



MOVING ON PROGRAM PROFILE: NEW YORK, NY

Background/Program Description

CSH, with funding from the Robin Hood Foundation, is currently leading the New York City Moving On Initiative, an effort to enable individuals who have achieved stability in supportive housing to move on with their lives, while giving others a chance to start rebuilding theirs. The initiative does this by providing those tenants that want to and are able to move out of supportive housing with a rental subsidy and transitional support services and resources.

In the mid-2000's, the supportive housing field in New York City recognized that some tenants in supportive housing had 'recovered' such that they no longer needed the intensive services provided through their housing. However, affordability was still an obstacle for tenants who wanted to move from supportive housing to the community. CSH worked with the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development for a commitment of Housing Choice Section 8 housing vouchers, and with the Department of Homeless Services who committed to back-fill newly vacated units with new tenants in need of supportive housing. CSH received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to work with 4 providers who identified Moving On tenants and assisted them with the move and transitioning to their new neighborhoods. The two-year program was deemed a success and picked up by the City of New York, which provided dedicated vouchers and funding for services for two more years. Then, unfortunately, in 2008 there was a dearth of vouchers due to the recession and the City no longer had vouchers to commit to this program. As the economy slowly recovered, CSH and others began advocating for the City to once again commit vouchers to a Moving On initiative, leading to the launch of a new round of Moving On in 2015.

The goal of the current New York City Moving On Initiative, launched in October 2015, is to reinforce supportive housing tenant independence and choice by enabling residents who are capable and interested in doing so to leave supportive housing. Over one year, the initiative aims to support 125 individuals in New York City as they transition out of supportive housing and on to the next chapter of their lives, and refill their units with 125 homeless individuals in need of permanent housing and intensive supportive services.

A generous grant from the Robin Hood Foundation has enabled CSH to lead the development and management of the initiative and to provide subgrants to fund implementation. CSH selected five subgrantees who responded to a Request for Proposals issued to find organizations interested in implementing Moving On in their supportive housing programs. The grants support staff time dedicated to Moving On efforts, provision of services to prepare and support tenants as they make the transition to independent housing and adjust to life in their new environment and costs associated with finding and moving into housing in the community. Each of the five subgrantees is responsible for facilitating the transitions of 25 tenants, for a total of 125 individuals served through the initiative. CSH leads bi-monthly learning collaborative meetings where subgrantees and government partners gather to review progress against the initiative's goals, share best practices and discuss challenges and lessons learned.

Identification and Assessment Process

Each of the five subgrantees developed their own strategy for conducting outreach and recruitment efforts for the program; the only requirement set forth under the Scope of Work was that they inform tenants about the program and eligibility requirements and allow anyone who is interested to apply. All subgrantees are required to use the same [assessment tool](#), to ensure that there was some consistency around the standards used to determine tenant capacity to move on and be successful in independent housing in the community. The assessment tool used to screen all Moving On participants under the initiative is an acuity index that was developed as a part of the Connecticut Supportive Housing Quality Initiative. The acuity index provides a systematic way to assess a person's level of independence and support needs in a variety of areas related to housing stability, income and benefits, health, and access to supportive services/resources; it has been used as the foundation for assessments used in other Moving On initiatives. The tool provides the 'ideal range' for scores; clients in this range are considered to be stable and good candidates for living independently in the community. For the NYC initiative, CSH added a cover page with questions specific to eligibility for the Section 8 vouchers being used for the project.

Initiative Partners

Robin Hood Foundation
Brooklyn Community Housing and Services, Inc.
Community Access, Inc.
Lantern Community Services
Project Renewal, Inc.
Services for the Underserved, Inc.
The NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)
The NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA)
The NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS)
Supportive Housing Network of New York

Funding Sources

Robin Hood Foundation provided grant funding allowing CSH to design and manage the initiative, provide subgrants to supportive housing providers and run a Learning Collaborative for participating organizations.

The **NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA)** is providing 'one shot deal' funding including vouchers for security deposits and brokers fees, as well as a small furniture allowance.

Housing Resources

The **NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)** has committed 125 Housing Choice Vouchers to cover ongoing rental support for tenants who are moving on.

Services

Each of the five subgrantees developed their own strategy for providing pre-transition, transition and aftercare services. The requirements set forth under the Scope of Work for each area of service provision are as follows:

- **Preparation:** Identify tenants who are ready to move on by utilizing Moving On Assessment. Ensure tenants are prepared to move on; activities may include: financial literacy education/assistance, credit rating assessment/improvement, Section 8 voucher application with NYC HPD and identifying apartments in the community.
- **Transition:** Move on at least 25 eligible individuals. Services offered *must* include: Assistance with locating and securing housing unit, providing case management to support transition including but not limited to assistance building linkages to community supports and services, such as mental and physical health services, substance use treatment, stores for groceries and other necessities, recreational activities and public transportation options; and support with landlord negotiations. Services offered *may* include: Providing funds to cover moving services, utility deposits/arrears and furniture/household items; paying for broker's fees; and assistance with family reunification.
- **Aftercare:** Providers will offer voluntary aftercare services to individuals who have moved on for at least six months after their move-out, and will track types of support provided and outcomes of that support. In addition, providers are expected to maintain contact with the tenant for at least the first six months after move-out, with a minimum of two check-ins that can be in-person, by phone or by email. Work with NYC DHS to quickly refill vacated apartments with people who are in need of supportive housing.

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