

From OFA:

~~I wanted to reach out because I have received some questions that might come up at the agency hearing tomorrow.~~

- Fiscal Monitoring In-House
 - How will this impact the nonprofit that is currently doing this monitoring? Will they lose jobs or have to cut programs, etc.? **No impact on program or service operation. These services were previously provided by a non-profit organization. A new RFP was conducted and new vendor was awarded. However, the fiscal monitoring was not part of it.**
 - What was the rationale behind this? **Repeated findings for more than 10 years, lack of internal controls and management oversight. Now that DOH has established its own business office and officially became a Stand-Alone agency, this technical adjustment allows us to perform these services from within instead of outsourcing with more efficiency and accuracy and allowing us to have more control and oversight over the programs.**

- Positions related to November Special Session
 - There were several question about what exactly the new positions would be doing, ie how many folks on each program and what job titles, etc.:
 - **The Commissioner will work within the provided budget to support on boarding necessary staff to support the areas listed below - positions could include the following but not limited to:**
 - Housing Specialist 1
 - Durational Project Manager
 - Housing Specialist 2
 - Housing Community Development Manager
 - ECD Agent
 - Community Development Specialist
 - **What program(s) specifically are being supported?**
 - **There are a number of items in the NSS PA 25-1.**
 - **Development & Production of Housing**
 - **Technical Assistance for Municipalities**
 - **Construction on State Owned Property** [MG1][NK2]

- RAP Program

- The primary factor driving is a sharp increase in statewide rents, which have risen approximately 9% to 12% year over year. This surge in rental costs has significantly strained the Department's budget and poses challenges to maintain rental assistance payments for low-income households. This request is to bring our current operating needs and our budget in balance.^{[HW3][NK4]}
- How long does a recipient typically have a voucher for?
 - Normally, once awarded they don't come off unless they leave on their or dismiss for some disqualifying reasons.
- What are the demographics of folks being served by the program? (Elderly, Disabled, etc.) 31% are elderly, 66% are disabled, and 31% are elderly & disabled.^{[MG5][NK6]}
- How many are project based (Limited to a location) vs. how many are at the choice of the recipient? Approximately 31% are project based.^{[MG7][NK8]}
- When was the wait list last open?
 - The last time the lottery was open was back in August 2014.
- How many people are currently on the wait list?
 - 2,712
- How long does it take to get off the wait list?
 - It depends on availability and currently there is none. The only way to receive and accept a voucher is from referrals which come from the CAN or other State Agencies such as DSS, DCF, etc.

- State and Federal Vouchers

- Is there a strategy or plan to move folks off of one program onto the other?
 - No, this is not realistic because each program is unique and has its own requirements and regulations.
- There were questions about how/when federal cuts are going to affect federally funded housing vouchers (those done through local housing authorities).
 - Currently no impact on DOH voucher programs.