

ALIGN SERVICES FUNDING FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED TENANTS

WHAT IS JUSTICE INVOLVED SUPPORTIVE HOUSING?

Supportive Housing (SH) is an evidence-based solution that combines permanent affordable housing with tenant-centered support services to help people who face complex health challenges, including mental health and substance use disorders, get and stay housed. It's [been shown to reduce returns to jail and homelessness, as well as engagement with emergency services](#) such as shelters, emergency rooms, and law enforcement.

In New York City, **Justice Involved Supportive Housing (JISH)** is specifically designed for individuals leaving Rikers who are at risk of homelessness and in need of behavioral health support. It aims to keep them stably housed and prevent further use of jails, shelter, and/or other emergency services.

WHY IS JISH NEEDED IN NYC?

JISH is currently the only designated supportive housing program in NYC for people leaving Rikers Island, with 120 apartments currently occupied, [despite an estimated need of more than 2,500 apartments](#).

A jail stay of 90+ days may impact one's classification as "chronically homeless," or unhoused for an extended period of time. For this reason, CSH estimates that 2,589 people held on Rikers over a one-year period could benefit from supportive housing, but 1,812 of them — about 70 percent — would be excluded from the City's largest supportive housing program (NYC 15/15). For many people exiting Rikers without a home, they will exit from jail right into the shelter system.

JISH does not maintain the same chronicity requirement; in fact, JISH *specifically* houses tenants with the "highest jail and shelter use." Clients served by the JISH program are high-need, with a long history of homelessness, incarceration, and serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders. JISH offers necessary intensive case management and connection to clinical services for people leaving Rikers to stabilize their lives; however, these services are not adequately funded.

CRITICAL GAPS IN FUNDING

In 2019, the City expanded the JISH program from 120 to 500 units (*an increase of 380*); however, no provider has since brought a unit into operation directly due to unacceptable service rates. Even the service rates of the original 120 occupied units have not seen an increase in years, and thus are drastically underfunded to keep up with today's services costs, staff wages, and the higher service needs of the JISH population.

Individuals exiting Rikers who are at risk of homelessness have some of the most complex physical and behavioral health needs. While other supportive housing units for populations with higher needs are funded at \$25,596 per unit for supportive services, JISH units only receives \$10,000 to per scattered-site unit¹ and \$17,500 per congregate unit².

To adequately fund the existing 120 units and bring the additional 380 units in operation, the JISH program needs \$1.9 and \$4.5 million respectively; bringing **the total funding gap to \$6.4 million**.

PROPOSAL

- ➔ **Expand JISH by \$6.4 million** to align supportive services rates with other populations that are high needs by increasing JISH services to \$25,596 per unit
- ➔ **Create a JISH line-item in the DOHMH budget** to allow for better tracking moving forward, given its importance for public safety.

The City needs to properly fund JISH to fulfill the City's commitment of 500 units.

¹ The "scattered" site supportive housing model typically utilizes vouchers to rent units on the private market and case managers visit the tenants to connect them to any services they might need.

² For the "congregate" supportive housing model, buildings include designated supportive housing units and typically have onsite case management.

