

Re-Entry Supportive Housing

Fact Sheet

Supportive Housing

- The essential model of supportive housing — affordable housing closely linked to coordinated supportive services — works well for people exiting incarceration.
- Upon release, supportive housing can provide a meaningful opportunity for stability for those whose untreated chronic health, mental health, and addiction problems would otherwise likely lead to a quick return to homelessness, relapse, and/or recidivism.
- As with any systems change effort, embedding supportive housing as an essential component of re-entry and diversion programs requires close inter-agency collaboration among public agencies, including criminal justice, housing, mental health, substance use, and other stakeholders.



Need

- Every year, over 650,000 people are released from prisons and more than 7 million individuals are released from jails in the United States. Many persons with mental health and substance use issues cycle between homelessness and incarceration for months or years at great public expense and with tragic human outcomes. Across the country:
 - 26% of people in jail report that they were homeless in the year prior to incarceration.
 - At least 16% of people in jail and prison suffer from mental illness.
 - 80% of people in jail and prison have a history of substance use.
 - Individuals who do not have housing are seven times more likely to violate parole.
- There is a small but significant subset of people—often referred to as “frequent flyers”—that are typically homeless, transient, and have complex health and behavioral health issues. They cycle in and out of incarceration, homeless shelters, psychiatric hospitals, detox and drug treatment programs, and other emergency service systems at immense public expense and with bad outcomes.
- Experts observe that, of all the issues facing returning prisoners, none is more immediate — or arguably more important — than the need to secure housing. **Without access to safe and affordable housing, people re-entering the community have little or no chance at success; and without housing the success of other supports like employment services, mentoring, and substance abuse counseling is extremely limited.**

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Results

- The Frequent Users Service Enhancement (FUSE) Initiative in New York has been extremely successful in helping people maintain housing and avoid returns to homelessness. Provider housing retention data shows that FUSE has:
 - 91% housing retention rate for the first year following placement.
 - 85% housing retention for all placements ranging up to 34 months in duration.
- An evaluation conducted by the John Jay College of the first year following placement demonstrates:
 - 53% reduction of jail days utilized in the year after placement.
 - 92% reduction of shelter days utilized in the year after placement.
- In Seattle, studies of supportive housing at 1811 Eastlake demonstrate:
 - 52% reduction in jail bookings and 45% reduction in days spent in jail.

“For populations who are most at risk for criminal justice involvement, supportive or affordable housing has been shown to be a cost-effective public investment, lowering corrections and jail expenditures and freeing up funds for other public safety investments.” — Justice Policy Institute

About CSH and the Returning Home Initiative

The **Corporation for Supportive Housing** (CSH) is a national non-profit organization and community development financial institution that helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. Founded in 1991, CSH advances its mission by providing advocacy, expertise, leadership, and financial resources to make it easier to create and operate supportive housing. CSH seeks to help create an expanded supply of supportive housing for people, including single adults, families with children, and young adults, who have extremely low-incomes, who have disabling conditions, and/or face other significant challenges that place them at on-going risk of homelessness.

CSH's national *Returning Home* Initiative aims to end the cycle of incarceration and homelessness that thousands of people face by engaging the criminal justice systems and integrating the efforts of housing, human service, corrections, and other agencies. *Returning Home* focuses on better serving people with histories of homelessness and incarceration by placing them to supportive housing.



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For information about how your community can learn more contact reentry@csh.org or visit our website www.csh.org