



## Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

DANIEL W. TIETZ  
Commissioner

BARBARA C. GUINN  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 20, 2023

Nadine Morrell  
Audit Director  
Office of the State Comptroller  
110 State Street  
Albany, NY 12236

Re: Reimbursement of Homeless Shelter Providers  
Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse (2021-S-034)

Dear Nadine Morrell:

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) respectfully submits this 180-day response to the Office of the State Comptroller's (OSC) final report regarding the Reimbursement of Homeless Shelter Providers – Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse (2021-S-034 (October 2022)). The purpose of this letter is to update the OSC as to OTDA's implementation of the recommendations made by the OSC regarding OTDA's controls around the reimbursement of local social services districts' homeless shelter expenses. Copies of this response will be sent separately to the Governor, the State Comptroller, and the leaders of the Legislature as well as legislative fiscal committees as required. This letter constitutes OTDA's compliance with Section 170 of the Executive Law.

In response to the specific recommendations in OSC's report, OTDA responds as outlined below.

### **OSC Recommendations**

1. Review and recover, as appropriate, the \$22,277 in personal service costs and \$3,846 in Other Than Personal Services (OTPS) costs improperly reimbursed to Rescue Mission.

**OTDA Response:** OTDA continues to maintain that the food related portion of the OTPS costs OSC referenced (\$3,785) are reasonable and allowable expenses. OTDA will work with the Onondaga County Department of Social Services (OCDSS) to recover the non-food related OTPS costs of \$61 and the \$22,227 in personal services costs that OSC had identified as unallowable.

2. Establish a system of monitoring controls to improve oversight of Local Districts' reimbursement to providers to ensure that expenses are allowable, allocable, reasonable, and consistent with approved budget costs and the contract.

**OTDA Response:** OTDA has implemented this recommendation and has enhanced our subrecipient monitoring activities as necessary.

3. Ensure that the OCDSS is appropriately approving reimbursed expenses submitted by providers.

**OTDA Response:** OTDA has implemented this recommendation and has enhanced our subrecipient monitoring activities as necessary.

4. Issue guidance and provide support to Local Districts on reimbursable shelter costs to ensure costs are allowable, allocated appropriately, and compliant with relevant regulations and guidelines.

**OTDA Response:** OTDA has developed updated guidance regarding reimbursement of shelter providers by districts. The new guidance is expected to be issued shortly.

If you have questions or comments concerning this letter, please contact Thomas Cooper at (518) 473-4601 or [Thomas.Cooper@otda.ny.gov](mailto:Thomas.Cooper@otda.ny.gov).

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Tietz  
Commissioner

cc: Barbara C. Guinn