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CITY RELEASES CONCEPT PAPER TO START THE PIPELINE FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

New York City Department of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner Steven Banks today announced that DSS is releasing a concept paper to initiate the procurement of 500 scattered site units as part of Mayor de Blasio's Supportive Housing Initiative, a plan to create 15,000 units of supportive housing in the next 15 years. The goal of this concept paper is to request feedback to inform a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be the first phase of the procurement process with awards expected later this year. Supportive housing, affordable housing with appropriate social services to assist populations with special needs, is a proven, cost-effective approach to providing permanent housing for New Yorkers in need while reducing the use of homeless shelters, hospitals, mental health institutions, and incarceration.

“Supportive housing is crucial to assist the most vulnerable New Yorkers overcome their challenges and achieve the stability they need to live to their full potential” said Commissioner Banks. “This concept paper is an important first step to gather valuable information that will allow us to define the specific requirements we need to fulfill Mayor de Blasio's commitment to helping those in need.”

The historic plan, announced by Mayor de Blasio last November, includes a projected 7,500 newly-developed congregate units and another 7,500 scattered site units. As part of this initiative, the Mayor's Supportive Housing Task Force was created to propose innovative ways to deliver supportive housing and to develop strategies to better serve the needs of the various supportive housing populations. The Task Force is currently developing recommendations that will help to inform the procurement of the remaining supportive housing units.

The populations targeted for this procurement are:

- Chronically homeless single adults with a serious mental illness or a serious mental illness together with a substance use disorder.
- Chronically homeless families, or families at risk of becoming chronically homeless (including survivors of domestic violence), in which the head of household has a serious mental illness, a substance use disorder, a disabling medical condition or HIV/AIDS.
- Young adults leaving or having recently left foster care who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

As noted in the concept paper, contractors will be required to provide a wide range of supportive services that align with the needs of the populations to be served. These services will include case management, medication management, rehabilitation, financial management, and employment placement and retention services, among others. Clients will be required to pay 30% of their household income for rent and utilities. See the full document [here](#).

It is anticipated that the RFP will be issued soon after the closing of the 45-day comment period for the concept paper. Awards are expected to be announced before the end of the year.

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