



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

August 22, 2019

DAL: DAL 19-14
Subject: Enhancing the Quality of Adult
Living (EQUAL) Program for
SFY 2019-2020

Dear Operator:

The Department of Health is pleased to announce the availability of funding under the Enhancing the Quality of Adult Living (EQUAL) Program. Operators of Adult Homes and Enriched Housing Programs who provide services to individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Supplemental Security Program (SSP) benefits, a combination of SSI/SSP and/or Safety Net benefits (SN) are eligible for these payments.

The purpose of this program is to enhance both residents' quality of care and life experience in Adult Care Facilities (ACFs). All facility operators that apply will receive a per person amount based on the number of SSI, SSP, a combination of SSI/SSP residents and/or Safety Net residents reported on their 2018 4th Quarter Statistical Information Report. An additional funding allotment will be provided to facilities with a capacity of 100 beds and under. EQUAL payments shall be made for the purpose of providing quality care and services to eligible residents to better meet their needs and improve the physical environment of a facility.

The Operator will be bound by the requirements, terms and conditions of the program as stated in Social Services Law, Section 461-s, compliance with applicable Department of Health regulations, and other procedural requirements related to the program. This includes, but is not limited to, the timely completion of reports on the Health Commerce System (HCS), such as census reports, financial reports and all surveys applicable to ACFs.

Prior to applying for EQUAL program funds, a facility must receive approval of its proposed expenditure plan from the residents' council for the facility. To facilitate the decision-making process, the residents' council should adopt a process that can identify the priorities of facility residents for the use of the program funds. The top preferences of the residents' should be documented in a manner consistent with a vote or survey. The proposed spending plan should detail how the program funds will be used to improve the quality of life and services rendered to the residents or the physical environment of the facility. Funds will not be awarded to subsidize daily operational expenses such as staffing or utilities. Please refer to Section A: (6) of the instructions for a more detailed description of the acceptable use of program funds. Submissions must include a signed attestation from the president or chair-person of the resident council or, in the absence of a resident council, at least three residents of the facility, stating that the application reflects the priorities of the residents of the facility. This attestation will include documentation of the top three priorities of facility residents and the date the prioritized projects were approved by the Resident Council or in the absence of the Council three resident representatives.

The total anticipated payment for all facilities applying for EQUAL will be \$6,532,000.

The EQUAL SFY 2019-2020 application is an electronic application that will be posted on the Health Commerce System (HCS) effective August 22, 2019.

The application can be accessed by logging onto HCS at the following link: <https://commerce.health.state.ny.us>. On the HCS Home Page, click "My Applications" → "HCBC" → "Data Entry" and at the "Select an Activity" drop down menu → select "ACF EQUAL Application SFY 2019-2020." **Section F: Resident Council Representative Approval of Proposed EQUAL 2019-2020 Spending Plan and any additional expenditure plan information is to be emailed to the EQUAL Bureau Mail Log at equal@health.ny.gov.** Applicants electing to participate must complete all certifications in Section E.

Applications must be electronically submitted by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 18, 2019. After this date and time, the application will no longer be available.
Hard copies will not be accepted.

Note: Facility operators who do not apply will be interpreted as their declination to participate in the EQUAL Program.

Note: Facility operators who did not submit a completed Section I: EQUAL Program Certification Page for prior years EQUAL funds will be considered ineligible until all required documentation from previous years funding is received.

Note: Facilities who receive EQUAL funds must submit a completed Section J: Expense Schedule for EQUAL Program Funds 2019-2020 and attach all expenditure receipts totaling to the amount of the funding received. Receipts must be in PDF format and e-mailed along with the completed Section I: EQUAL Program Certification Page to equal@health.ny.gov no later than one year from the date the funds were received. All expenditures must be consistent with the approved expenditure plan.

Facility operators who do not have an established Statewide Financial System (SFS) account will need to register by completing the "New York State Office of the State Comptroller Substitute Form W-9: Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification." Completed forms should be emailed to sfsvidr@health.ny.gov. Please expedite your application to allow for additional processing. Once you submit your completed Substitute Form W-9, the Office of the State Comptroller's Vendor Management Unit will contact you directly to complete the process of establishing a vendor identification number, which is required to set up your SFS account and receive your EQUAL Program Funds. Additional information can be obtained at the following sites:

OSC: <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/vendors/index.htm>

SFS: <http://www.sfs.ny.gov/>

Questions regarding the EQUAL Program should be directed to Georgina Raus at (518) 408-1133, or by email at equal@health.ny.gov. We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Heidi L. Hayes, Acting Director
Division of Adult Care Facilities
and Assisted Living Surveillance

cc: D. Sheppard
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