



Connecticut Integrated Healthcare & Housing Neighborhoods

The Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition, in collaboration with the Partnership for Strong Communities' Reaching Home Campaign have been awarded a Social Innovation Fund subgrant from CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing) to develop innovative solutions that link supportive housing and health care. The funded project, *Connecticut Integrated Healthcare & Housing Neighborhoods*, is one of four pilot programs selected by CSH to participate in a national effort to demonstrate that the integration of housing, case management and health services is effective in improving health outcomes for the vulnerable men and women caught in a revolving door of hospitals, emergency rooms, detox and other crisis health services.

Connecticut Integrated Healthcare & Housing Neighborhoods will house and provide patient-centered health care to 160 individuals in an effort to integrate housing, case management and health care to improve health and well-being while lowering public costs. This multi-year pilot employs a health home outreach model using assertive outreach and care coordination to link high-cost, high-need clients with primary care, behavioral healthcare and supportive/affordable housing. The overall project aims to identify and target Medicaid-enrolled high utilizers of health services who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who may have chronic physical and/or mental illnesses, including substance abuse disorders, and to demonstrate stabilization and reduction in acute services utilization and cost, improved health outcomes and housing stability..

TARGET POPULATION

Men and women who meet all of the following criteria:

- Very low-income
- Homeless or in persistent housing crisis
- Be in the highest decile of Medicaid services utilization

least 10 additional housing vouchers through various mainstream housing programs

KEY FEATURES AND INNOVATIONS

Cross-System Partnerships: A comprehensive and diverse collaborative of housing agencies, primary and behavioral health care providers, nonprofit social service organizations and government agencies

Data-Driven Strategy: Administrative data matched across Medicaid and HMIS systems to identify the specific target population

Outreach, Recruitment and Engagement: Assertive outreach into crisis service, institutional settings and homeless service settings

Housing Resources: 150 Rental Assistance Program vouchers provided by the Department of Social Services; at

Integrated Health and Housing Services: The combination of supportive housing with intensive case management and client-centered primary and behavioral health care coordinated by a newly developed patient navigator workforce.

Evidence-based Practices: Based on Housing First principles in case management model and a Harm Reduction approach to substance use.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Participant Level

- Improve physical and mental health, decrease mortality rates and reduce substance abuse
- Reduce homelessness and increase housing stability
- Reduce emergency room utilization
- Reduce medical and psychiatric inpatient admissions and hospital days
- Reduce utilization of detox facilities, shelters, jails and other crisis service systems

Systems Level

- Increase visibility, awareness and understanding of the relationship between health and housing stability
- Reduce public and private health care costs
- Break down systemic barriers to coordinated primary and behavioral health care and enhance the quality of care delivered
- Integrate affordable housing resources with the health care system
- Build a solid base of evidence for supportive housing's effectiveness as a health care solution
- Engage local and state level policymakers to stimulate system changes that work toward sustaining and disseminating the model of care
- Support the development of the professional role of "Patient Navigators" as integral to integrating supportive housing and health care services.

PROGRAM SERVICES

- Assertive outreach and engagement
- Intake and comprehensive needs assessment
- Connection to affordable housing and vouchers
- Intensive case management
- Coordinated primary and behavioral health care
- Medication management support
- Landlord-tenant mediation and eviction prevention
- Community living supports
- Employment and education support
- Income and benefits maintenance supports

GRANT PARTNERS

Lead Agency

Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition
with Partnership for Strong Communities

Non-profit Housing & Service Providers

Columbus House, New Haven
Journey Home, Hartford
New London Homeless Hospitality
Center, New London
StayWell Healthcare, Waterbury
Supportive Housing WORKS,
Bridgeport

Integrated Health

Community Health Network of CT
ValueOptions
Federally Qualified Health Centers
Local Mental Health Authorities

Government

Department of Mental Health and
Addiction Services
Department of Social Services Rental
Assistance Program

Funding

CSH Social Innovation Fund grant
and philanthropic partners

Evaluation

New York University

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