



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

*Informing the City of Boston's planning process
for programs, services and other resources as part of a recovery campus on Long
Island.*



City of Boston
Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Dear providers, caregivers, impacted individuals, and invested residents:

This Request for Information is an open call to anyone who cares about people touched by substance use disorder (SUD). We are requesting your help finding new answers in the search for treatment, support, and long-term recovery. We want to hear from you.

Greater Boston is experiencing the devastating effects of the national opioid epidemic, along with other forms of SUD like alcohol and cocaine. The City and our partners have taken many steps to address this crisis, from putting overdose medication in every public safety vehicle to creating the nation's first Office of Recovery Services. We are always working to do more.

But this is a crisis of historic proportions—and our long-term response must match it.

That's why we have committed to creating a Recovery Campus on Long Island in Boston Harbor.

Long Island is a unique place—two square miles of serenity, close to the city but buffered by the Harbor. It hosted human services in the past, including addiction treatment. Now, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to repurpose the Island's infrastructure, re-imagine its possibilities, and develop a new model of recovery services for the region.

We need your help to create this vision. We invite our partners and potential partners to help us better understand the people we must serve, the needs we must address, the challenges we face, and the new and existing ideas for meeting them. Help us strengthen and expand the continuum of care. Help us design spaces and services that allow people to reclaim their lives. Help our region show the nation the way forward to ending the crisis of substance use disorder.

I believe in Long Island. For many years, as part of my own recovery, I went there to share with patients my experience, strength, and hope. I believe we can create, together, a Long Island Recovery Campus where those being tossed by turbulent waters can find a peaceful shore. I look forward to hearing your ideas.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh

Mayor, City of Boston



OVERVIEW

A place of serenity, Long Island once played a prominent role in Boston's recovery landscape. Now it is at the heart of our next step in the fight against the opioid crisis. This RFI serves as a step forward towards creating the comprehensive, long-term addiction recovery campus that our city and region have never had before.

A full-service campus will meet the most pressing need we have in the fight against opioids: more treatment beds, more transitional supports and sober housing, and a more seamless "continuum of care" across the journey from detox to a life reclaimed.

A Long Island campus will increase and balance capacity across each stage of treatment at a scale not possible in a neighborhood setting. It will provide a peaceful place for long-term treatment, especially helpful for those who need time away from old routines and tough situations. It will also act as a clearinghouse for available placements along the continuum, across the region. In short, it will be the hub of Greater Boston's recovery universe.

OUR GOALS

1. *Provide the highest quality services.*
Ensuring access to the highest levels of medical care, social services, and treatment for all island guests and staff is our foremost goal. Maintaining excellence in service delivery will be our priority through every step of this process.
2. *Bolster our region's continuum of care.*
Create new ways for people to find the care they need regardless of their personal circumstances. We believe our civic duty is to ensure that everyone has access to competent and compassionate care.
3. *Explore new forms of care.*
In addition to improving the recovery continuum, we hope that this process of gathering stakeholder input will yield new, innovative ideas for services and programming. This could mean more fully integrating the arts therapy and other opportunities for creative self expression into the service continuum. Or it could mean making workforce development and job training opportunities more readily available to individuals in recovery. We want to give service providers a space to work towards innovative approaches to recovery services, while protecting the safety, privacy, and dignity of all guests and staff. Maintaining excellent core services and trying new things need not be mutually exclusive.



4. *Give guests a say.*
Open as many opportunities as possible for guests to co-create what happens on the new recovery campus. We believe this is crucial not only for helping guests find agency in their recoveries, but of continually updating the recovery campus offerings to respond to changing needs and times.
5. *Designing a cohesive campus.*
Thoughtfully designing an environment that is welcoming, connective, and creative. Through this, we can support people with different needs and from different backgrounds to find a common community of recovery.
6. *Connecting resources.*
At any one particular time, there might be several resources a person needs, from healthcare to housing to legal assistance. And over time, new resources will be needed. The recovery campus should connect people to the resources they need, while preparing them for the journey ahead.

OUR COMMITMENT

Today, the City of Boston makes the following commitments:

1. We will invest a total of about \$92 million needed to rebuild the bridge that once connected the island to the shore to regain use of the island, and create a comprehensive recovery campus.
2. We will lead the search for further investments into updated and renovated facilities on the island so that the facilities meet state and federal regulations for substance use treatment programs and incorporate innovation.
3. We see the island as the future home of a new kind of recovery campus, offering a cohesive and comprehensive continuum of care for folks struggling with SUDs.
4. We will continue to convene stakeholders across the region and engage the broader community because we recognize that the opioid epidemic has taken a personal, regional and national toll.

OUR ASSETS

Just over 7 miles away from Long Wharf, in the middle of Boston Harbor, sits an opportunity to reimagine the ways we provide services and provide long term pathways to wellbeing for those in need of recovery care. Long Island is 1.75 miles (2.82 km) long and



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covers 225 acres (0.9 km²). There are existing built structures on the island and each of its fifteen buildings will be assessed to determine if and how they can be renovated to accommodate new uses. Thus, our assets include the infrastructure needed to support programming in these buildings (i.e electricity, heat, plumbing etc.)

We consider open space - i.e. undeveloped land that has no buildings or other built structures - to be as much an asset as built environments and infrastructure, and we welcome proposals for creative and innovative uses of open space on Long Island in your responses.

OUR PERSPECTIVE

Long Island and its possibilities represent only one part of a much larger continuum of care that the City of Boston and its partners envision. This continuum includes services we already deliver; however, we recognize that there are gaps in existing services and delivery systems as well as areas of the continuum that could be improved. Thus, our goal is to both effectively integrate existing services and programs into the physical environment of Long Island and to use the restructuring on Long Island as an opportunity to address the aforementioned service gaps and expand the continuum of care in innovative ways.

Finally, these efforts are informed by and will complement a broader strategic planning process, as the City envisions a new approach to substance use treatment and recovery services. Further, given the scale and complexity of the opioid epidemic, our approach must include stakeholders from multiple sectors and levels of government from across Massachusetts. It needs to be collaborative and coordinated. In other words, it needs to be regional to succeed. The City of Boston is determined to be a regional leader on issues of substance use and recovery. And in developing a recovery campus on Long Island, we hope to lead by example.

OUR INVITATION

A Request for Information (RFI) is us simply saying “we don’t have all the answers,” and are asking for help. At this very early stage of our process, that help will come in many different shapes and sizes and our hope is from many different practitioners and sectors. We would like to hear your ideas, thoughts, and proposals for what should and can happen on Long Island. Thank you!



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APPENDIX 1: RESPONSES

Introduce Yourself

Please tell us more about why you are submitting a proposal and your background.

Project Concept, Ideas, and Suggestions

In as much detail as possible, explain your concept or idea for the Long Island recovery campus.

Long Responses:

1. **Proposal:** submit a proposal to Long-Island@boston.gov, no more than 10 pages, of your vision for comprehensive recovery campus on Long Island. Please be sure to put "RFI" in the subject of your email.
2. **Civic Media:** we are seeking to offer multiple ways to engage the wide range of people and communities that care about this issue. Share any form of media that expresses your original (as in, you made it) idea related to this RFI. Anything you choose to submit must be original and ready to be shared widely with the public.

Short Responses:

3. **Input:** we have created an online form to make it easy for you to share any input or feedback you would like to provide to the City and its partners with respect to the creation of a comprehensive recovery campus on Long Island. We're all ears! [Link here.](#)

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT BACKGROUND

The City of Boston is soliciting input from all community stakeholders and service providers to the inform the process of designing a recovery campus on Long Island. The development of new facilities on the Island comes at a critical moment, due to the severity of the opioid epidemic nationally, and the concentration of individuals experiencing opioid use disorders in Boston. Given the diverse and complex needs of this population, the City plans to create a campus on Long Island that can provide a comprehensive array of recovery services spanning all levels of a continuum of care that ranges from inpatient detoxification programs, to transitional support services and residential treatment (see Appendix 3). Further, the City intends to provide the highest quality of care and to explore



new and innovative service delivery methods. However, we recognize that licensure and regulatory requirements provide only minimum operating standards for recovery programs and the facilities that house them. Likewise, we understand the importance of thoughtful, forward thinking and human centered design in competent delivery of services.

Thus, the City is gathering input, insights and best practices from providers and other interested parties to inform the design of both the programs and services that will ultimately be located on Long Island, as well as the design of the physical space itself. Together, we believe we can leverage existing facilities on Long Island and create a campus that goes beyond these baseline requirements.

The City intends to provide the highest quality of service *and* to explore new and innovative methods of care. We want you to join us in this exploration.

APPENDIX 3: MOST RECENT USES OF LI

Formerly, the Boston Public Health Commission provided social service programs on Long Island, including shelter services for individuals experiencing homelessness as well as recovery programs. Before the bridge closure in 2014, the Island supported 740 shelter beds all of which have permanently relocated in the City. The Island's facilities also housed 225 recovery beds for six recovery programs:

The Wyman Recovery Home

The Wyman Recovery Home is a 30-bed, 4-6 month residential substance use disorders (SUDs) recovery program. The program provides SUDS recovery services for men who are 18 years of age and older.

Transitions

Transitions is a 40 bed, evidence-based, short-term treatment program for adults. The goal of Transitions to offer a safe and therapeutic environment that support clients in their recovery. Transitions focuses on relapse prevention, behavior modification, interpersonal skill development, and re-socialization skills.

Andrew House

Andrew House currently operates a 32-bed facility located at 170 Morton St., Jamaica Plain, on the 4th Floor South of Shattuck Hospital. The program specializes in treating men who, in addition to substance use disorder, may also be living with mental health disorders, HIV+/AIDS, using more than one substance, or may be receiving methadone maintenance medication.

Hello House

Hello House is a residential recovery program for men coping with drug and alcohol



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addiction. This program is designed to take from three to six months to complete with an average length of stay of 95 days.

Joelyn's Home

Joelyn's Home is a 24-bed, women's residential recovery program.

Volunteers of America (VOA) Rebound Program

The VOA Rebound Program was originally opened as a 30 bed program for those experiencing mental health and substance use issues. The program reduced over time to a 15 bed residential program for adolescent males funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Long Island is also home to Camp Harbor View, a summer camp that serves 900 youths (each year) from Boston's most underserved neighborhoods through two four-week summer camp sessions, as well as Hannah Farm, operated by the B.GOOD restaurant chain. The farm donates 75% of its total harvest to Camp Harbor View and helps campers connect with food by teaching farming, healthy eating, and entrepreneurship at the camp every day.

APPENDIX 4: Timeline and Process

Submission

10/5/18: RFI made available

11/2/18: Submissions due to Long-Island@boston.gov, Due by 12:00 Noon Boston Local

Follow Up

11/23/2018: City may contact you to come in for an interview

11/30/2018: City will publicly post next steps on Boston.gov/Long-Island

APPENDIX 5:

This RFI is for information and planning purposes only and shall not be construed as a solicitation or as an obligation on the part of the City to issue any competitive procurement or award a contract.

The City will not award a contract on the basis of responses to this RFI nor otherwise pay for the preparation of any information submitted, for any vendor presentation, or the City's use of such information.



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All responses to this RFI will be public record under the Massachusetts' Public Records Law, Mass. Gen. L. ch. 66 s. 10, regardless of confidentiality notices to the contrary.

By submitting, applicant authorizes the City of Boston to publicize, refer to, and use your application as it sees fit.