand Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation and Family Care opportunities for individuals with I/DD. Proposals should demonstrate how the providers will assist people who are residing in supervised 24-hour residential settings and/or people currently on the CRO in need of housing in moving to a Supportive IRA or Family Care opportunity. Please see response to Question #42.
45	When you say expand, do you mean we can expand our footprint or do we need to use preexisting spots?	New v. Existing Capacity	Applicants may apply for resources that expand opportunities for individuals to live in supportive IRAs or Family Care settings. This might be achieved through placement of individuals into existing opportunities that are vacant today, or by converting sites within the provider's overall residential footprint. For information regarding acquisition of property associated with new development, please see response to Question #57.
46	Can we convert a supervised IRA into a supported IRA?	New v. Existing Capacity	Yes. As stated in section 2.2.2. of the RFA: Preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity. The provider's current approved capacity is the sum of the opportunities for all Supervised IRAs, Supportive IRAs and Family Care opportunities.
47	Can the grant program be used to expand the agency capacity of Supportive IRA without the loss of agency supervised IRA capacity?	New v. Existing Capacity	Please see response to Question #42.
48	In the applicant meeting yesterday, it seemed to be stated that you were looking at the grant to fill existing vacancies in supported res hab. We currently do not have this program, but would like to pursue doing this. We have some individuals that we think this would be appropriate for that reside in our IRA's. We would then look to fill the IRA beds if we were able to transition some people to supportive res hab. If the grant though is intended to assist in filling existing supported res hab program vacancies rather than fund new opportunities then this would not be the grant for us.	New v. Existing Capacity	Yes. As stated in section 2.2.2. of the RFA: Preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity. The provider's current approved capacity is the sum of the opportunities for all Supervised IRAs, Supportive IRAs and Family Care opportunities.
49	Does this grant pay for new supportive opportunities?	New v. Existing Capacity	Please see response to Question #42.
50	Section 2.2.2. Please explain "...will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity." Does this mean new Supportive IRA individuals must fill current vacancies, as opposed to expanding certified capacity?	New v. Existing Capacity	Please see response to Question #42.
51	An organization that has an existing certified Supportive Residential Housing program could apply through this funding opportunity for an expansion of services, absent an expansion of beds. Are you able to confirm that?	New v. Existing Capacity	Please see response to Question #44. Per 2.2.4 of the RFA: "Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate sustainable strategies, which may be replicated and/or maintained after the funding period ends".
52	If we can convert a supervised opportunity, is there a ratio of supervised to supportive conversion rate? (1-3)	New v. Existing Capacity	OPWDD does not understand the question; there is an approved methodology to calculate supportive IRA rates. In addition, as stated in section 2.2.2. of the RFA: Preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity. The provider's current approved capacity is the sum of the opportunities for all Supervised IRAs, Supportive IRAs and Family Care opportunities.
53	Can a vacancy on a Supervised IRA be transferred to a Supportive IRA?	New v. Existing Capacity	Yes. As stated in section 2.2.2. of the RFA: Preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity. The provider's current approved capacity is the sum of the opportunities for all Supervised IRAs, Supportive IRAs and Family Care opportunities.
54	Is it possible to use the funds to renovate a free-standing garage, located on an existing, previously downsized property, into two supportive housing opportunities?	Property Costs	Any new certification/capacity has to follow established development processes, including the approval of a CON, as well as the Prior Property Approval (PPA) process. The PPA request/application must be accompanied by key documents depending on whether the site is leased or acquired. Development reps at the local DDRO will be made available to assist providers with process/request. As stated in section 2.2.8. of the RFA, "In accordance with federal requirements, funding for this initiative cannot be used for individuals' room and board costs". Therefore, funding through this grant cannot fund acquisition of property in which the HCBS enrollee will live. Please see also response to Question #57.

55	While room and board costs are not reimbursable, does OPWDD agree that preoperational rent for reasonable time periods necessary to set up the apartment is reimbursable (i.e., not considered a room and board expense)?	Property Costs	<p>Preoperational rent is subject to PPA. As stated in section 2.2.2. of the RFA: Preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity. OPWDD's objective is, in part, to use existing capacity in the system, that is not being used today.</p> <p>Any new certification/capacity has to follow established development processes, including the approval of a CON, as well as the Prior Property Approval (PPA) process.</p> <p>The PPA request/application must be accompanied by key documents depending on whether the site is leased or acquired. Development reps at the local DDRO will be made available to assist providers with the process upon selection.</p>
56	Will money be made available for PPA for development/new property? Or will there be a need to backfill vacancies with students aging out to use their development funding	Property Costs	<p>Funding may be provided for projects approved for new development that can be completed within the grant period with at least three months of placement, where the project is consistent with the OPWDD processes. As stated in section 2.2.2. of the RFA: Preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity.</p> <p>Any new certification/capacity has to follow established development processes, including the approval of a CON, as well as the Prior Property Approval (PPA) process.</p> <p>The PPA request/application must be accompanied by key documents depending on whether the site is leased or acquired. Development reps at the local DDRO will be made available to assist providers with the process upon selection.</p>
57	<p>During the 4/6/22 bidder's conference, OPWDD seemed to confirm that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Capital costs related to developing new Supportive opportunities cannot be covered by grant funds, •Capital costs related to renovations at existing Supportive opportunities cannot be covered by grant funds but •Capital costs related to developing other facilities related to enhancing Supportive Residential Habilitation services can be covered by grant. <p>Is this correct?</p>	Property Costs	<p>1. New acquisition/construction costs of Supportive IRAs (where the person will live) is not fundable under this grant. A provider that wants to acquire/construct property may submit a grant request, but:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Grant resources cannot be applied to PPA-related costs associated with the new acquisition/construction. Only certain (non-PPA related) items may be considered for grant funds (examples are found in Section 2.2.7. through 2.2.7.7 of the RFA). b. The provider may submit a PPA for such development, outside of the grant process, and should work with the RO Development representative for such a request. c. Requests for grant funds that are tied to new development will not be prioritized when evaluating and scoring RFA responses. <p>2. Capital costs related to renovations of existing Supportive opportunities may be funded by this grant, as long as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The renovations relate to the objectives of the grant (refer to section 2.2 of the RFA). b. The renovations can reasonably be completed in the timeframe of the grant period including at least a three-month period of occupancy in the renovated space. c. Any renovations associated with allowable activities as described in RFA sections 2.2.7. through 2.2.7.7 would be allowable. The costs of the renovations will be evaluated for budget reasonableness as part of the review of RFA submission. <p>3. Capital costs related to developing other facilities (e.g., staffing hubs) related to enhancing Supportive Residential Habilitation services can be covered by the grant. The costs will be evaluated for budget reasonableness as part of the review of RFA submission. Also, the evaluation of the submission will assess the appropriateness of space for service delivery /responsiveness of residential habilitation staff to the needs of Supportive IRA residents. The acquisition or development must be completed in the timeframe of the grant period including at least a three-month period of staff supporting individuals in Supportive IRAs.</p> <p>4. Start-up costs related to property acquisition/construction may <u>not</u> be funded by this grant.</p>
58	Would OPWDD please provide details on the availability of funds via PPA processes for projects that might also require the development/renovation of Supportive opportunities? Are applicants allowed to propose projects that will ultimately require development/renovation funding through PPA processes to be realized?	Property Costs	<p>As stated in section 2.2.2. of the RFA: Preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity. OPWDD's objective is, in part, to use existing capacity in the system, that is not today being used.</p> <p>Any new certification/capacity has to follow established development processes, including the approval of a CON, as well as the Prior Property Approval (PPA) process.</p> <p>The PPA request/application must be accompanied by key documents depending on whether the site is leased or acquired. Development reps at the local DDRO will be made available to assist providers with the process upon selection. Please see response to Question #46.</p>
59	After the grant expires, is there additional property reimbursement?	Property Costs	<p>As stated in section 2.2.8. of the RFA: In accordance with federal requirements, funding for this initiative cannot be used for individuals' room and board costs. Therefore, funding through this grant cannot fund acquisition of property in which the HCBS enrollee will live.</p> <p>Approved property costs will be reimbursed in accordance with the approved rate methodology. For example, an agency may develop a "staffing hub" with grant resources, ongoing cost for the property after the grant period would have to be paid for with the agencies' operating revenues.</p>
60	Would grants funds be allowed to cover renovation costs relating to the installation of equipment or technology at existing Supportive IRAs that would be used to enhance services at existing Supportive IRA opportunities?	Property Costs	<p>In accordance with section 2.2.7.1. of the RFA: Leveraging new tools and technologies to maximize available Direct Support Professional (DSP) staffing may be funded. This could include the installation of such equipment.</p>

61	Would cost of acquiring and developing private three-bedroom homes in local communities in order to relocate residents living in supportive settings in apartment buildings be considered for funding by this grant. Could this model be considered a means "...to expand and enhance investments in Medicaid covered HCBS, etc.,and a transformation of supportive residential housing?"	Property Costs	As stated in section 2.2.8. of the RFA: In accordance with federal requirements, funding for this initiative cannot be used for individuals' room and board costs. Therefore, funding through this grant cannot fund acquisition of property in which the HCBS enrollee will live. See the responses to Questions #42 and #57.
62	So, this would not cover the capital costs of constructing a supportive apartment on one of our existing group homes for someone in one of our IRAs who wants to live in their own apartment and is in need of transitional housing?	Property Costs	Please see the response to Question #57.
63	What is the threshold for startup costs per bed?	Property Costs	As stated in section 2.2.8. of the RFA: In accordance with federal requirements, funding for this initiative cannot be used for individuals' room and board costs. Therefore, funding through this grant cannot fund acquisition of property in which the HCBS enrollee will live. Depending on the types of costs that the Provider is seeking to cover, the Provider may need to follow the PPA Process. Please see examples of proposed activities mentioned in section 2.2.7 of the RFA.
64	Can we reinvest/redesign supervised opportunities to convert to supportive opportunities?	Property Costs	Yes, please see response to Question #46.
65	Can we own the property we use for supportive opportunities?	Property Costs	Yes, providers can use property they own that is in compliance with regulatory standards. Per section 2.2.2. of the RFA, preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity.
66	Would it include physical improvements to the homes?	Property Costs	As stated in section 2.2 of the RFA, the purpose of this grant program is to expand Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation and Family Care opportunities for individuals with I/DD. Proposals should demonstrate how the providers will assist people who are residing in supervised 24-hour residential settings and/or people currently on the CRO in need of housing in moving to a Supportive IRA or Family Care opportunity. Please see response to Question #57.
67	Is OPWDD considering regulatory change related to settings to relax requirements? Supervised IRAs are expected to provide 24/7 oversight, which ties directly to liability for agencies.	Regulatory Framework	OPWDD will work with successful applicants to evaluate the extent to which changes in OPWDD regulations should be pursued based on the successful outcomes of this grant opportunity. However, an applicant for this grant should not rely upon potential regulatory changes when submitting a response to this RFA.
68	Will the supportive IRA hours be capped or could the hours be 24/7?	Regulatory Framework	A Supportive Residential Habilitation provider may initially provide more intensive staffing supports that will fade as the person gains experience in the more independent setting. The long-term provision of services should align with the regulatory definition of a supportive IRA, which is: A facility that is providing practice in independent living under variable amounts of oversight delivered in accordance with the person's needs for such supervision, and staff typically are not onsite nor proximately available at all times when the persons are present, per 14 NYCRR 686.99(l)(2)(iii)(b). The applicant should also consider that preference will be given to grant applications that propose strategies that leverage methods (e.g., technology) to minimize needed supports without compromising the health and safety of individuals supported (RFA 2.2.3.).
69	Is there a limit on the number of beds?	Regulatory Framework	Per section 41.34 of Mental Hygiene Law residences cannot exceed the capacity of 14.
70	Can there be more than one person living together in the Supportive setting?	Regulatory Framework	Yes.
71	Are the hours capped per week for the Supportive setting?	Regulatory Framework	Please see response to Question #68.
72	What are the maximum number of Supportive IRA residential habilitation hours allowed weekly per bed or per site?	Regulatory Framework	Please see response to Question #68.
73	Will there be flexibility in regulatory standards regarding trainings for supportive IRAs?	Regulatory Framework	OPWDD will be issuing guidance offering flexibility in trainings related to the public health crisis, that will not be limited to participants in this Grant opportunity.
74	Is there a limit to the number of people who can be in one house? Is this limited to 3 ?	Regulatory Framework	Per section 41.34 of Mental Hygiene Law residences cannot exceed the capacity of 14.
75	Movement of people receiving Supervised IRA services to Supportive within the agency's capacity makes sense. However, how would the agency accommodate those on the CRO list for supportive IRA within agency capacity? Wouldn't this be new development?	Residential Placement	Movement of an individual from a Supervised IRA opportunity to a Supportive IRA opportunity operated by the same agency does not require that the individual be placed on the Certified Residential Opportunity (CRO) list; however, as per the CRO process the Provider must notify the DDRO of the internal move.
76	If we are utilizing a current vacancy to move to supportive, is there a limit of how long the vacancy can be open prior to use (was a six-month cap previously).	Residential Placement	The Provider must follow the CRO Process and obtain approval from the DDRO for placements. Opportunities that have been vacant for more than one year would need to be reviewed and approved by the DDRO.
77	Currently the CRO process at the DDRO level prioritizes individuals with significant support needs. The development and expansion of an enhanced supportive IRA model would provide an opportunity for individuals on the CRO list with less significant support needs to transition into community living options. Will DDRO's have the latitude to share information with providers on this group of people?	Residential Placement	Yes, the DDRO will work with applicants regarding the placement of individuals into opportunities associated with this grant. Agencies will be expected to follow the CRO process and screen individuals on the Emergency Need (EN) list first. If there are no appropriate matches, agencies should screen individuals with substantial and then current needs. For more information regarding the CRO process, please see https://opwdd.ny.gov/providers/housing .

78	Just to confirm, should my agency transition someone out of an IRA into a supportive IRA we will not be able to backfill the IRA bed with someone from the waiting list and our capacity will remain the same.	Residential Placement	Placement into a vacancy that is created based on this grant may occur subject to current Certified Residential Opportunity (CRO) process. The vacated supervised opportunity must remain available for the three-month period so the individual may return if needed, especially if the agency is getting the safety net funding per 1.1.1 of the RFA. Section 2.2.7.7. of the RFA, a resource fund for the Supervised IRA provider to offset lost service revenue when a Supervised IRA opportunity is held vacant for a period of three months, while the resident has moved to a newly created Supportive or Family Care opportunity made available through this grant opportunity.
79	What if we take someone off the CRO into Supervised in a backfill and they have more What if we take someone off the CRO into a supervised backfill with complex needs that current supervised LOC rate allows? Such as behavioral or medical needs?	Residential Placement	In instances in which backfills are approved, agencies will be reimbursed at their approved/current Supervised Residential Habilitation Rate unless the individual qualifies for Higher Needs funding. Please see page 377 of the HCBS Waiver : https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/06/cms-approved-7-1-21-amendment.pdf
80	What if we take someone off the CRO with higher needs than the current supervised rate allows? Will there be provision for that?	Residential Placement	Agencies will use their approved/current Supervised Residential Habilitation rate unless the individual qualifies for Higher Needs funding. Please see page 377 of the approved HCBS Waiver: https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/06/cms-approved-7-1-21-amendment.pdf
81	Most people on the EN list have higher service needs than the person who moved to supported living. Will the supervised residence be funded accordingly to support the person from the EN list?	Residential Placement	Agencies will use their approved/current Supervised Residential Habilitation unless the individual qualifies for Higher Needs funding Please see page 377 of the approved HCBS Waiver: https://opwdd.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/06/cms-approved-7-1-21-amendment.pdf Section 2.2.7.7. of the RFA, a resource fund for the Supervised IRA provider to offset lost service revenue when a Supervised IRA opportunity is held vacant for a period of three months, while the resident has moved to a newly created Supportive or Family Care opportunity made available through this grant opportunity. Upon approval of the proposal, the provider would be expected to begin screening individuals on the Emergency Need (EN) list and identify the intent to serve to the regional office Certified Residential Opportunities (CRO) lead. Please see https://opwdd.ny.gov/providers/housing for more information.
82	(When) can new clients on the CRO be moved into the beds vacated by clients transitioning to IRAs/Family Care homes?	Residential Placement	Per section 2.2.7.7. of the RFA, a resource fund for the Supervised IRA provider to offset lost service revenue when a Supervised IRA opportunity is held vacant for a period of three months, while the resident has moved to a newly created Supportive or Family Care opportunity made available through this grant opportunity. Upon approval of the proposal, the provider would be expected to begin screening individuals on the Emergency Need (EN) list and identify the intent to serve to the regional office Certified Residential Opportunities (CRO) lead. Please see https://opwdd.ny.gov/providers/housing for more information.
83	If a resident moves from a supervised to supportive IRA and it is realized that the move is not working for them, is there reversibility? Can the 3 month resource fund still be applied in this situation?	Residential Placement	Per section 2.2.7.7. of the RFA, a resource fund for the Supervised IRA provider to offset lost service revenue when a Supervised IRA opportunity is held vacant for a period of three months, while the resident has moved to a newly created Supportive or Family Care opportunity made available through this grant opportunity. The purpose of the three-month resource fund is to provide a safety net to ensure that the individual can return to their previous supervised opportunity if the need arises.
84	Does this include individuals living in an ICF to move into a supportive IRAs and/or family cares allowing for a vacancy at the ICF to be filled?	Residential Placement	Individuals in ICFs may be eligible for a Supportive or Family Care opportunity subject to DDRO review and approval. Providers must follow Certified Residential Opportunities (CRO) to backfill the ICF vacancy; however, this is a safety net program and backfills will not be processed immediately. The vacated supervised opportunity must remain available for the three-month period so the individual may return if needed, especially if the agency is getting the safety net funding per section 1.1.1 of the RFA. Per section 2.2.7.7. of the RFA, a resource fund for the Supervised IRA provider to offset lost service revenue when a Supervised IRA opportunity is held vacant for a period of three months, while the resident has moved to a newly created Supportive or Family Care opportunity made available through this grant opportunity.
85	In addition to those on the emergency need list, would individuals on the substantial needs list be eligible to gain placement to one of the supportive IRA opportunities created from this grant?	Residential Placement	Yes, individuals on the substantial needs list would be eligible for supportive opportunities; providers must work through the CRO protocol with the DDRO.
86	Are individuals who have aged out of residential schools, and who are not yet designated for residential development through the LOI process, eligible to be included in development plans for Supportive Apartments through this grant?	Residential Placement	Yes, any individual listed on the CRO list would be eligible for consideration subject to the current DDRO processes. An individual who has completed their educational program and is identified on the CRO may be eligible for an opportunity created by this grant.
87	Do we have to retain an open vacancy for three months if an individual moves from a Supervised opportunity to a Supportive opportunity as part of this grant?	Residential Placement	Yes, the vacated supervised opportunity must remain available for the three-month period so the individual may return if needed, especially if the agency is getting the safety net funding per section 1.1.1 of the RFA. Per section 2.2.7.7. of the RFA, a resource fund for the Supervised IRA provider to offset lost service revenue when a Supervised IRA opportunity is held vacant for a period of three months, while the resident has moved to a newly created Supportive or Family Care opportunity made available through this grant opportunity.
88	Will we get a copy of slide	Slides	All questions raised during the call and their respective responses will be included in the OPWDD Responses to Questions. A copy of the slides will also be provided with the response document.
89	Can this presentation be emailed to participants?	Slides	All questions raised during the call and their respective responses will be included in the OPWDD Responses to Questions. A copy of the slides will also be provided with the response document
90	Will slides be shared after the meeting?	Slides	All questions raised during the call and their respective responses will be included in the OPWDD Responses to Questions. A copy of the slides will also be provided with the response document.
91	Paid Neighbor and Live In Care giver are services offered to folks Self Directing their services. Can you live in a Supportive IRA and access these SD services? It was mentioned on related expenses slide.	Staffing	A person cannot live in a Supportive IRA and access Paid Neighbor or Live-in Care services through self-direction. The reference in section 2.2.7.5. of the RFA to "Paid Neighbor" or "Live-in Caregiver" are examples of staffing models that an agency may choose to adopt for its Supportive Residential Habilitation services. For the purpose of this solicitation, a "Paid Neighbor" staffing arrangement would fund residential habilitation staff who live in the vicinity of the IRA to be 'on-call' to support individuals as needed. For the purpose of this solicitation, a "Live-in Caregiver" staffing model is an arrangement where residential habilitation staff reside for some portion of the week with the person with I/DD, but have separate quarters within the residence.

92	Does paid neighbor come out of our rate or is there a different funding mechanism?	Staffing	<p>A person cannot live in a Supportive IRA and access Paid Neighbor or Live-in Care services through self-direction.</p> <p>The reference in section 2.2.75 of the RFA to "Paid Neighbor" or "Live-in Caregiver" are examples of staffing models that an agency may choose to adopt for its Supportive Residential Habilitation services. For the purpose of this solicitation, a "Paid Neighbor" staffing arrangement would fund residential habilitation staff who live in the vicinity of the IRA to be 'on-call' to support individuals as needed. For the purpose of this solicitation, a "Live-in Caregiver" staffing model is an arrangement where residential habilitation staff reside for some portion of the week with the person with I/DD, but have separate quarters within the residence.</p> <p>The use of a "paid-neighbor" type of staffing model would be paid using your agency's rate.</p>
93	Can you expand on the concept of funding for 24-hour staffing "Hubs".	Staffing	For the purpose of this solicitation, a staffing "hub" is an apartment or other space where residential habilitation staff can be located for rapid response to individuals living in Supportive IRAs that are within the vicinity of the "hub."
94	can you explain what you mean by a HUB	Staffing	For the purpose of this solicitation, a staffing "hub" is an apartment or other space where residential habilitation staff can be located for rapid response to individuals living in Supportive IRAs that are within the vicinity of the "hub."
95	Can you please explain further what it might look like for a staff in a certified setting to function like a paid neighbor or live-in care giver? I am not sure I understand what was said.	Staffing	<p>These are staffing models where an agency may provide housing for a staff person to support on-call or routine service provision.</p> <p>In addition, the reference in section 2.2.75 of the RFA to "Paid Neighbor" or "Live-in Caregiver" are examples of staffing models that an agency may choose to adopt for its Supportive Residential Habilitation services. For the purpose of this solicitation, a "Paid Neighbor" staffing arrangement would fund residential habilitation staff who live in the vicinity of the IRA to be 'on-call' to support individuals as needed. For the purpose of this solicitation, a "Live-in Caregiver" staffing model is an arrangement where residential habilitation staff reside for some portion of the week with the person with I/DD, but have separate quarters within the residence.</p>
96	Please define "paid neighbor" in the context of this proposal as referenced in Section 2.2.7.5.	Staffing	The reference in section 2.2.75 of the RFA to "Paid Neighbor" or "Live-in Caregiver" are examples of staffing models that an agency may choose to adopt for its Supportive Residential Habilitation services. For the purpose of this solicitation, a "Paid Neighbor" staffing arrangement would fund residential habilitation staff who live in the vicinity of the IRA to be 'on-call' to support individuals as needed. For the purpose of this solicitation, a "Live-in Caregiver" staffing model is an arrangement where residential habilitation staff reside for some portion of the week with the person with I/DD, but have separate quarters within the residence.
97	We are interested in learning more about what is meant by a staffing "hub" (as cited in Section 2.2.7.2). Would OPWDD be able to provide more details on on-call staffing hubs that would be appropriate under this grant program? Would OPWDD be able to provide examples of existing, promising/effective on-call staffing hub models that we can consider and learn more about?	Staffing	<p>For the purpose of this solicitation, a staffing "hub" is an apartment or other space where residential habilitation staff can be located for rapid response to individuals living in Supportive IRAs that are within the vicinity of the "hub."</p> <p>Additionally, the reference in section 2.2.75 of the RFA to "Paid Neighbor" or "Live-in Caregiver" are examples of staffing models that an agency may choose to adopt for its Supportive Residential Habilitation services. For the purpose of this solicitation, a "Paid Neighbor" staffing arrangement would fund residential habilitation staff who live in the vicinity of the IRA to be 'on-call' to support individuals as needed. For the purpose of this solicitation, a "Live-in Caregiver" staffing model is an arrangement where residential habilitation staff reside for some portion of the week with the person with I/DD, but have separate quarters within the residence.</p>
98	Are projects that focus solely on enhancing services for people currently living Supportive IRA opportunities allowable? Or must all projects guarantee that individuals in Supervised opportunities or on the CRO are transitioned into Supportive opportunities?	Use of Funding	<p>Per section 1.1.1. of the RFA, OPWDD is seeking applications from responsible and responsive providers committed to expanding Supportive Individual Residential Alternative (IRA) Residential Habilitation and Family Care opportunities within their certified residential program. This grant opportunity seeks to help address these barriers and expand options for people who choose to move from a supervised 24-hour residential setting, and/or people currently on the CRO in need of housing, to move to a supportive IRA or Family Care opportunity.</p> <p>Provider agencies may use grant funds to invest in existing capacity; however, as stated in section 2.2.2. of the RFA: Preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider's current approved capacity.</p>
99	In 2.2.7.4, it states that grant funds may be used for training and certifying staff. May applicants propose projects that would train/credential staff who provide Supportive and Supervised Residential Habilitation services? In other words, can applicants propose projects that create training/credentialing programs for all Residential Habilitation staff—including staff who serve people in Supervised IRAs as well as Supportive IRAs?	Use of Funding	Per section 2.2 of the RFA, the purpose of this grant opportunity is to support the expansion of Supportive Residential Habilitation and Family Care services.
100	As providers experience success transitioning people from supervised IRA's to supportive IRA models there will potentially be vacant beds and decreased census. This will potentially have a negative impact on the funds available to support administrative costs. The grant document notes that administrative costs must not exceed the amounts established in regulation. Can a provider budget specifically for increased IT costs if their project design focuses heavily on technology even if those IT costs drive the administrative higher than established thresholds temporarily?	Use of Funding	Proposals must meet the requirements of the RFA and be within the allowable parameters for administration expenses. Consistent with NYSRR 645.2(a), operating expenses reimbursed with State funds, or State-authorized payments shall be no less than 85 percent; meaning that any approved project can only request reimbursement for administrative expenses up to 15 percent of the total project cost.
101	Can use the beds for pregnant mothers, I am referring to the opportunities	Use of Funding	Residential opportunities created by this grant are available to individuals who are eligible for OPWDD services and who are on the CRO list.
102	How many opps can we develop through the RFA?	Use of Funding	Applicants are not restricted as to the number of opportunities that can be submitted as part of a proposal; however, there is a defined amount of funding reserved for this initiative. Per section 4.1.5 of the RFA, OPWDD has sole discretion regarding the number of grants and the grant amounts awarded, which are based on applications received and awarded in accordance with Section 4: Evaluation of Applications of this RFA.

103	If we are able to add the Supportive apartment beds as described above, what types of related expenses could be included in the grant submission?	Use of Funding	<p>Examples of proposed activities may include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>2.2.7.1. Leveraging new tools and technologies to maximize available Direct Support Professional (DSP) staffing; 2.2.7.2. Investing in property and start-up costs associated with staffing “hubs” (e.g., locations with 24-hour on-call staff); 2.2.7.3. Consultant costs for planning and development of service delivery options; 2.2.7.4. Training and certifying staff; 2.2.7.5. Developing protocols to identify, hire, and train a paid-neighbor, live-in caregiver, or developing other staffing models that will support DSPs and address staffing shortages; 2.2.7.6. Creating clinical infrastructures to support individuals receiving services with high clinical support needs; 2.2.7.7. A resource fund for the Supervised IRA provider to offset lost service revenue when a Supervised IRA opportunity is held vacant for a period of three months, while the resident has moved to a newly created Supportive or Family Care opportunity made available through this grant opportunity. 2.2.8. In accordance with federal requirements, funding for this initiative cannot be used for individuals’ room and board costs.</p> <p>Providers seeking new development will be required to work through the PPA process.</p> <p>Per section 2.2.4 of the RFA: Preference will be given to applications that demonstrate sustainable strategies, which may be replicated and/or maintained after the funding period ends.</p>
104	Or can it be used for the improvement of services to the residents we now care for in our two IRAs? Perhaps some new programs that will help them to become more independent?	Use of Funding	<p>As stated in section 2.2.6.2 of the RFA, the grant can support the enhancement of services in existing Supportive IRAs or Family Care homes.</p> <p>However, as stated in section 2.2 of the RFA, the purpose of this grant program is to expand Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation and Family Care opportunities for individuals with I/DD. Proposals should demonstrate how the providers will assist people who are residing in supervised 24-hour residential settings, and/or people currently on the CRO in need of housing, in moving to a Supportive IRA or Family Care opportunity.</p>
105	can an agreed upon portion of savings resulting from transitions from Supervised to Supportive IRAs be reinvested in the Supervised IRA program to offset increases in the cost of serving a higher needs population? Unlike in years past when turnover in the Supervised IRA due to attrition is low, and net increases in the cost of care due to serving backfilled individuals with greater needs can be accommodated through rate rebasing, the Supervised IRA program rates are no longer being rebased. And our grant proposal is designed to promote a greater number of transitions from Supervised IRAs in a relatively short timeframe. Such individuals that transition to less restrictive Supportive IRAs will be less needy/less costly individuals, thus driving up our average cost to support individuals in the Supervised IRA. And backfill placements from the CRO waitlist will, on average, be more needy and more costly. Without a rate supplement to the Supervised IRA, whether through Higher Needs level 1,2 or 3 funding, or through use of savings from the aforementioned transitions, ongoing operation of the Supervised IRA program will become less and less financially sustainable.	Use of Funding	<p>Agencies will use their approved/current Residential Habilitation rates unless the individual qualifies for Higher Needs funding. Please see the response to Question #40. There will not be any changes to the current, approved rate setting methodology as a result of this grant opportunity.</p>
106	Can existing costs – salaries, rents – be covered by this grant?	Use of Funding	<p>No. Per section 2.2.8 of the RFA, “In accordance with federal requirements, funding for this initiative cannot be used for individuals’ room and board costs.”</p>
107	what about rent for a group of apartments to start up that are not identified with an individual but it is needed to start up	Use of Funding	<p>As stated in section 2.2.2. of the RFA, preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider’s current approved capacity.</p> <p>Any new certification/capacity has to follow established development processes, including the approval of a CON, as well as the Prior Property Approval (PPA) process. The PPA request/application must be accompanied by key documents depending on whether the site is leased or acquired. Development reps at the local DDRO will be made available to assist providers with process/request.</p>
108	The question is in regard to the Supportive Residential Habilitation Transformation RFA, section 2.2.3. Would an application for a grant to purchase Independent Feeding Devices be in keeping with the intent of the grant. It would be very advantageous to both the individuals and staff members. It seems to be in alignment with section 2.2.3’s call for proposals that would “leverage methods (e.g., technology) to minimize needed staffing supports without compromising the health and safety of individuals supported.”	Use of Funding	<p>Yes.</p>
109	Do the residential opportunities have to be non-certified or can it be a certified supported housing	Use of Funding	<p>Per section 2.1.2.1 of the RFA, this grant opportunity is for certified supportive residential habilitation and family care opportunities. A separate grant opportunity is planned to target non-certified opportunities.</p>
110	Are providers able to convert their Supervised IRA at operationally cost-neutral rate to get more than one Supportive IRA?	Use of Funding	<p>Yes. As stated in section 2.2.2. of the RFA: Preference will be given to grant applications that clearly document how expansion of the number of certified Supportive IRA Residential Habilitation or Family Care opportunities (or expansion of the number of individuals receiving these services) will be achieved within the provider’s current approved capacity.</p> <p>The provider’s current approved capacity is the sum of the opportunities for all Supervised IRAs, Supportive IRAs and Family Care opportunities.</p>
111	Are applicants allowed to propose projects that focus on transitioning individuals in Supportive opportunities into non-certified opportunities in the community?	Use of Funding	<p>Per section 2.1.2.1 of the RFA, this grant opportunity is for certified supportive residential habilitation and family care opportunities. A separate grant opportunity is planned to target non-certified opportunities.</p>
112	May grant funds be used to provide stipends or performance-based bonuses outside of base pay to DSPs or other staff to participate in trainings and other project activities?	Use of Funding	<p>No.</p>

113	May grant funds be used to purchase vehicles for implementing enhanced services and/or flexible staffing strategies for Supportive Residential Habilitation services?	Use of Funding	No.
114	<p>We are thinking of possibly offering a transitional apartment, which would not be certified thus not increasing our capacity, for a very short term stay for individuals to try, with support of staff and technology, to move from a supervised IRA or the CRO list into a supportive apartment or into a community based residential apartment. They would be able to 'try out' this living situation and be assessed in real time as to what they may or may not need to be supported before moving to a supported IRA. Plus it would help the client see if they are ready to make this decision too.</p> <p>We already have the space available, housed within a building that has some certified supportive IRAs. We were thinking of asking for funding that would support the input of technology into that space-safety and learning, as well as the general operations of that apartment, but not any payment of the person staying there.</p>	Use of Funding	Per section 1.1.1. of the RFA, this grant opportunity is to assist people to move "to a Supportive IRA or Family Care opportunity." OPWDD plans to offer a different opportunity that will support other types of independent living arrangements.
115	Would OPWDD entertain as higher level of funding in the early months/years of supportive living, then phase it down over time?	Use of Funding	No, providers will be paid in accordance with the approved HCBS Waiver rate methodology; the grant itself will fund the difference between the Supportive and Supervised rates for a 3-month transition period only, in instances in which people transition from a Supervised to Supportive IRA environment. Please see #6 and #14.
116	When submitting our budget, how do we calculate the budgeted costs for the resource fund to offset lost revenues associated with the RFA (2.2.7.7)	Use of Funding	<p>For each individual that the provider agency thinks may transition from a Supervised to a Supportive opportunity, the agency will estimate the grant funding as follows:</p> <p>(Daily Supervised IRA Rate X 90) – (Monthly Supportive IRA Rate X 3) = Estimated Available "Safety Net Funding"</p>