



Stepping Stone Community Residence SRO - New York, NY Extended-Stay Transitional Housing for Young Adults with Mental Illnesses

Stepping Stone Community Residence SRO

Extended-stay transitional housing units serving 20 – 30 young adults within a 150-unit Single Room Occupancy building. The project opened in 1996, and the young adult component was implemented in 2001.

Owner, Developer, Property Manager and Service Provider:
Institute for Community Living

Targeted Tenancy:

Young adults (ages 18 – 30) with Axis I mental health diagnosis, including some tenants with histories of homelessness and some tenants have a dual diagnosis of mental illness and chemical dependency. Applicants must also have an income (often times SSI or SSDI) and “readiness for rehabilitation” is assessed.

Service Approach and Philosophy:

ICL’s approach is to encourage all tenants, but especially the young adults, to become aware of community resources and to provide environmental exposure opportunities to them with an emphasis on independent living skills development. Participation in services is a requirement of tenancy, and SSI/SSDI checks are sent directly to the agency and a personal needs allowance is then distributed to the tenant. Weekly young adult “rap groups” are held to discuss issues related to career goals, medications, relationships, and other issues.

Key Features and Innovations:

- ICL’s young adult project was developed as a result of a senior staff person recognizing that young adults (under the age of 30) were often “screened out” of supportive housing.
- The agency began to make special efforts to “screen in” such young adults, and to develop specialized programming for them, including implementing on-going staff trainings around issues of serving young adults.
- Housing is transitional, but defined as “extended stay” – tenants are never evicted because of a time limit, but the program’s intention is to prepare young adults to move into appropriate permanent housing settings, including ICL’s own scattered-site supportive housing.
- Youth have become motivated to make great strides towards their independent living goals in order to not continue to need the same level of services at an older age.

Financing Information:

Operating and Services:

NYS Office of Mental Health	\$919 per unit per month
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Additionally, tenants receive \$139 personal needs allowance. Both this personal needs allowance and the \$919 per month operating and services funding are paid by Supplemental Security Income /Social Security Disability.

Total:	\$1,058 per unit per month
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Staffing Information:

- Approximately one Case Manger for each 10 tenants.
- Front Desk Security coverage 24/7.
- Employment Specialists (agency-wide) assist with educational & vocational goal setting and attainment.
- No staff dedicated to the young adults only, but efforts to incorporate such staffing are on-going.

Additional Project Details

About Institute for Community Living, Inc.:

The Institute for Community Living, Inc. (ICL) is a not-for-profit organization that began in 1986 by assuming sponsorship of a 150-bed residential program serving people with serious mental illness in Brooklyn. Since then, ICL has developed an additional 1200 housing units offering a variety of living options to disabled New Yorkers. ICL assists people with mental and developmental disabilities who need opportunities to improve their quality of life and to participate in community living by providing high quality services and support. They serve over 8,000 people in Brooklyn, Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Building Design and Amenities:

Approximately 20 - 30 young adults in a 150 unit single-site 5-story building. Each tenant has their own bedroom, with shared baths, kitchens, and living room facilities.

Referral Sources:

Referrals provided by children's residential treatment centers (RTCs) and foster care agencies.

Significant Building Rules:

No smoking in any part of the building. Curfew at 12:00 Midnight for all tenants, not just the young adults, with later returns requiring pre-approval of staff. Guests allowed in common areas only.

Evaluation and Quality Assurance Methods:

There are weekly case reviews of each tenant by the case manager and program supervisor. ICL is beginning to analyze and compare and contrast the young adults progress to that of the other adults, and hope to have data available in the near future.

Program Outcomes:

Focus on assisting tenants with: managing their illness; understanding the need and purpose of medication; educational and vocational goals; and independent living skills. While tenants are never evicted because of a time limit, the goal is for each tenant to move out in approximately 18 to 24 months.

About CSH:

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) is a national, nonprofit organization that helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. CSH advances its mission by providing high-quality advice and development expertise, by making loans and grants to supportive housing sponsors, by strengthening the supportive housing industry, and by reforming public policy to make it easier to create and operate supportive housing. CSH delivers its core services primarily in nine states (California, Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island) and in Washington, DC. CSH also operates targeted initiatives in 6 states (Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington) and provides limited assistance to many other communities.

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