

URO OTR for Sunflower Houses Program 2023

Program Overview and Rationale

The Sunflower Houses Program is a transitional housing program designed to provide wraparound services to people in reentry. The goal of the Program is to reduce County recidivism rates and facilitate the successful reintegration of people in reentry into our community. The program has the ability to assist approximately 20 individuals per year with housing and successful reentry. One unit (three beds) is designated for women and/or gender non-conforming people. The goal of the Sunflower Houses Program is to promote independence for parolees and court-involved persons by reducing the stressors to transitioning back from prison or jail.

Benefit to the County

Tompkins County has made a proactive commitment to equity and diversity, including a commitment to reducing racial/ethnic disparities in the services offered by the County. Tompkins County has been a pioneer in championing decarceration and alternatives to incarceration, innovating a number of ATIs that have been impactful in keeping the jail population low since 2019. However, this success has put added emphasis on racial/ethnic disparities that continue to exist in the jail population as well as recidivism and reentry.

Cognizant of these facts, programming at the Sunflower Houses takes a culturally relevant, trauma-informed, racial equity approach to each participant as well as group activities. We are building a racially/ethnically diverse and equitable program that reduces the stressors of reentry, which disproportionately affect low income people and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) in Tompkins County. Over time, our work will help to reduce racial/ethnic disparities in the jail system.

Eliminating unnecessary re-incarceration is only the first step toward successful reintegration into the community. Access to housing and services upon reentry are also critical to help returning citizens make a successful transition back into the community and reducing County recidivism rates as well as racial/ethnic disparities.

Ask: URO OTR Funding for 2023

Executive Summary:

While OAR is operationalizing the Sunflower Houses Program, URO is asking for a renewed OTR to continue *assessing* the effectiveness of the Sunflower Houses Program to a) reduce county recidivism rates and b) assist participants with successfully obtaining permanent housing, employment, health access, transportation, as well as completing supervision and/or court-involved processes. URO is also seeking funds to develop programming for Sunflower Houses participants that fosters successful reentry based on gaps in services discovered by the research assessment.

Research Assessment: This expert assessment is possible due to the ongoing involvement of URO's Data Development Working Group, which facilitated a previous 3 year qualitative study on systemic barriers to reentry. One of the principal researchers that was involved in that qualitative study, Dr. Paula Ioanide of Rise to Equity Excellence, LLC, is overseeing the research assessment of the Sunflower Houses Program in partnership with researchers at Cornell University and Boston University. Dr. Ioanide has already collaboratively designed the research assessment of the Sunflower Houses in 2022, and anticipates that it will be able to deliver quantitative and qualitative findings to the County in July, 2023. **This research assessment process will produce the significant benefit of measuring overall recidivism rates for Tompkins County by race/ethnicity.**

To our knowledge, URO is the only organization tracking overall recidivism rates in the County. Thus, OTR funding for 2023 is needed to continue this research assessment.

Programming/Supportive Services: URO anticipates that preliminary findings from the 2022 research assessment findings will reveal gaps in reentry services or programming needed by Sunflower Houses participants. URO is requesting funding to develop supportive services/programming identified through the wrap-around service gap analysis to introduce supports/programming/services that are not provided or offered by existing social services providers/organizations. While we envision partnering with our many collaborators to develop these services/programming, URO needs allocated funding to participate in the design and implementation of the services/programming.

Detailed Overview of Research Assessment:

The research assessment of the Sunflower Houses Program involves the following hypotheses and measures:

Hypothesis:

Providing safe, affordable housing with wrap-around services for Sunflower Houses participants who are in reentry, on parole, and/or court-involved will reduce overall recidivism rates and improve successful reentry in Tompkins County.

Research Design

- a) quantitatively assessing the impact of the Sunflower Houses Program relative to the following quantitative external measures:
 - (i) impact on county recidivism rates (rebooking, possibly resentencing, and revocation);
 - (ii) impact on parole, court-supervision violation rates;
 - (iii) impact on racial/ethnic disparities in Tompkins County jail
 - (iv) reentry services used by participants
 - (v) most useful reentry services used by participants
 - (vi) reentry services needed by participants but not yet existing
- b) quantitatively and qualitatively assessing the impact of the Sunflower Houses Program on removing barriers to successful reentry for participants using measures that include but are not limited to:
 - (i) obtaining permanent housing;
 - (ii) obtaining stable, living wage employment;
 - (iii) obtaining health insurance and actively engaging in health care services;
 - (iv) accessing transportation;
 - (v) meeting court-involved obligations and requirements (e.g. parole, drug court, etc.)
- c) qualitatively assessing the impact of the Sunflower Houses Program on participants' ability to meet their own personal goals.

The above measures will compare Sunflower Houses participants with OAR clients who are houseless as well as overall county population data to determine whether accessing safe, affordable housing with wrap-around services makes an impactful difference in recidivism rates and successful reintegration.

The research assessment budget includes funding for principal researchers and research assistants (the principal investigator, research assistants from Cornell's MPH program to assist with quantitative and qualitative research such as coding, quantitative analyses); technology tools such as transcription services

and the Clear Impact/Compyle database used to develop and examine quantitative measures (see budget outline below).

RBA Measures

In addition to the quantitative and qualitative measures above, OAR is working with the research assessment team to establish and analyze results-based accountability measures (RBAs) for the Sunflower Houses Program. RBA measures assess: 1) How many people are being served by the Program? 2) How well are they being served? 3) How are participants better off?

Between Jan 2022-June 2022, RBA measures are as follows:

Sunflower Housing Performance						(one year)
HOW MUCH: Measures quantity						
18	entering program	6	exiting program	193	average length of stay in days	
HOW WELL: measures quality				BETTER OFF: measure effect		
Income				Housing		
\$2,700 Change in income from entry to exit				66% exited into permanent housing		
% Increase income				% Permanent Housing		
% No data				% Temporary		
% Increase with Temporary assistance				% Emergency shelter		
% Stable with no income				% Homeless		
% Decreased income				% Incarcerated		
				% Institutional		
				% Other*		
				% Unknown		

The RBA measures are tracked using the Clear Impact/Compyle database.

Research Deliverables:

1. Development and implementation of intake processes using OAR's Clear Impact data platform to enable higher quality quantitative data gathering on Sunflower Houses participants and OAR clients.
2. Annual assessment report to URO outlining quantitative and qualitative data findings on effectiveness of Sunflower Houses Program on impacting recidivism rates, successful reentry, and meeting participants' personal goals.
3. Gap analysis of reentry services or programming needed with recommendations.
4. Report and presentation to Tompkins County Legislators.

Proposed OTR Budget for 2023

Item	Payee	2023 Dates	Hourly Rate	Hours per week	No. of Weeks	Total Amount
Principal Researcher--Design & Assessment	Paula Ioanide, Rise to Equity Excellence, LLC	1/1/23-12/31/23	\$125.00	2	45	\$11,250.00
Summer 2023	TBD-	5/25/22-7/29	\$22.00	20	9	\$3,960.00

Qualitative Research Assistant	Partnership with MPH/Govt Program at Cornell	/22				
Spring 2023 Research Assistant	TBD- Partnership with MPH/Govt Program at Cornell	8/15/22-11/21/22	\$22.00	5	14	\$1,540.00
Otter Annual Multiuser Transcription Subscription	Reimburseme nt to Principal Researcher	1/1/23-12/31/23			52	\$480.00
OAR Clear Impact/ Compyle Client Database	Reimburseme nt to OAR	1/1/23-12/31/23			52	\$4,800.00
URO Programming Based on Services Gap Analysis	URO	1/1/23-12/31/23			52	\$10,000.00
CTA Admin Fee (15%)		1/1/23-12/31/23			52	\$4,804.50
TOTAL						\$36,834.50