

Subject: New submission from Community Development Combined
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 at 11:23:42 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: jnytko@govsol.org
To: jnytko@govsol.org

General Information
Date of application:
01/05/2024
Organization name:
IPH (Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless)
Organization TIN or EIN:
14-1666321
If available, provide your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):
M1MLXT5ZH7N6
Organization physical address:
176 Sheridan Ave Albany, New York 12210 United States Map It
Is the mailing address different from the physical address?
No
Contact Information
Primary contact name:
Kristen Giroux
Primary contact title:
Deputy Director
Primary contact phone:
518-434-8021
Primary contact email:
kristeng@iphny.org
What is the preferred method of contact?
Email
Website (if available):
https://www.iphny.org
Organization Info and Structure:
Is the organization a nonprofit?
Yes

If nonprofit, please attach to this application proof of your organization's Tax-Exempt Status

- [IPH-501c31.pdf](#)

Date of establishment:

06/01/1985

Give a brief description of your organization. Please include information on the organization's activities or mission statement (150 words or less):

In recognition of the dignity and value of every human life, the mission of IPH, is to address the needs of the homeless and low-income community by providing a continuum of services to encourage self-sufficiency, empowerment and stability. Current programs include 3 year-round shelters in Albany for single adults, one of which provides Medical Respite care, a 7-bed seasonal shelter for adults in Amsterdam, a seasonal Safe Haven shelter that serves adults who are unable to access other shelters, a 12-bed seasonal shelter for adults in Gloversville, several HUD-funded permanent supportive housing programs, Ahana House adult home for 17 adults living with a chronic illness, Community Connections drop-in center that offers showers, lockers, mailboxes, laundry, clothing, a meal, case management, and access to community providers, and the Albany Ambassadors employment initiative that offers homeless and formerly homeless people an opportunity to provide hospitality services and build their resumes.

Provide the total number of full-time employees (if applicable):

73

Provide the total number of part-time employees (if applicable):

40

Provide the total number of volunteers (if applicable):

N/A

What is the organization's current annual budget?

\$7,248,161

Have you or the organization ever received any form of COVID-19 relief funds or loans specific to the negative impacts of the Pandemic?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify type and amount.

IPH received a PPP Loan \$443,307.40

Did your organization lose revenue as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic? If yes, provide the amount of lost revenue (2020-2022)

No; however, if we did not receive covid PPP funds, we would have lost revenue.

Project Proposal

Applicants may choose to apply for up to 2 program areas. Please select the primary program area for which you would like to apply.

Affordable Housing/ Housing Support

What amount of funding is being requested (Must be at least \$100,000 and should not exceed program area totals)?

\$262,103.40

Is this a new project or expansion of an existing initiative, please describe.

IPH is proposing an expansion of its South Ferry Shelter, enhancing services by increasing staffing to levels that will best accommodate the higher needs being experienced by many people in need of shelter. The shelter currently has a supervisor, two full-time case managers, and a program assistant onsite during normal business hours. Each case

manager works with 15 guests at a time. Outside of normal business hours, the shelter is staffed by two Direct Support Staff who are responsible for the safety and security of all 30 guests as well as the facility. To better support residents, provide more socialization activities and groups, and provide more effective crisis intervention, IPH is proposing to add a third case manager, an additional Direct Support Staff during the day, and an additional Direct Support staff on all other shifts. As the shelter is required to operate with a minimum of two staff on at all times, increased staff will also alleviate safety and security challenges that result when staff need to be offsite or out entirely. IPH is also requesting funding to increase training opportunities for the South Ferry team, particularly focusing on building knowledge and skills related to supporting people with serious mental illness and/or active substance use. With additional staff, the South Ferry team will provide more health socialization opportunities to support residents in building social skills, having creative outlets, and reducing idle time that can lead to conflicts and crises. Additional staff will also allow for more intensive case management services, including the ability to accompany residents to appointments or provide transportation for which there is currently no other resource.

Please provide an executive summary of the proposed program or project for which you are requesting funds. Include a description of the target population, as well as the goals and objectives of your proposed project (500 words or less).

The South Ferry Shelter is a vital part of Albany's continuum of homeless services, providing 30 year-round beds to vulnerable community residents. The facility's Medical Respite beds support adults who are homeless and being discharged from inpatient hospitalizations or who have a recent history of overutilization of emergency departments and hospitals due to chronic health conditions and/or illnesses. Services emphasize connectivity with primary care, pharmacy use, transportation resources, adhering to discharge recommendations and attending follow-up appointments, adhering to a medication regimen, and health education. Medical Respite serves the most vulnerable, high-risk individuals in the community who have historically relied on high-cost emergency services and hospitals for care as well as those so disconnected from services that their conditions have worsened to the point of requiring inpatient care. Respite's focus is to support guests' overall health and while decreasing hospital lengths of stay, reducing readmissions, reducing overutilization of emergency departments, and ending patients' cycle of homelessness. The facility's non-respite beds support people who are unhoused who are living with a broader range of needs. Shelter guests are able to be onsite throughout the day and are offered housing-focused case management as well as support addressing a range of other identified needs, including those related to health care, primary care, mental health, substance use, education, employment, income, and transportation.

Particularly since the onset of the pandemic, the needs of residents being admitted to the South Ferry Shelter have continued to increase and include significant behavioral health needs often beyond what the shelter can safely accommodate. The staffing structure and training opportunities of the shelter have not kept up with the intensity of services needed to best support the most vulnerable shelter residents. With a capacity of 30 residents, any number of whom can be actively using substances, experiencing symptoms of serious mental illness, living with chronic health conditions, and/or have a history of trauma, operating with minimal staff has increasingly proven challenging and, at times, unsafe. Two case managers currently support 30 residents; high caseloads, coupled with a lack of affordable housing options and long wait lists for mental health services, result in challenges related to discharge planning, frequent onsite conflicts, the need for regular crisis intervention, and longer lengths of stay. In some cases, the needs of residents exceed the level of care and support the small team can provide. To best support homeless individuals with the most significant needs, the South Ferry Shelter needs additional staff on each shift as well as additional training focused on supporting people with mental illness and substance use needs. Without this, those individuals will continue to cycle through the County's shelters, often being placed in costly motels without any support or supervision.

The goals of the South Ferry Shelter are to connect guests with primary care, Health Home providers, pharmacies, and any other services that address each person's identified needs. All services are focused on supporting residents with discharging to a permanent placement, achieving improved health, and experiencing long-term stability.

Please explain why this program or project is needed within the County.

During Albany County's most recent Point-In-Time count, conducted in January 2023, 889 people were identified as staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or residing outside on that night. Of those, 101 were sleeping outside or in other places not meant for human habitation, which is a 51% increase over the number found to be unsheltered during the 2022 Count. On the same night, 95% of the 319 emergency shelter beds were occupied, and 83 single adults were residing in motels paid for by Albany County Department of Social Services. Additionally, since the time of the count, St. Charles Lwanga men's shelter has closed permanently, resulting in a loss of 19 shelter beds in the community. With such a high number of people experiencing homelessness, and the community's shelter beds hovering at max capacity, the South Ferry Shelter continues to be an integral part of the County's shelter system. Its beds make up 33% of all contracted shelter beds for single adults in Albany County, and its medical respite component is the only of its kind in the Capital Region, providing a vital resource for people who are exiting hospitals with a home to which they can return.

Further, as one of the few shelter providers for single adults in Albany County, and given our strong reputation for providing high quality services and care, IPH is often relied upon to serve individuals who have not been successful

in other programs, have been banned by other organizations, or have otherwise proven challenging to support in a shelter setting. The South Ferry Shelter, given its accommodations (smaller rooms vs. dormitories), large communal space, and emphasis on supporting people with serious health-related needs, has become the site to which individuals with various types of significant needs are referred, making it informally a “high needs” setting. However, as described above, the shelter team needs additional support in order to offer real opportunities for success for residents with the greatest needs. Individuals exiting psychiatric institutions and entering emergency shelters find themselves with vastly differing levels of support and being cared for by staff who are much differently qualified. Without an alternative step-down option between inpatient units and shelters, the responsibilities of shelter teams continue to increase.

All funded activities must meet the objective of responding to the public health and negative economic impact of the pandemic. Please describe how your proposal will help address this objective and assist with recovery (250 words or less).

The expansion of the South Ferry Shelter’s staffing and services will mitigate the negative economic, social, and public health impact of the pandemic. The increase in homelessness in Albany over the past few years, particularly the increase in the number of people living outside, is, in some part, a result of the pandemic and its effects on mental health, housing, and service access. Rates of opiate use are skyrocketing, as individuals cope with the trauma of homelessness and self-medicate with substances. The effect of the pandemic on access to care has also resulted in worsening symptoms and further instability. Additionally, housing options are diminishing, as landlords become increasingly selective regarding tenants.

South Ferry’s medical respite component particularly responds to the growing public health crisis of homelessness by offering a supportive setting where health needs can be addressed, residents can receive education and support regarding their conditions and medications, and connections to community-based care are established and maintained. Further, IPH utilizes a harm reduction approach, ensuring that people actively using substances such as opiates have shelter options. By providing a supportive, non-judgmental setting, the shelter team can build trust and rapport and help people with addictions make the safest choices, up to an including treatment.

Through the provision of shelter and the connection to long-term, affordable housing, the shelter is reducing the reliance on costly public services by persons experiencing homelessness while also reducing the spread of communicable diseases by providing opportunities to address health and hygiene needs safely and effectively.

If an award is made, describe how Albany County stakeholders will benefit. Where possible, please use measurable outcomes to quantify impact.

Homelessness is an economic, social, and public health issue. Individuals who do not have stable housing are at increased risk for health problems and/or exacerbated health conditions, mental illness, and substance use. Additionally, when connections to health care and treatment providers are not consistently maintained or are unable to be accessed, the same individuals rely on costly services and interventions such as those in emergency rooms, hospitals, or via police, fire departments, or EMT’s. Individuals experiencing homelessness are often unable to maintain employment and contribute to the local economy. Without access to regular resources to maintain hygiene (bathrooms, showers) or secure food or income, individuals are often forced to make choices that can negatively affect the general public.

By providing support and a setting that meets the needs described above, the South Ferry Shelter is not only directly helping individuals in need but supporting the greater community. Shelter residents have access to bathrooms, showers, laundry and clean clothing, and 3 meals a day. In addition, case management services emphasize connections to benefits and services such as health insurance, primary care, mental health care, substance use treatment, employment support, educational opportunities, public assistance, federal housing assistance, and affordable housing. Such connections reduce reliance on costly public services and support increased financial security and economic contribution while reducing the spread of communicable diseases and improving community health.

Target outcomes of the project are as follows:

Medical Respite:

- 100% of guests will connect to primary care.
- 100% of eligible guests will be referred to Health Home.
- 100% of guests will establish or maintain pharmacy services.
- 30% of guests will transition directly to permanent housing. This is the HUD standard.

General beds

- 75% of shelter guests who stay in shelter for 3+ days will meet with a case manager. Some guests choose not to meet with a case manager and/or self-discharge before having an initial meeting.

- 75% of shelter guests who engage in case management while in shelter will connect with a supportive service.
- 60% of shelter guests who engage in case management services will increase their income.
- 30% of shelter guests who engage in case management will discharge to a permanent setting. 30% is the HUD standard.

Please describe your organization’s ability to implement the project you propose including organizational structure, staff members involved, a summary of similar initiatives you have undertaken and the date they were completed:

For nearly 40 years, IPH has been assessing and meeting the needs of homeless adults and families through a continuum of services, as previously described. Across its programs, IPH has provided services to thousands of homeless and at-risk households, many of whom have had complex mental health, substance abuse, and health issues, and staff has worked to provide individualized services to meet each person’s unique set of circumstances. As mentioned above, IPH currently operates 6 emergency shelters, including the South Ferry Shelter (three year-round shelters and 3 seasonal shelters). During the winter, IPH provides 134 shelter beds each night across 3 counties. IPH is the largest publicly funded provider of emergency shelter beds in the Capital Region. IPH staff have a keen sense of the most successful techniques for engaging with and assisting people experiencing homelessness with achieving long-term stability and self-sufficiency.

IPH is governed by a Board of Directors and led by an Executive Director. The Administrative team also includes the Deputy Director, Finance Director, and Development Director. Several Program Directors oversee programs and services, and each program has a supervisor onsite. South Ferry staff currently consists of a Shelter Supervisor, two Case Managers, a Program Assistant, Cook, and several Direct Support Staff. The IPH Facilities team handles the maintenance of the building.

How will you track performance goals and define success? Include at least two key performance indicators and expected annual outcomes/impact?

Success is defined both at the project level and individual level. Each person admitted to the shelter identifies their own needs and goals, and services are catered accordingly. Success looks different for each person. However, the goal is for residents to leave the shelter and move on to a permanent setting with community supports in place that promote long-term stability and independence. As described elsewhere, program outcomes include engagement with case management services, increased income, and connectivity with primary care and other community-based supportive services that address individualized needs and goals. While the goal of this project is to support people with achieving stable housing, success is also defined by the longevity of that stability. Therefore, two other performance indicators/goals that measure success are as follows:

100% of individuals who transition into permanent housing will remain in housing for 6 months.

75% of individuals who transition into permanent housing will remain in housing for 1 year.

It is a goal of IPH to be able to assess health outcomes through the analysis of Medicaid data regarding emergency department and hospital use; however, such data is not currently accessible to program staff.

Project start date:

03/01/2024

Please provide key project milestones inclusive of the anticipated timelines and descriptions

Milestone	Anticipated Timeline	Task Description
Notification of ARPA award	February 2024	
Hiring of additional staff	March – April 2024	Job postings, interviews, onboarding, training
Identification of training resources	March 2024	Research training resources related to mental illness, substance use, and crisis intervention
Implement new training curriculum	April 2024 and ongoing	Establish curriculum, schedule trainings, monitor attendance and effectiveness.

6-month follow-ups	September 2024 and ongoing	Mercy House staff will follow up with residents discharged to permanent housing to determine current housing status.
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At the top of this page is a downloadable project budget. Please download the budget form and upload it here.

- [ARPA-Budget-South-Ferry.pdf](#)

If you are funding a multi-year initiative, please provide a breakdown of funding level per year below:

2024	2025	2026
\$262,103.40		

Use this space to provide a narrative supporting and clarify anything from the proposed project budget above. In addition, if “Other Funds” or “Other Uses” are included above, please specify the source(s) below.

N/A

Explain why ARPA funds are needed to complete the proposed program/project. Would the proposal be possible without ARPA assistance? Describe how your proposal would be impacted if you are awarded a smaller grant than requested?

With the expansion of the South Ferry Shelter, IPH is striving to support individuals whose needs are currently going unmet by the current shelter system because they exceed what current staffing patterns in shelters, and the training provided, can safely and effectively accommodate. Without ARPA funding, the South Ferry Shelter would continue to operate with minimal staff and would continue to be unable to best support those who are homeless with the highest needs. Without this expansion, Case Managers would continue to have high caseloads, and services would be less intensive than needed. Operating with minimal staff increases the risk for safety issues as well as staff burnout. Individuals with the highest needs would likely continue to cycle through various shelters, be placed in motels without services and support, or end up living on the street unable to meet their basic needs.

ARPA funds must be expended by December 31, 2026. Please describe how your project will be sustained if it will continue beyond this date.

IPH has a contract with Albany County DSS to partially operate this program and is pursuing additional funds that are being distributed as a result of opiate settlements. IPH also works closely with the Alliance for Better Health and is anticipating participation in the federal government’s upcoming 1115 Waiver projects to support the Medicaid population. Through its partnership with the Alliance for Better Health, IPH is exploring contractual relationships with Managed Care Organizations whose members are experiencing improved health outcomes as a result of Medical Respite services. IPH also plans to explore Medicaid funding in the future to determine if funding structure is appropriate.

List any project partners/subrecipients:

IPH works closely with Albany County DSS and Albany Medical Center regarding referrals. IPH also partners with many other community organizations, including RSS, Equinox, Legal Aid, Adult Protective Services, Koinonia Primary Care, SPARC, CDPHP, MVP, HATAS, and Joseph’s House. IPH also intends to partner with Albany County Department of Mental Health to streamline access to behavioral health care for those residents with the highest needs. Similarly, IPH works closely with Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Center, specifically their mobile health clinic, to connect people with primary care quickly and conveniently. Such connections also establish residents as patients of Whitney Young, opening up accessibility to other services such as substance use treatment, dental care, and mental health care.

Please list any matching funds:

IPH holds contracts for South Ferry with Albany County DSS and Albany Medical Center.

Tax Information or Additional Information

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2019

- [2019-990-IPH-signed1.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2020

- [2020-Form-9901.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2021

- [2021-IPH-9901.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for tax year 2022

- [IPH-990-2022-YR1.pdf](#)

Please upload IRS Form W-9

- [2023-w-91.pdf](#)

Risk Assessment:

Has the organization adopted and/or implemented policies relating to: records retention, conflict of interest, code of ethics, and/or nondiscrimination policies

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify:

We have posted policies that are formally acknowledged by staff.

Is the organization properly insured?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify the types of insurance held and the limits:

General liability \$1 million each occurrence, \$ 2million general aggregate, Auto \$ 1million, umbrella \$ 5 million

Does the organization have a financial management system?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify:

We use online web-based software for all financial transactions

Has there been any change in your organization's key staffing positions in the last 2 years?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify:

A new Finance Director was hired in October 2023 prior to the preceding Finance Director retiring in December 2023.

Has the organization previously done work for the Federal government (i.e. Is the entity experienced in managing Federal funds)?

Yes

If you selected "Yes" above, please specify:

IPH has been receiving HUD funding from the federal government for the past 15 years and also currently receives Emergency Solutions Grant funding for several projects.

Certifications

Acknowledgment 1

I Have Read and Understand the U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (see below link)
U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds:
<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Compliance-and-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>

Acknowledgment 2

Should the County Allocate ARPA Funds, I am Able to and Pledge to Adhere to ALL Compliance and Reporting Requirements of the U.S. Treasury as it relates to any State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Acknowledgment 3

I Understand the County Will Contact me if/when Additional Information is Needed and that Information will be Promptly Provided to the County to Support Reporting Requirements

Acknowledgment 4

If for Any Reason I am Unable to Comply with the U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Requirements I will Immediately Notify the County in writing by email or letter

Acknowledgment 5

All Information Submitted in this Application is True & Accurate

Electronic Signature Agreement

I agree

By checking the "I agree" box, you agree and acknowledge that 1) your application will not be signed in the sense of a traditional paper document, 2) by signing in this alternate manner, you authorize your electronic signature to be valid and binding upon you to the same force and effect as a handwritten signature, and 3) you may still be required to provide a traditional signature at a later date.

Type name

Kristen Giroux