



## Expanding Permanent Supportive Housing

Supportive housing is critical to ending homelessness in Illinois and achieving housing stability for many Illinoisians. Supportive Housing is innovative, evidence-based, and person-centered. It connects affordable housing and supportive services to Illinoisans who need them.

Many Illinoisans have been housing instable for long time. Homelessness often intersects with other institutions, including health, criminal justice, and child welfare. People of color and people with disabilities are disproportionately experiencing a state of housing crisis that moves them between the institutions and homelessness- exacerbating vulnerabilities to death.

Supportive housing appropriately serves households experiencing literal homelessness and other housing vulnerable population. This is also the evidenced based housing intervention for those exiting or at risk of institutions/residential programs for people with mental health or intellectual/developmental disabilities, those exiting criminal justice systems, the aging population, and youth and families involved with child welfare systems. To achieve housing stability, Illinois will need an additional 40,749 units of supportive housing.

### **Supportive Housing Is...**

Supportive Housing is as diverse as the people and communities it serves. It is a powerful change factor- helping individuals and families throughout Illinois by providing affordable housing and supportive services. Housing is the platform where Illinoisans can achieve wellness, reach economic stability, and be a part of their communities.

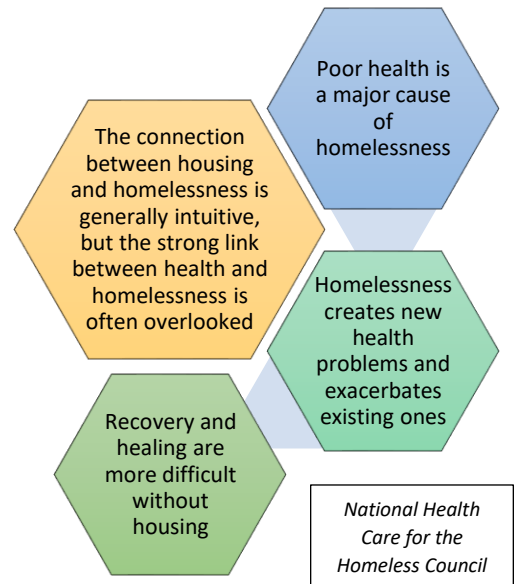
*Simply Put- Supportive Housing is affordable housing with person-led supportive services.*

Supportive Housing is a solution that combines Housing and Health Care. The supportive services are critical to a person’s stability once they enter housing. Housing is the platform needed to ensure supportive services are effective. *Health and Housing are fundamentally connected.*

### **Achieving Housing Stability in Illinois: Expanding Supportive Housing**

Each year the Illinois Housing Development Authority develops supportive housing with funding available through the National Housing Trust Fund, Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and US Department of Housing and Urban Development HOME Program dollars. These funding sources produce an average of only 144 supportive housing units each year.

Approximately 4-6 projects, or about 150 units, cannot be created because of the currently limited funding source for supportive housing development. Development costs have increased nearly thirty percent in recent years as well. The projected average cost to develop a 25-unit supportitve housing project in Illinois is \$9 million. Leveraging this moment, Illinois can significantly increase its supportive housing development. ***With an appropriation of \$250 million of emergency relief funding, Illinois has the potential to develop 700 units of supportive housing over the next 3 years.***



## Program Recommendations

These programs serve high need populations. It is important that supportive services are funded appropriately to meet this population's needs. Supportive housing differs from traditional affordable housing because of the addition of supportive services, which require dedicated, sustainable funding sources. A multi-year PSH expansion plan from the state can help programs create and properly resources these programs.

## Policy Recommendations

- Racial Equity & Leadership of people with lived experience of homelessness in Illinois
- Supportive Housing should be prioritized and operated by the following evidence-based practices: Housing First, Low Barrier Access, Harm Reduction, Motivational Interviewing, Person Centered, Trauma-Informed Care and other Evidence-Based Practices
- Funding should be flexible with clear guidance from funder and minimal requirements to achieve regulation compliance. Community policies should be the oversight of these programs.
- Cross-Sector Collaboration could expand access to supportive services through Medicaid or other insurance
- Connecting housing developers and supportive services providers is important and need a systemic focus.
- Housing Navigation is a critical component and emerging best practice of both supportive housing and the homeless response system. This component lacks systemic capacity and resources necessary to allow for its effective and efficient implementation statewide. It is an unmet need and could possibly be scaled appropriately by modelling other statewide initiatives- such as the Community Health Worker Program

## Procedure Recommendations

- Funding entities should find ways to align resources
  - Example: Rolling applications that considered with other department applications. Interagency applications.
- Barriers to applications and allocation should be reduced
  - Example: if waivers exist, they should be utilized when appropriate
- Data driven decisions should be made and geographic equity should be a priority
- The Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness should act as an implementation group to streamline processes, align resources, set objectives, and ensure accountability

**This is a time to dream big, align our diverse expertise, and ensure that Illinoisians who face a housing crisis have a system that provides them with housing and services that meet both their emergency and permanent needs.**

“The high public costs and poor health outcomes associated with homelessness and inappropriate institutionalization is an issue that health care systems can no longer afford to ignore.

Two decades of research on supportive housing and practical experience have taught us that a comprehensive view of health necessarily includes housing and other social factors.”

*‘Housing is the Best Medicine Supportive Housing and the Social Determinants of Health’*

*The Corporation for Supportive Housing*