



## CSH Releases Groundbreaking Findings on Supportive Housing Needs of New York State's Homeless Population

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**NEW YORK** - [CSH \(Corporation for Supportive Housing\)](#) has released a first-of-its-kind assessment of homelessness and supportive housing need in New York State. The goal of the assessment is to better utilize existing local, State and national data to help decide how to efficiently allocate supportive housing resources to New Yorkers struggling with, or at risk of, homelessness.

“This report takes many pieces of the puzzle, collected from all over the State, and builds a complete picture of supportive housing need for everyone to see,” said Deborah De Santis, President and CEO of CSH. “We know we must have more supportive housing to address the alarming rise in homelessness across New York State, and we now have the hard data showing what our leaders must do to help the very vulnerable New Yorkers who need access to stable homes and community services.”

Supportive housing, which is affordable rental housing coupled with appropriate individual-based services, is a cost-effective model of care designed to provide an integrated solution for housing, healthcare and other needs. The CSH-authored assessment was funded with generous support from the [New York State Health Foundation \(NYSHealth\)](#) and the [Robin Hood Foundation](#)

“Stable housing and strong social support services can have a tremendous impact on people who are homeless, helping them to lead healthier, safer, and more productive lives,” said James R. Knickman, President and CEO of NYSHealth. “We know that supportive housing results in improved health outcomes and decreased emergency room use for people who are homeless, which in turn also saves money in the long run. This assessment is an important resource to inform appropriate strategies to integrate housing and health for some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers.”

CSH worked with key stakeholders from throughout the state to collect the appropriate data, develop common definitions, design a methodology on how to assess the need for supportive housing, and create a systematic approach to analyzing information. The data analyzed provides a reliable foundation for State and local decision-makers to make well-informed, needs-based decisions when determining funding allocations to end and prevent homelessness.

“As New York’s largest poverty-fighting organization, Robin Hood recognizes the vital role that housing plays in giving families the stability to build better lives,” said David Saltzman, Executive Director of the Robin Hood Foundation. “We applaud Corporation for Supportive Housing in its efforts to improve the quality and accuracy of data regarding the need for supportive housing in New York.”

The full report link – [\*Real Supportive Housing Need in New York State: A Statewide Supportive Housing Needs Assessment Based on data collected & evaluated by CSH\*](#)

CSH conducted an assessment of supportive housing need in eight communities across seven geographic areas of New York State, including New York City.

### **About the Communities**

The 8 communities selected for the needs assessment accounted for nearly 95% of the State’s total homeless population in 2013.

- NYC accounts for a lion’s share of the total homeless percentage (83%), the remaining seven selected areas compose 12% of the State’s homeless population, and the remaining 45 counties account for approximately 5%.
- This is important for understanding where the State’s highest concentrations of homeless individuals and families reside and also the significant pockets of homelessness outside of New York City.

### **What We Found**

We estimate 36,164 homeless households (30,311 Adult, 5,853 Families) were in need of supportive housing in 2013 and that nearly 32,000 supportive housing units must be created in the near future just to meet this unmet need. [Access the chart showing the statewide breakdown of numbers here.](#)

### **Recommendations**

- State and local decision-makers should consider the findings from this assessment to inform near-term resource allocation decisions and deploy resources within each of the areas identified in this report.
- The State should establish a clearinghouse where uniform and complete data encompassing all populations served by supportive housing is collected, reported and available on an ongoing basis – data should go beyond “homeless” to also include those seeking refuge from domestic violence, those re-entering the community from

jails/prisons and those with disabilities transitioning from institutional settings into the community.

- The State should invest in regular comprehensive assessments of supportive housing need that rely on a whole-person and person-centered approach, encompassing a holistic understanding of the multiple complexities individuals and families face, versus an over-reliance on diagnosis-specific categories of need.
- The State should focus on capturing useful information on individuals and families crossing multiple systems and amassing high costs to public agencies.
- A long-term plan and commitment to create supportive housing is needed from all levels of government to begin to address this large gap in supply as compared to demand for supportive housing.

### **ABOUT CSH**

For over 20 years, CSH has been the national champion for supportive housing, demonstrating its potential to improve the lives of very vulnerable individuals and families. CSH has earned an award-winning reputation as a highly effective, financially stable organization, with strong partnerships across government, community organizations, foundations, and financial institutions. CSH is advancing innovative solutions, using housing as a platform for services to improve lives, maximize public resources, and build healthy communities. CSH is working to assure housing solutions are accessible to more people in more places. [www.csh.org](http://www.csh.org)

### **ABOUT THE NEW YORK STATE HEALTH FOUNDATION**

The New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) is a private, statewide foundation dedicated to improving the health of all New Yorkers, especially the most vulnerable. Today, NYSHealth concentrates its work in three strategic priority areas: expanding health care coverage, building healthy communities, and advancing primary care. The Foundation is committed to making grants, informing health care policy and practice, spreading effective programs to improve the health system, serving as a neutral convener of health leaders across the State, and providing technical assistance to its grantees and partners. Learn more at [www.nyshealthfoundation.org](http://www.nyshealthfoundation.org)

### **ABOUT ROBIN HOOD FOUNDATION**

Robin Hood is New York's largest poverty-fighting organization and focuses on finding, funding and creating programs and schools that generate meaningful results for families in New York's poorest neighborhoods. Since 1988, Robin Hood has raised more than \$2 billion in dollars, goods and services for the most effective soup kitchens, homeless shelters, schools, job-training programs and other vital organizations that help New Yorkers build better lives. In addition, Robin Hood's board of directors pays for all program evaluation, administrative and fundraising costs, and so 100% of your donation goes directly to organizations and those programs doing the most good. [www.robinhood.org](http://www.robinhood.org)