

PROPOSAL COVER SHEET
(Must precede all pages submitted with Proposal)

Date Received _____

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DMHAS)

Name of RFP: Super Storm Sandy – Recovery and Rebuilding -To Provide Supportive Housing to Individuals with Mental Illness or Co-Occurring Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder

Incorporated Name of Applicant: Preferred Behavioral Health of New Jersey

Type: 501(c)(3)

Public _____ Profit _____ Non-Profit X or Hospital-Based _____

Federal ID Number: [REDACTED] Charities Reg. Number: [REDACTED]

Address of Applicant: 1500 Route 88 West
Brick, Twp., New Jersey 08724

Contact (name/title): Michael Blatt, Exec. VP/COO Phone No: (732) 458-1700 x 1106

Email: mblatt@preferredbehavioral.org Fax: [REDACTED]

Total dollar amount requested: \$ 653,906.25 * Fiscal Year End: During FY 2016

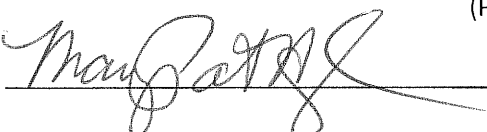
Funding Period: From 7/1/14 to 9/30/15

*Based on projected start of July 1, 2014, and calculated for 15 consumers per month for 15 months. Generated revenue, per the RFP and contract, will be deducted from this amount.

Total number of unduplicated clients to be served: 15

County in which housing and services are to be provided Ocean, and others as needed

Authorization: Chief Executive Officer: Mary Pat Angelini
(Please print)

Signature:  Date: 4-22-14

VIII. Provider Qualifications

Preferred Behavioral Health of New Jersey, referred to as “Preferred” throughout this proposal, meets all provider qualifications detailed in Section VIII (pages 6 and 7) of the RFP.

IX. Requirements for Submission

Proposals must address the following:

A. Funding Proposal Cover Sheet. Please use the Cover Sheet included in the RFP and place it on top of the entire RFP package. (1 point)

The Proposal Cover Sheet precedes all pages of this proposal.

B. Indicate the number of consumers that will be enrolled by the Supportive Housing program as a result of this initiative. (5 points)

Once fully operational 15 consumers will be served concurrently under this grant, but Preferred is willing to add additional consumers, if needed. These new consumers will be in addition to the 61 Supportive Housing consumers that Preferred currently serves through its Supportive Housing program, four of whom are considered part of the “Olmstead” initiative.

Preferred’s Supportive Housing program is a component of the organization’s Residential Services continuum. Residential Services also administers the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program for northern Ocean County, and provides the following housing, all of which are licensed by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS): three Level A+ group homes totaling 17 beds, two Level A group homes with six beds, and five Level C apartments with a total 10 beds.

C. Program start-up will be dependent on demand and requests for services. Describe how staffing and services will be phased in based on the volume of referrals. (5 points)

Preferred has been providing supportive housing services for over twenty years, and is well experienced and skilled with assisting consumers procure and maintain a stable living environment. Sixty-one consumers currently receive supported housing services through Preferred, many of whom struggle with substance abuse, in addition to mental health issues.

Preferred anticipates beginning program activities made available through this grant on July 1, 2014, assuming the timelines in the RFP are not changed. Upon notification of the grant award, Supportive Housing staff will begin contacting all landlords that work with the team to discuss housing openings. Holds will be placed on five units initially, and staff will also start arranging for holds on five additional units. These units should handle the initial influx of referrals, and thereafter housing will be secured on an individual basis as consumers enter the program. In each case, a security deposit will be used to hold a unit.

Following is the program’s phase-in schedule. It should be noted that Preferred’s philosophy is to provide consumer-driven services, and as such, some of the timeframes and order of service delivery are subject to change, if doing so will benefit the consumer.

Month 1 - Hire two full time Supportive Housing Case Managers who are have experience working with consumers with both mental health and substance abuse issues. Also during this time, new staff will be oriented to company policies and protocols, work will begin with landlords to identify housing units, and referrals will be interviewed.

Months 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 – Intakes will be completed with new consumers, living quarters will be furnished and consumers placed into their homes. New referrals will be screened, consumers will be linked to entitlements and any other appropriate services, and their integration into the community will be facilitated. Work will continue with any consumers accepted into the program, but not yet placed.

Month 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 – Follow-up with referrals will continue, as will case management with each consumer in the program.

Month 12-15 - In anticipation of the grant concluding, work will begin with consumers to plan for their transition to independent living.

D. Briefly describe the process your agency will use to engage individuals to be served and integrate them into new housing. (5 points)

As a respected community partner that has served the greater Ocean County area and its citizens for over 35 years, Preferred is involved with many behavioral health, human services and other organizations, and thus will be able to generate referrals for this initiative from those sources. Referrals will also be received from the various programs within Preferred, which regularly serve individuals who will meet the program's criteria. In addition, Preferred will work with the regional and central offices of DMHAS, County Mental Health Boards and State psychiatric hospitals to identify people to be served.

All prospective consumers will receive an initial screening to ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria promulgated by DMHAS, and to learn about the services available through the grant. Those who are eligible will be provided an intake, if not already an active Preferred consumer, during which he or she will be asked to sign release of information forms so that pertinent information from relevant sources can be obtained.

Individuals accepted into this grant-supported program will be assigned a Supported Housing Case Manager, who will collaboratively work with their consumers and any other professionals involved with their treatment, such as a Therapist, Psychiatrist, Advance Practice Nurse, or Substance Abuse Clinician, to develop an Individual Recovery Plan. Among other wellness goals, that plan will indicate the type of housing the consumer is interested in, a process that will include a discussion of financial means, location, prospective housemates, and other consumer preferences and concerns. While the housing search commences, the consumer will be provided any relevant case management services, including linkages to entitlements, medical care, social and recreational opportunities, and other assistance or activities that will support wellness and recovery.

E. Describe how you will assist and support consumers in receiving career services in order to move them toward self-sufficiency and self-support (for rental payments) by the end of this grant cycle. (15 points)

All consumers served through this grant will be linked to Preferred's Career Services program, which consists of Supported Education and Supported Employment. This will be the case even for those who are employed or actively pursuing their educational goals, as staff can assist them access additional services for which they may be eligible, but are not aware of. Preferred's Career Services initiative has provided integrated educational and employment related services for more than twenty years, and many of those served have presented with substance abuse problems in addition to a mental health disorder. The overarching purpose of Career Services is to assist consumers obtain the educational and work-related skills necessary to obtain and retain gainful employment, thus increasing their likelihood of achieving financial independence and self-sufficiency.

The consumer-driven, outcome focused services delivered by Preferred's Career Services reflect the program's core values of continuous improvement and community integration. Services are overseen by Jimmy Mezzo, a highly-respected professional who has been in the behavioral health field for 24 years in various capacities, 13 of which have been with Preferred. He has been in his current position for four years.

The Supported Employment program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), a distinction first earned in 2005 (CARF does not offer an accreditation for Supported Education). Supported Employment provides assessment of consumer skills and abilities in order to make a good job match and ensure that both consumers and their employers are successful. Staff also partner with employers to develop job leads, including positions amenable to job-coaching. Supported Employment teaches consumers techniques for writing resumes, cover letters, and thank you letters, and how to dress for, and succeed in, interviews. Worker support groups are also held, where consumers discuss such challenges as transportation procurement, the fear of returning to work, how employment affects benefits, and appropriate social and behavioral skills for the workplace - they also share their successes as well. Staff are dedicated to providing services that are consistent with the demands of the current workplace, and they make every effort to keep aware of changes and trends in the labor market.

Supported Education's objective is to provide educational and support to consumers in post-secondary settings, so that they can have access to, and successfully utilize, the educational environment. The program provides academic counseling that includes choosing a college major and selecting classes that meet the student's academic goals. Staff provide campus orientation and can assist with class registration. They can also help consumers access financial aid and scholarships, and resolve issues with previous student loans that are in default, if needed. Skill development related to organizing, planning, time management and other proficiencies needed for success in college are taught. Supported Education explores transportation options with consumers and links them to disability resources and other campus supports, if appropriate. Staff can also help students access a tutor, manage disclosure issues, and advocate for needed

accommodations. Once consumers have achieved their educational goals, Supported Employment staff will assist them in securing and retaining a career position.

Part of the success of Preferred's Career Services initiative is due to its excellent collaboration with the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVR), a working relationship that spans over twenty years. DVR staff routinely make site visits to Preferred's Career Services to monitor activities, open cases and exchange updates on consumers - all of which serve to more fully integrate service delivery to consumers.

It is anticipated that by expanding its Career Services activities, the employment and educational goals of those served through this grant will be met, leading to self-sufficiency and self-support.

F. Indicate your ability to provide housing that is accessible to individuals who have difficulty with mobility or are wheelchair bound, in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. (3 points)

As is indicated in its written operational policies, Preferred morally supports the intent and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and in actual practice complies with all of that legislation's applicable rules and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring accessible housing and other services to individuals who have difficulty with mobility or are wheelchair bound, in accordance with ADA requirements.

Through the years Preferred has willingly served numerous individuals with various disabilities in all its programs, and continues to do so. This includes Supportive Housing, whose team members routinely help consumers locate ADA compliant housing, including those who use wheelchairs. All Supportive Housing staff (actually, all Residential Services staff) have received training in utilizing proper techniques for assisting individuals with mobility issues, and the program currently serves five consumers that use ambulatory assistance devices and two that are visually impaired.

G. Describe the full range of recovery and support services that will be provided to service recipients. (10 points)

Consumers served through this grant will be given opportunities to receive treatment and related services designed to promote and support their overall wellness and recovery, and if appropriate their sobriety. This includes a full continuum of substance abuse treatment services such as assessment and evaluation, treatment plan development, individual and group therapy, medicated-assisted therapy, medication monitoring, psychiatric evaluations, linkages to self-help support groups, and recreational activities.

Preferred provides a full spectrum of mental health oriented services as well. These include Outpatient for adults and children (groups and individual), Supported Employment, Supported Education, Intensive Outpatient and Support Services, Integrated Case Management, Justice Involved Services, three Partial Care programs, Senior Guidance, and the Residential Services continuum that includes licensed group homes, supportive housing services, and the PATH initiative. It should be pointed out that if a consumer chooses to seek treatment and support

services elsewhere, Preferred's staff will honor that request, make the appropriate linkage, and provide any needed support.

The Supportive Housing team has the ability to help secure housing, provide transportation to social services, medical, and other appointments, and assist consumers with community integration and the transition into new housing, which includes dealing with utility companies and landlords, and purchasing furniture and other household items.

All consumers will also meet with staff of Preferred's Career Services program to discuss employment and educational goals, and develop a plan for achieving those goals.

Throughout their involvement with Preferred, all those served will be linked with a dedicated team of professionals, whose mission is to provide treatment and support to consumers, facilitate the wellness and recovery process, and assist with the attainment of independent living and community integration.

H. Describe your agency's ability to affirmatively link individuals to primary care practitioners, support the consumers as they engage in primary care treatment and facilitate the coordination of primary care and behavioral healthcare with and on behalf of the consumers. (5 points)

Preferred Behavioral Health has provided high-quality supportive housing and other behavioral healthcare services for decades, and recognizes how importance primary medical care is to the recovery and wellness process. Preferred's staff are experienced with linking consumers to primary care practitioners, supporting them as they engage in primary care treatment, and coordinating primary care and behavioral healthcare on their behalf. This is accomplished by a) actively engaging consumers, b) having a thorough knowledge of, and working relationships with, local primary care practitioners, c) making referrals and linkages to primary care services - this sometimes involves physically transporting consumers to appointments, d) following up and maintaining contact with the primary care practitioners so that both they and Preferred are aware of each other's treatment plans, and e) communicating with the consumer to ensure that he or she is aware of, and follows, any treatment regimen prescribed by the primary care practitioner.

Preferred has entered into an affiliation agreement, and works closely with, Ocean Health Initiatives, a Federally Qualified Health Center in Lakewood that provides primary care treatment to many of Preferred's consumers. This relationship, as well as those that Preferred has with several other primary care practitioners, has resulted in more fully integrated treatment for consumers.

I. Describe how your agency will monitor medication and ensure that necessary blood work is completed in order to optimize medication adherence. (5 points)

Preferred has eleven prescribers on staff, which include both Psychiatrists and Advanced Practice Nurses. Each have years of experience in the field, are adept at medication prescribing and follow-up, and know the importance of closely monitoring the test results of blood taken from consumers who are using certain medications. Preferred has contracts with local

laboratories, such as Bio-Reference, which test the blood of consumers who are prescribed medications such as Vivitrol or Depakote, and then provide those test results to prescribers in a timely manner. Toward that end, a phlebotomist draws blood several days a week, on site, in accordance with prescribers' orders.

As a convenience to consumers, there is an on-site pharmacy located in Preferred's busiest site - 700 Airport Road in Lakewood - that is open five days per week. That building hosts several mental health, substance abuse and co-occurring programs.

The board-certified Psychiatrist who serves as Preferred's Medical Director has been with the organization since graduating from Georgetown University's Medical School, over 25 years ago. Psychiatry for Substance Abuse Services is headed by a Psychiatrist who is certified by the American Society of Addiction Medicine, and is licensed to dispense Suboxone.

J. Provide a brief description of the housing model(s) that will be made available (one-bedroom apartments, single family home, shared living, scattered site apartments, apartment building with mixed use, etc.). Include rationale for choosing this particular housing design. (3 points)

Preferred is a proponent of the Housing First model, and uses that approach in both its supporting housing services and group homes. This best practice places an immediate and primary focus on helping individuals quickly access and maintain housing that leads from a transitional to a permanent living situation, and does not require that consumers engage in other treatment if they receive housing assistance.

Preferred has a positive working relationship with numerous landlords in the community that are willing to rent to consumers served through this grant. Consumers will be offered a variety of housing options to accommodate their needs, including one, two, and three bedroom apartments, as well as two and three bedroom homes. Preferred's Supported Housing staff will assist consumers apply for and manage any housing vouchers for which they may be eligible.

The rationale for developing various housing options is to provide choice to the consumer. The housing search will include discussion of the consumer's financial means, location choice, prospective housemates, and other consumer preferences and concerns. All lease agreements will be between the landlord and the consumer.

K. Provide the municipality and county where housing will be located. (2 points)

Housing made available through this project will be concentrated in the municipalities of Berkeley Township, Brick Township, Lakewood, Jackson Township, Toms River, Seaside, and Barnegat, all of which are located in Ocean County. This is because Preferred already has working relationships with numerous landlords in those areas, and because many of those served through Supportive Housing prefer to reside in those towns.

Preferred's philosophy is to provide services that are consumer-driven. Accordingly, housing through this grant will be developed in municipalities other than those noted, if needed. These

units will be located both in and out of Ocean County, and supportive housing and related services will be provided to consumers in those locations.

L. Describe your organization's plan to address consumers' substance abuse issues, drug and alcohol relapse prevention or harm reduction strategies. (5 points)

Preferred Behavioral Health is incorporated as a non-profit organization and has been granted 501(c)(3) tax status. The organization is licensed by the New Jersey Department of Human Services to provide both mental health and addiction services programming, which it has done since 1978. Included in its revenue sources are grants and contracts awarded by the State of New Jersey, the County of Ocean, the United Way of Ocean County, and the Robin Hood Foundation. Preferred is also reimbursed for services provided to consumers who are covered by Medicaid, Medicare, and most major insurance plans.

Preferred offers numerous treatment opportunities for consumers in need of substance abuse services, as well as those with "co-occurring" substance abuse and mental health issues. Consumers served by the Substance Abuse Services (SAS) team of Preferred can be treated either individually or in groups, and specialized men-only and women-only groups are offered. In addition, an Intensive Outpatient component, which uses both group and individual treatments in a milieu setting, is available. SAS also operates a partial care program for the adult co-occurring population. SAS staff are trained to administer "rapid screenings" designed to identify consumer drug use, and do so when necessary. Included among those served are individuals ordered to undergo treatment by the courts and the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

Consumers served through this grant that are in need of a substance abuse evaluation and treatment will be linked to Preferred's Substance Abuse Services department for one or more of the above referenced services. Should a consumer choose to seek treatment elsewhere, Preferred's staff will honor that request, make the appropriate linkage, and provide any needed support.

Central to Preferred's Substance Abuse Services' philosophy is that recovery is indeed possible. Utilizing a strengths-based approach, the SAS team works with consumers to instill hope and promote empowerment as they move toward sobriety and other goals. Preferred recognizes that each consumer progresses at his or her own pace, that the course of recovery may be erratic at times, and that consumers may relapse and threaten self-harm. SAS staff are experienced with relapse and harm reduction strategies, and are available for support and other interventions 24/7. Many of Preferred's SAS staff are dually licensed to work clinically with both mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Preferred's SAS staff engage the families of consumers when appropriate, and there are currently three licensed marriage and family therapists with years of experience on the team. SAS convenes a monthly "family" meeting for all consumers in treatment, in which family members, sponsors and others who are important to the consumer participate. This program offers didactic lectures, educational seminars, and information regarding family supportive services.

Clinical staff in SAS, as well as those who work in other areas of the organization, utilize their knowledge of the Eight Domains of Wellness and Recovery, the Wellness and Recovery Model and the concepts of Illness Management and Recovery as they collaborate with consumers and other internal treatment providers to develop specific goals. Utilizing these evidence-based practices improves the ability of consumers to manage their own illness, decreases the potential for relapse and self-harming behaviors, and promotes less focus on addiction and more on goal-directed activities that will improve the prospects of wellness and recovery.

To augment its substance abuse treatments, Preferred provides a wide spectrum of mental health oriented services as well. These include Integrated Case Management, Outpatient for adults and children (groups and individual), Supported Employment, Supported Education, Intensive Outpatient and Support Services, Justice Involved Services, three Partial Care programs, Senior Guidance, and the Residential Services continuum that includes licensed group homes, supportive housing services, and the PATH initiative.

M. Describe how your organization will support consumers in attaining the daily living skills necessary to live integrated lives in the community. (5 points)

Case Managers of Preferred's Supportive Housing team will support consumers in attaining daily living skills that promote community integration by providing training, education and counseling, both individually and in groups.

Training and education in daily living skills and personal care will address:

- Researching and accessing community resources such as health care, transportation, job readiness and job placement services, social and recreational activities, and applying for entitlements and other benefits.
- Grooming
- Budgeting and banking
- Healthy eating and nutrition
- Food shopping and storage
- Health and hygiene, including practices for safe sex
- Socialization
- Using kitchen appliances

In addition, counseling and skill building activities will also be provided to augment the above activities. These will cover such areas as communication, problem solving, coping skills, relationship building, stress management, wellness and recovery, and illness management.

N. Demonstrate how the proposed service will integrate the following principles into service delivery: (20 points)

- 1. Promotion of wellness and recovery (grounded in SAMHSA's 8 Domains of Wellness);**
- 2. Promotion of community inclusion;**
- 3. Culturally competent and linguistically accessible services; and**
- 4. Demonstration of best practices.**

1. Promotion of wellness and recovery (grounded in SAMHSA’s 8 Domains of Wellness)

Supportive Housing staff will coordinate efforts with the Career Services, Substance Abuse Services, and the Mental Health treatment teams of Preferred to develop an Individual Recovery Plan (IRP) with each consumer served through this grant. Both the Wellness and Recovery Model and Illness Management and Recovery will be integrated into this process, as will the Wellness Recovery Action Plan. These best practice models assist those with mental health and/or substance use disorders to confidently work toward sobriety and wellness, while building self-esteem and independence. Work on the IRP begins at Intake, which is updated at least once every three months during the first year, and no less than every six months thereafter.

The Supportive Housing team also utilizes SAMHSA’s 8 Dimensions of Wellness Assessment Tool upon intake, to further enhance consumer input into goals and the IRP. **Please see Attachment A for a copy of the Wellness Assessment.**

The grid below highlights how SAMHSA’s 8 Domains of Wellness will be integrated into the services that consumers served through this grant will receive.

Wellness Domain	Service	Service Definition	Purpose	Goal
Financial	Applying for Entitlements and other resources	Facilitate application process for needed entitlements Utilize SOAR (SSI,SSD Outreach, Access and Recovery) model of application for social security benefits	To educate consumers about entitlements, and help them navigate banking any other financial activities.	To receive appropriate entitlements, transportation, food stamps in order to sustain independent living and have increased satisfaction with current or future finances
Social	Life Skills Training	Provide skills necessary to maintain independent living in the community, such as obtaining housing, purchasing furnishings, cooking, budgeting, rent and utilities payment, household maintenance, shopping, life safety & emergency procedures	To expand the consumers skills base to be able to live independently	Consumers will have tenure in the community; will live in pleasing environments that support well being
Physical	Linkage to Health Care/ Treatment Services	Assist consumers in connecting to treatment services, including medical, nutrition, vocational, substance abuse, counseling or psychiatric services as appropriate	To educate consumers to utilize needed services consistently; to create satisfying relationships with Treatment Providers; to	To maintain good health, mentally and physically; Increase awareness of the need for physical activity, healthy foods and adequate sleep

			foster healthy coping skills	
Intellectual	Substance Use and/or Behavioral Mental Health Education	Educating consumers regarding symptom management, medication management, main effects, side effects, relapse prevention and life skills	To use consumers existing creative abilities to understand their illness and develop skills to maintain stability	To maintain sobriety and psychiatric stability and expand their skill base to cope effectively with life stressors
Spiritual	Community Integration Linkages	Facilitate linkages to AA, NA, houses of worship, banks, peer supports, dental and medical services, libraries, hair salons, social and recreational activities, food pantries etc.	Increase awareness and utilization of community supports; provide a sense of connection and belonging	Successful community integration, expanded sense of purpose and connection to well developed support systems
Physical	Supports for Medical Health and Wellness	Educational supports; on-going and in-home supports to foster increased knowledge of overall health	To assist Consumers in managing their medical health in a home setting	Self-sufficiency on managing medical health; increase awareness of need for improved health
Environmental	Transportation	Provide and/ or arrange transportation. Assist consumers in accessing public transportation	To educate consumers how to access public transportation and other transportation resources	To facilitate transportation to necessary services and activities that foster community integration
Occupational	Educational, Vocational, Occupational Services	Collaboratively identify and assess in collaboration with Career Services	To delineate measurable treatment/service objectives and monitor progress via the IRP	To foster consumer achievements, accomplishments and ownership of their wellness; increase personal satisfaction with one's work

2. Promotion of community integration

As is indicated in the above Wellness Domains grid, fostering and promoting community integration and inclusion are key components of Preferred's treatment and support strategies, as they support wellness and recovery by enhancing the consumer's sense of connection and belonging. Consumer awareness of, and ability to utilize, various businesses, services and other community resources are encouraged. This includes accessing banks, retail establishments, eateries, medical and social services, libraries, houses of worship, transportation resources, support and recovery groups, vocational and employment related services, and social and recreational activities.

3. Culturally competent and linguistically accessible services

As a community-based behavioral health organization, Preferred serves people from a variety of cultural, ethnic, economic, religious, and other backgrounds, as well as those who don't speak English or who have limited English proficiency and are more comfortable communicating in another language. The organization understands that the therapeutic process has added value and effectiveness when staff members are sensitized to the diverse beliefs, attitudes, customs, values, languages and norms of its consumers. Accordingly, Preferred wants its employees to be culturally competent, and all staff receive ongoing trainings designed to provide administrators, clinicians, and support staff with a sound knowledge base and appreciation of cultural competency and languages. The trainings also improve the self-awareness and attitudes of staff, and enhance their skill sets for greater effectiveness in the cross cultural environment.

To further complement its cultural competency efforts, Preferred has formed a Cultural Competency Committee, which consists of managerial and non-managerial staff from the company's various operating units. The committee was formed to enhance the cultural competency of staff through workshops and education, and to serve as an active resource.

With the expertise of an outside consultant, the Cultural Competency Committee has prepared a Cultural Competency Plan. The plan helps guide Preferred as it develops and implements programs and services in a way that acknowledges the impact of individual differences on consumer treatment, including in the areas of Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Supportive Housing, and Career Services. It also includes discussion of linguistically accessible services. Some elements of the plan that have been put into actual practice are as follows:

- Use of interpreters
- Use of language lines
- Dissemination of written and verbal information in English and other languages.
- Use of interpretative websites
- Staff training in cultural competency
- Demographic analysis of staff composition in relation to the demographics of the consumers served by the organization.

Clearly, respect for diversity, as well as the practice and advancement of cultural competency, are fundamental to the Preferred experience, and are embedded in the organization's values and operations.

4. Demonstration of best practices

As noted previously, Preferred promotes the use of evidenced-based practices, and integrates such treatment modalities into its work with consumers. Among the evidence-based practices regularly employed are: the Wellness and Recovery Model (WRM); Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP); Illness Management Recovery (IMR), and SAMHSA's 8 Domains of Wellness.

Preferred is also a proponent and practitioner of the Housing First approach. This best practice places an immediate and primary focus on helping individuals quickly access and sustain housing, and does not require that consumers engage in other treatment if they receive housing assistance.

Preferred has also developed some of its own best practices as well, which have contributed to its ability to produce high-quality, cost-effective services that “meet the consumers where they are.” One recent innovation involves a “tele-commute” initiative in which Supportive Housing staff are provided with vehicles and mobile computers equipped with satellite cards. This allows them to spend more time in the community with consumers, as opposed to doing paperwork and driving between the office and meetings.

Another best practice involves the unparalleled commitment of Preferred’s Supportive Housing staff. In addition to providing emotional support and crisis intervention on a 24/7 basis, these staff physically assist consumers secure food, furniture, and utility assistance, de-bug living quarters of bed bugs, cockroaches and other pests, move consumers from one residence to another along with their pets, and transport consumers to Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, court appearances, and medical appointments.

Preferred is dedicated to the recovery and wellness of its consumers - and if appropriate, their sobriety as well - by involving them in fully integrated best practices that are culturally competent and linguistically sensitive.

O. Describe your experience and success in providing supportive services to, and/or development of housing opportunities for, individuals with a mental illness in the community. (5 points)

Preferred was incorporated as a non-profit organization 1978, and its mission is to assist consumers build an improved sense of individual and social functioning and responsibility by providing quality, cost effective services that are accessible, appropriate, and effective. One of Preferred's largest components is its Residential Services continuum, which includes the Supportive Housing department. That department has been successfully providing supportive housing services - including the identification of housing opportunities for consumers with mental health and mental health/substance issues - for over two decades. Toward that end, Preferred has forged positive working relationships with several landlords and housing interests, which have resulted, and continue to result, in numerous rentals becoming available to Supportive Housing’s consumers.

Preferred currently serves 61 Supportive Housing consumers, four of whom are considered part of the “Olmstead” initiative. Preferred also owns two "HUD 811" houses that are occupied by Supportive Housing consumers, and the company currently manages 39 rental subsidies on behalf of DMHAS.

To further demonstrate Preferred's commitment to providing housing and related services to consumers experiencing mental health and/or substance abuse issues, the Residential Continuum offers the following, in addition to Supportive Housing:

- Three licensed A+ group homes, one of which is dedicated to serving consumers with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues. The three homes total 17 beds.
- Two licensed level A group homes, each containing three beds.
- Five licensed level C condominium units, which each have two beds.

-Operation of the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program for Northern Ocean County.

It is standard procedure for Preferred's Supportive Housing program to collaborate with the company's other departments to serve the mental health and related needs of its consumers. These areas include Mental Health Outpatient, Substance Abuse Services, Partial Care, Integrated Case Management and Intensive Outpatient Treatment and Support Services. If awarded this grant Supportive Housing will continue to collaborate with and integrate efforts with those services, as well as with any appropriate external programs. It should be noted that if a consumer chooses to seek mental health or substance abuse treatment elsewhere, Preferred's staff will honor that request, make the appropriate linkage, and provide any needed support.

Preferred's Residential Continuum, which administers the Supportive Housing program, is overseen by Sandy Grebel, a highly skilled and knowable professional with 30 years of experience in the behavioral health field, 18 of which have been with Preferred. She has a Master of Social Work degree, and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. In recognition of her tireless and unwavering commitment to the profession and the success of her consumers, Sandy was recently awarded the prestigious Courage and Compassion Award by the New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Services Agencies.

Another well regarded professional, Sandra Hansen, oversees the Supportive Housing program. She has been appointed to both the Ocean County Continuum of Care Committee and the Ocean County Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Systems Committee, which work to unify and coordinate the efforts of community partners concerning housing.

Some of Preferred's Supportive Housing's successes include:

- Consumers have graduated from the Level A+ Group Homes into Level C apartments and then into Supportive Housing's independent living slots.
- Supportive Housing staff have collaborated with PATH staff to work with numerous consumers of "Tent City," a community in a wooded area of Lakewood where homeless individuals reside in tents. These staff have successfully relocated several Tent City consumers, as well as those who live in cars and other substandard locations, into apartments.
- Supportive Housing accepts consumers directly from Ancora Psychiatric Hospital and places them in apartments through the Olmstead initiative
- Supportive Housing serves several consumers who have graduated from Partial Care services, and are gainfully employed.
- With support and other staff interventions, a Supportive Housing consumer attends college full-time, and is on the Dean's list.

P. Format of proposal must follow requirements for submission, and include a Statement of Assurances signed by Chief Executive Officer (Attachment C), and Signed Debarment Certification (Attachment D). (3 Points)

Both the Statement of Assurance (C) and the Debarment Certification (D) have been signed by Preferred's Chief Executive Officer, and are attached.

Q. Please provide written assurances that, if your organization is awarded a contract pursuant to this RFP: (2 points)

1. You will pursue available resources (e.g. grants, vouchers, rental assistance, etc.) and collaborate with local housing authorities and/or other related housing development entities to develop, expand, and/or enhance housing options for enrolled consumers;

Preferred will pursue available resources (e.g. grants, vouchers, rental assistance, etc.) and collaborate with local housing authorities and/or other related housing development entities to develop, expand, and/or enhance housing options for enrolled consumers.

2. You will keep funding for this initiative segregated from funding for all other initiatives/programs operated by the organization and will have ability to specifically report on the individuals served in this initiative.

Preferred will keep funding for this initiative segregated from funding from all other initiatives/programs operated by the organization and will have the ability to specifically report on the individuals served in this initiative.

3. You will work in cooperation with the regional and central offices of DMHAS, County Mental Health Boards and State psychiatric hospitals to identify people to be served, meet data collection requirements, and participate in any standardized affiliation agreements that may be developed.

Preferred will work in cooperation with the regional and central offices of DMHAS, County Mental Health Boards and State psychiatric hospitals to identify people to be served, meet data collection requirements, and participate in any standardized affiliation agreements that may be developed.

4. You will comply with DMHAS reporting requirements specific to this initiative.

Preferred will comply with DMHAS reporting requirements specific to this initiative.

5. You will provide the full range of services delineated in DMHAS and related regulations to all individuals enrolled

Preferred Behavioral Health will provide the full range of services delineated in DMHAS and related regulations to all individuals enrolled.

6. You will pursue all available sources of revenue, including Medicaid if you are eligible to bill for the services provided, and will report all revenue generated as an off-set to the monthly rate billed for the aggregate of individuals served each month.

Preferred Behavioral Health will pursue all available sources of revenue, including Medicaid for which it is eligible to bill for the services provided, and will report all revenue generated as an off-set to the monthly rate billed for the aggregate of individuals served each month.

R. Applicants who do not currently contract with the Division must also include the following:

- 1. Organization history including mission, and goals;**
- 2. Overview of agency services;**
- 3. Documentation of incorporation status;**
- 4. Agency organization chart;**
- 5. Agency code of ethics and /or conflict of interest policy;**
- 6. Most recent agency audited financial statements;**
- 7. Listing of current Board of Directors, Officers and terms of each.**

Not Applicable, as Preferred Behavioral Health currently contracts with the Division.
Accordingly, no responses to the seven items listed in question R are included.

WELLNESS ASSESSMENT

Wellness Dimension	Where are you now?	Where would you like to be?	“X”
Housing/Environmental: <i>Occupying pleasant, stimulating environments that support well-being</i>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
To improve my wellness in this area I will:			
Emotional: <i>Coping effectively with life and creating satisfying relationships</i>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
To improve my wellness in this area I will:			
Financial: <i>Satisfaction with current and future financial situations</i>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
To improve my wellness in this area I will:			
Intellectual: <i>Recognizing creative abilities and finding ways to expand knowledge and skills</i>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
To improve my wellness in this area I will:			
Occupational: <i>Personal satisfaction and enrichment from one’s work</i>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
To improve my wellness in this area I will:			
Physical: <i>Recognizing the need for physical activity, healthy foods and sleep</i>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
To improve my wellness in this area I will:			
Social: <i>Developing a sense of connection, belonging, and a well-developed support system</i>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
To improve my wellness in this area I will:			
Spiritual: <i>Expanding our sense of purpose and meaning in life.</i>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
To improve my wellness in this area I will:			

Adapted from SAMHSA’s Eight Dimensions of Wellness

Psychiatric Rehabilitation: Knowledge, Skill and Resource Assessment

Identify a *rehabilitation goal* from one of the priority areas identified on the Wellness assessment.
 List the rehabilitation goal below (Up to 3 goals can be identified, but complete a KSR Assessment for each goal).

I will _____ by _____.

Knowledge: What I need to KNOW to select, attain and maintain my Rehabilitation Goal.	I have a good understanding	I have a good understanding of this, but may need a little education.	I need to more education.
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
Skills: Behaviors I need to be able TO DO well in order to select, attain and maintain my Rehabilitation Goal (List as "ing" words plus specific activity)	I can perform this skill whenever I need to	I have this skill, but I need practice	I need to learn this skill.
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
Resources: The resources (i.e. people, services, supports, monetary resources entitlements, etc.) that I need to HAVE in order to select, attain and maintain my Rehabilitation Goal.	I already have this resource	I need to acquire this resource	
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Attachment C

Department of Human Services Statement of Assurances

As the duly authorized Chief Executive Officer/Administrator, I am aware that submission to the Department of Human Services of the accompanying application constitutes the creation of a public document that may be made available upon request at the completion of the RFP process. This may include the application, budget, and list of applicants (bidder's list). In addition, I certify that the applicant:

- Has legal authority to apply for the funds made available under the requirements of the RFP, and has the institutional, managerial and financial capacity (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal/State share of project costs, as appropriate) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
- Will give the New Jersey Department of Human Services, or its authorized representatives, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Will give proper notice to the independent auditor that DHS will rely upon the fiscal year end audit report to demonstrate compliance with the terms of the contract.
- Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain. This means that the applicant did not have any involvement in the preparation of the RFI, including development of specifications, requirements, statement of works, or the evaluation of the RFI applications/bids.
- Will comply with all federal and State statutes and regulations relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: 1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352; 34 CFR Part 100) which prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin; 2) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794; 34 CFR Part 104), which prohibits discrimination based on handicaps and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.; 3) Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101 et. seq.; 45 CFR part 90), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; 4) P.L. 2975, Chapter 127, of the State of New Jersey (N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et. seq.) and associated executive orders pertaining to affirmative action and non-discrimination on public contracts; 5) federal Equal Employment Opportunities Act; and 6) Affirmative Action Requirements of PL 1975 c. 127 (NJAC 17:27).
- Will comply with all applicable federal and State laws and regulations.
- Will comply with the Davis-Bacon Act, 40 U.S.C. 276a-276a-5 (29 CFR 5.5) and the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.27 et seq. and all regulations pertaining thereto.

- Is in compliance, for all contracts in excess of \$100,000, with the Byrd Anti-Lobbying amendment, incorporated at Title 31 U.S.C. 1352. This certification extends to all lower tier subcontracts as well.
- Has included a statement of explanation regarding any and all involvement in any litigation, criminal or civil.
- Has signed the certification in compliance with federal Executive Orders 12549 and 12689 and State Executive Order 34 and is not presently debarred, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded. The applicant will have on file signed certifications for all subcontracted funds.
- Understands that this provider agency is an independent, private employer with all the rights and obligations of such, and is not a political subdivision of the Department of Human Services.
- Understands that unresolved monies owed the Department and/or the State of New Jersey may preclude the receipt of this award.

Preferred Behavioral Health of N.J.
 Applicant Organization
 Equivalent

4-22-14
 Date


 Signature: Chief Executive Officer or

Mary Pat Angelini, President/CEO
 Typed Name and Title

Attachment D

READ THE ATTACHED INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE SIGNING THIS CERTIFICATION.
THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CERTIFICATION.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion
Lower Tier Covered Transactions

1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by an Federal department or agency.
2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Mary Pat Angelini, President/CEO
Name and Title of Authorized Representative

Mary Pat Angelini 4-22-14
Signature Date

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Executive order 12549,
Debarment and Suspension, 29 CFR Part 98, Section 98.510