

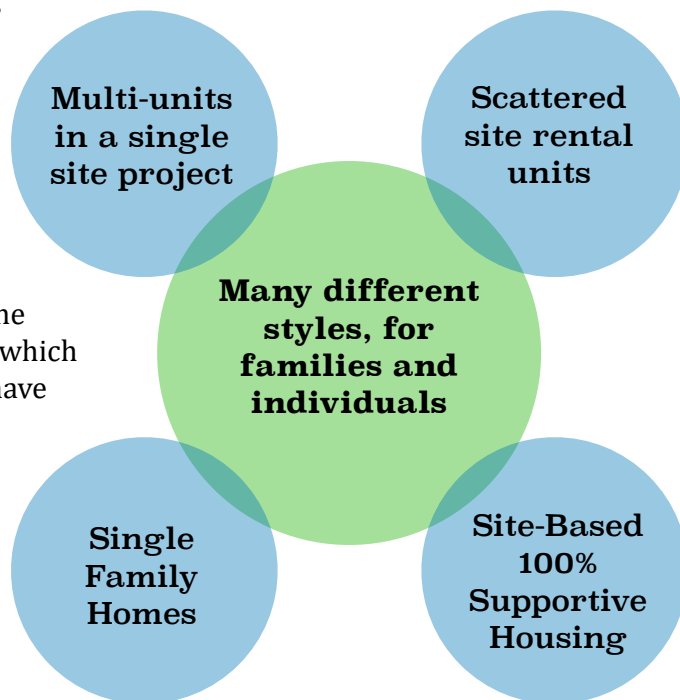
# Supportive Housing: What Is It?

Supportive housing pairs affordable housing with wrap-around, person-centered supportive services to improve quality of life while reducing demands on local first responders and saving state and local taxpayer dollars.

We offer case management, advocacy, alcohol and substance abuse counseling, mental health programs, and other critical services. Across the state, we serve an estimated 26,549 people of which 17,684 beds are dedicated to Illinoisans who have experienced homelessness.

Illinoisans not able to access supportive housing services are more likely to reside in nursing homes or state institutions — alternatives that are far more expensive for Illinois taxpayers — or on the street, where they may stress the resources of local emergency rooms, police and other first responders, and jails, increasing costs for local taxpayers. Supportive housing services:

- Reduce recidivism.
- Include wrap-around services such as supported employment and are tied to GED and other educational programs.
- Promote economic access, equity and opportunity through decent, safe, affordable housing; and opportunities for supported employment.
- Ensure access for individuals with disabilities to mental health and substance use treatment, HIV/AIDS care, and preventative health, vision and dental care — all of which would not be readily available to a person who is homeless.



**“Supportive Housing provides an essential platform for the delivery of services that lead to improved health and stability.**

**“First, at the most basic level, housing provides physical safety, protection and access to basic needs.**

**“Second, supportive housing improves access to quality health care both by providing a physical space for service delivery (e.g., in-home case management, nursing, ADL supports) as well as access to support staff that link tenants to community-based social, mental health, substance abuse and primary/specialty medical care services.**

**“Third, supportive housing provides a foundation for engaging tenants in managing their own care and promoting lifestyle changes that lead to good health.”**

- Housing is the Best Medicine- Supportive Housing and the Social Determinants of Health, CSH July 2014