

Supportive Housing

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What is Supportive Housing?

Supportive Housing is a proven, cost-effective solution for families and individuals experiencing homelessness who are facing complex co-occurring mental health, substance use, and medical issues. Supportive Housing pairs **Affordable Housing** that is safe, secure, and permanent, and **Supportive Services** that are flexible, voluntary services to increase housing stability and improve wellbeing.

The Need

According to analysis led by CSH, 29% of individuals and 14% of CT families experiencing homelessness, or **1,700 households**, have specific and severe needs that are best supported with Supportive Housing. The average annual turnover in Supportive Housing only results in about 771 available units, leaving more than 900 individuals and families in need of Supportive Housing each year.

The Solution

In addition to an increased investment in rental assistance, the state should **increase the DMHAS Housing Supports and Services line by \$2.25 million in FY 23 to expand supportive services to 300 scattered site and development units for highly vulnerable individuals and families experiencing homelessness with persistent obstacles to maintaining housing stability.**

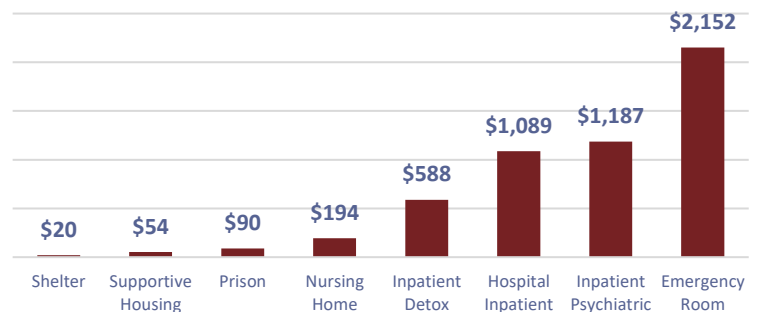
Impact

Supportive Housing is a cost-effective alternative to expensive and less effective crisis and institutional settings. Investing in supportive housing services has been shown to significantly reduce the utilization of emergency and crisis services and significantly reduce the cost of care. While housing provides the essential first step in addressing conditions that have gone untreated for years, supportive services help tenants connect to the resources, benefits, and community supports they need to thrive.

Supportive Housing Breaks the Cycle of Homelessness

- Fosters self-sufficiency and stability
- Facilitates the process of securing and retaining employment
- Prevents unnecessary use of emergency health systems
- Reduces recidivism and lowers incarceration costs
- Promotes preventative care

Cost of Supportive Housing Compared to Alternate Settings



Sources: Shelter - CT Coalition to End Homelessness; Supportive Housing - Corporation for Supportive Housing; Prison - CT Dept. of Corrections; Nursing Home - CT Dept. of Social Services (DSS); Inpatient Detox - CT Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Hospital Inpatient - Yale-New Haven Hospital; Inpatient Psychiatric - CT Dept of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Emergency Room - St. Francis Hospital, Hartford
Data updated June 2011 by the Partnership for Strong Communities