

**Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program
INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

Between

The State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services

And

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority

Amended January 2019

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Interagency Partnership Agreement is to establish a formal structure for continued collaboration between the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) and the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) for the implementation of housing and services associated with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program (Section 811 PRA Program). The Parties wish to enter into this Agreement to facilitate the delivery of permanent supportive housing for extremely low-income persons with disabilities consistent with the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2010. This Interagency Partnership Agreement (Agreement) sets forth the responsibilities of WHEDA and DHS related to the Section 811 PRA Program.

II. Term

This Agreement is contingent on the maintenance of a Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program Cooperative Agreement between WHEDA and HUD. The term of this amended Agreement will commence as of the date DHS and WHEDA sign this agreement. The term will be not less than five years and will be co-terminus with the term of initial funding of units under the Section 811 PRA Program. However, as HUD will accept commitments subject to contingencies based upon annual funding, the term of this Agreement is contingent upon annual Congressional funding. This Agreement will automatically renew contingent on continuing funding allocation.

III. Definitions

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA): the applicable State Housing Agency that administers Wisconsin's allotment of Low Income Housing Tax Credits and other housing resources.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS): the State Medicaid Agency, which oversees the operations of Wisconsin's health and human services system, provides administrative oversight of health and human services programs, and provides direct administration of some programs.

Eligible Tenants: Section 811 PRA funds can only be provided to support units for Extremely Low-Income Families (as defined below) where at least one person must be an individual with a disability, 18 years of age or older and less than 62 years of age at the time of admission into the property. The target population and priorities for eligibility are further defined in Section V.

Extremely Low-Income Family: A family whose annual income does not exceed 30% of the area median income ("AMI") published by HUD for the area in which the family lives, as adjusted for family size.

Institution: A skilled nursing facility (certified under 42 CFR, 442, Subpart C), an intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities or an institution for mental disease.

Persons with Disabilities: Person with disabilities shall have the meaning provided in Section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(k) (2)) subject to the targeting criteria in Section V. The term "person with disabilities" shall also include the following:

a. A person who has a developmental disability, as defined in section 102(7) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6001(5)), i.e., if he or she has a severe chronic disability which;

(i) Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;

- a. To ensure the availability of integrated, accessible, affordable and safe housing for eligible individuals who are interested in family-oriented, self-directed and consumer-focused housing.
- b. To utilize both housing and long-term care infrastructures to provide a network of support that sustains people with serious disabilities in the community.
- c. To create linkages and strengthen relationships between community [and state] agencies to provide a wider array of individualized housing options for people with disabilities where they can continue to receive supportive services.
- d. To ensure supportive services and housing environments for Section 811 PRA Program residents are of acceptable quality, are readily available and are maintained over time.

V. Target Population, Available Community Services and Prioritization of Placement

- a. The target population for Section 811 PRA Program units in Wisconsin will be persons with disabilities who are exiting institutions and desire to return to community living, or are at risk of institutionalization or homelessness because of loss of housing or the substandard quality of their current housing. To qualify for the target population, the person must meet eligibility requirements for an eligible program as defined below. Their primary barrier to returning to or remaining in the community is lack of suitable and affordable housing.
- b. Eligible programs include:
 1. Home and community-based waiver (HCBW) programs:
 - i. Family Care - Family Care operates under combined 1915 (b) and (c) authority and offers a wide range of 1915 (c) waiver services as well as long-term care services under the State Plan (personal care, home health care, nursing home, etc.). Family Care operates in all of Wisconsin's 72 counties.
 - ii. Family Care Partnership - Family Care Partnership (Partnership) covers all of the 1915 (c) waiver services as well as all State Plan services, including acute and primary care. Partnership managed care organizations are also Medicare Special Needs Plans and provide the full range of Medicare services to members who are dually-eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Family Care Partnership operates in 14 counties. Two counties have a similar program that combines the 1915 (c) waiver services with Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).
 - iii. IRIS - IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct) is a fully self-directed program that operates under 1915 (c) waiver authority. IRIS is available in the counties that have Family Care as an alternative to Family Care for eligible individuals. IRIS participants can also choose to self-direct their personal care under a 1915(j) state plan amendment.
 - iv. Children's Long Term Support Waiver - The Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) waiver is operated under 1915(a) and (c) authority and serves children up to age 22 with physical disabilities, intellectual/ developmental disabilities or serious emotional disturbances. The CLTS waiver is available statewide.
 2. Mental Health Programs operated by county human service or community programs agencies under Chapter.51, Wisconsin Statutes.
- c. Priority for matching applicants to units will be given to people who are eligible for HCBW programs. If there are no HCBW applicants on the waiting list for available units, none of the applicants elect to take a unit, or an applicant is not an appropriate match, applicants who are eligible for a mental health program will be eligible for referral for tenancy supports.
- d. The DHS will be responsible for verifying applicant eligibility for applicable programs.
- e. The qualified home and community-based services available to individuals will be consistent with the applicable state and/or federal authority and the needs of the individual.
- f. DHS commits to ensuring that applicants referred for the Section 811 PRA Program have access to available services based on the person's assessed needs.

Step 2: Pre-Screening

Designated and trained staff at a referral resource agency will assist in pre-screening the applicant for Section 811 PRA Program housing. Such staff shall use SocialServe PAIR to complete pre-screening of individuals for eligibility through an initial questionnaire. Section 811 PRA Program screening criteria include:

- Total Household Income: at or below 30% of AMI (published by HUD for the area in which the individual lives, as adjusted for family size);
- Medicaid recipient (determined by Medicaid number), if applicable;
- Disabled as defined for HUD 811;
- 18 or over and below 62 years of age;
- Not a lifetime registered sex offender; and
- Not convicted of methamphetamine production on housing authority property.

Basic personal information, housing and services information is also collected from the applicant at this time. If the applicant is found potentially eligible, they will continue for assessment and intake onto a waiting list.

Step 3: Waiting List

The applicant is added to the waitlist in prioritized order once they are found potentially eligible and the application has been completed. Units are listed on the WIHousingSearch.org locator system. When units are available, they are displayed on the dashboard on the waitlist. The DHS Housing Specialist can filter eligible applicants for matches with available Section 811 PRA Program units.

Step 4: Financial Verification and the Lease

The owner/management agent of the unit will complete the final verification of income to determine the tenant portion of monthly rent using Enterprise Income Verification and third-party verifications, enter into a HUD Section 811 PRA Program lease and perform annual re-certifications of income as required by the Section 811 PRA Program.

VIII. Roles and Responsibilities:

a. Outreach and Referral

Eligible individuals will be informed of the availability of Section 811 PRA Program units through communication with referral resource agencies who are also stakeholders in the project. To provide outreach to eligible applicants, the DHS Housing Specialist and WHEDA Contract Specialists will:

- i. Provide information and training/technical assistance to referral resource agencies about the new Section 811 PRA Program requirements and the availability of new Section 811 PRA Program units.
- ii. Facilitate the matching and referral of qualified applicants to Section 811 PRA Program unit providers with available units.
- iii. Provide information sessions to unit developers to clearly define Section 811 PRA Program rules prior to RAC deployment.
- iv. Ensure all methods of outreach, referral and management of the waiting list will be consistent with fair housing, civil rights laws and regulations and affirmative marketing requirements.
- v. Agree to assist with any necessary marketing strategies.

b. Waiting List Management/New Vacancies

- i. Property providers will be required to list their Section 811 PRA Program units on WIHousingSearch.org, which can be accomplished directly by phone, online or by fax. SocialServe's Call Center provides phone support to assist property managers in listing their units, and encourages thorough documentation of accessibility features of each unit in order to fully support the success of this program.

Contract Specialist when they are not able to resolve conflicts locally. The DHS Housing Contact and the WHEDA Contract Specialist will work with partners to ensure the units and the supportive services received are adequate to maintain an individual in the community, and that communication continues to be maintained with the individual where they live.

XIII. Maintaining the Unit

If a tenant is temporarily displaced due to circumstances beyond their control, DHS will work with the referral agency to facilitate the return of the tenant to their original unit. Designated referral resource staff will screen the applicant for disability and long term- care program eligibility, if applicable. They will also assess their need for supportive housing.

XIV. Tenant Rights and Eviction

An owner may not terminate the tenancy or refuse to renew the lease of a tenant of a HUD Section 811 PRA Program unit except when:

- 1) Tenant does one of the following: (a) commits serious or repeated violations of the terms and conditions of the lease, (b) violates Federal, State, or local law, or (c) for other good cause, and
- 2) By providing the tenant, not less than 30 days before such termination or refusal to renew, with written notice specifying the grounds for such action.
- 3) Any termination of a lease must also be done in conformity with all applicable state laws.

Julie Willem van Dijk
Name: Julie Willem van Dijk
Position: Deputy Secretary
Department of Health Services

3-20-19
date

Sherry Gerondale
Name: Sherry Gerondale
Position: Executive Director, Interim
Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority

3-22-19
date