



## Healthcare & Housing Profile: Central City Concern Portland, Oregon

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### Overview

Central City Concern (CCC) is a nonprofit organization with decades of experience in development, ownership, and management of housing for very low-income residents. CCC began operating in 1979 as a property management and service organization to address the problem of homelessness in Portland, Oregon. In 1980, CCC began managing housing and currently operates over 1,500 units of supportive housing in Portland which includes low-income housing, Alcohol and Drug Free Community housing and low barrier housing for a variety of tenant populations. CCC supports a continuum of supportive housing, ranging from transitional housing with recovery-driven (not “treatment-driven”) services to permanent supportive housing (housing with comprehensive supportive services that has no arbitrary time limit). Each building CCC operates is specialized in some fashion to meet the unique needs of the homeless population including families and individuals in recovery, people with mental health issues, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

### Health and Treatment Services

CCC’s goal is to not only get people into housing, but to help them stay housed; so they provide a variety of residential services provided through onsite supportive housing staff, including, but not limited to: advocacy, childcare, conflict resolution, eviction prevention, food, mental health services, rent assistance and transportation. In addition, residents can access CCC’s range of services, including primary healthcare at the Old Town Clinic which is a federally qualified health center (FQHC) and designated as a health care for the homeless clinic; outpatient alcohol and drug treatment at the CCC Recovery Center; mental health services through the 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Recovery Center; and employment support through the Employment Access Center.

### Housing Programs

*Community Engagement Program (CEP):*<sup>1</sup> CEP is a harm reduction program designed to deliver comprehensive services for chronically homeless individuals who have mental health issues, addictive disorders, and/or physical health programs. Through a team of CCC staff, physicians, mental health practitioners, social workers, case managers and vocational counselors, each participant follows an individualized plan that includes a goal of both permanent housing and treatment. With a staff-participant ratio of 1-15, clients meet regularly with the team to check up on treatment.

*Alcohol and Drug Free Community (ADFC) Housing:*<sup>2</sup> Alcohol and Drug Free Housing is intended to recognize that everyone in recovery from substance abuse and/or mental health issues faces similar problems as they work to stabilize their lives, and therefore provide a common living environment where individuals can obtain the peer support that is necessary to succeed. Residents participate regularly in services that include job counseling, skills training, medical and mental health care, substance abuse treatment, mentoring, conflict resolution, eviction prevention, rent assistance, and childcare. ADFC housing is for those who choose to be sober. Residents who do not choose this kind of treatment have access to other CCC affordable housing. Those who have 90 days of sobriety may move into CCC permanent affordable housing.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Central City Concern. 2009. Programs: “Community Engagement Program.” <http://www.centralcityconcern.org/CEP.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Central City Concern. 2009. Programs: “Alcohol and Drug Free Housing (ADFC).” <http://www.centralcityconcern.org/adfc.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Central City Concern. 2009. Programs: “ADFC Permanent Housing”. [http://www.centralcityconcern.org/adfc\\_permanent\\_housing.htm](http://www.centralcityconcern.org/adfc_permanent_housing.htm)

\*\*\* Unless otherwise noted, information was obtained from: Post, Patricia A (September 2008). Defining and Funding the Support in Permanent Supportive Housing. Corporation for Supportive Housing and National Health Care for the Homeless Council. <http://documents.csh.org/documents/pubs/CSNHCHCHHealthCentersReportNov07.pdf>

## Outcomes

- Central City Concern owns or manages 1,583 units of low-income housing in 21 buildings throughout the metropolitan area
- In 2008, 58% (229 out of 398) of exiting residents from 152 units of transitional ADFC housing moved into permanent housing and completed treatment.
- Upon move-out, 93% of this group were either employed or receiving federal disability entitlements.
- 73% who completed treatment and moved to permanent housing were still housed and sober one year later.
- A study of CCC's Supported Employment program from 2007-2009 showed that 71% (227 out of 319) of transitional ADFC housing residents gained employment<sup>4</sup>

### *Community Engagement Program (CEP)*

- Each client's involvement in CEP saves the community approximately \$16,000 in avoided incarceration, emergency and uncompensated health care costs.
- Approximately 300 clients are served annually; clients have an average of 8.6 years homelessness.
- As of 2010, 174 people had been placed into Shelter + Care scattered site housing in 25 zip codes throughout the Portland area
- 95% had been housed for 1 year or more and 68% had been housed for 2 years or more

## Engaged Partners

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- City of Portland Housing Bureau
- Housing Authority of Portland
- Multnomah County
- State of Oregon Housing and Community Services
- State of Oregon Addictions and Mental Health Division
- DHHS: Bureau of Primary Health Care, SAMSHA \_ CSAT
- U.S. Department of Labor
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

## Major Funding Sources

- HUD: Supportive Housing Program (SHP); Multifamily coordinator grant; HPRP for rent assistance.
- City of Portland: HUD ESG and general fund grant; general fund grants for supportive services
- Housing Authority of Portland: HUD project based Section 8; Shelter + Care vouchers
- HOPWA
- Multnomah County
- The State of Oregon and Portland Development Commission
- Medicaid and HHS – Bureau of Primary Health Care
- HHS: SAMHSA – CSAT
- Department of Labor
- Veterans Administration (VA)

## Contact

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<sup>4</sup> Central City Concern Employment Outcomes 2007-2009, Portland State University – Regional Research Institute, March 2010.

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