Making Homelessness in Connecticut Rare, Brief and One Time

Supportive Housing

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.