



MOVING ON PROGRAM PROFILE:

HARTFORD, CT

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Background and Program Description:

On the night of Jan. 30, 2008, the City of Hartford, CT conducted its second ever annual Point in Time (PIT) Homelessness Count. More than 600 individuals were identified as homeless or in a shelter that night, including 335 individuals who had been homeless for a year or more. At the time, Hartford had hundreds of supportive housing units designated for the homeless; but without access to rental assistance or transitional support, the occupants of these units were staying put and unit turnover within the portfolio was minimal. A creative approach was needed to provide homeless individuals with access to units within this portfolio.

In February of 2009, with technical assistance and support from CSH, the Hartford-based non-profit organization, Journey Home, surveyed seven (7) supportive housing programs throughout the capitol region to determine if supportive housing programs were housing tenants who were ready and willing to move to more independent housing in the community. The survey revealed there were 102 supportive housing tenants potentially interested in “moving on” from the supportive housing they were living in to a more independent living arrangement in the community.

Armed with this information and with best practice examples provided by CSH, Journey Home designed and implemented a Moving On initiative that succeeded in moving forty supportive housing tenants on from the Hartford supportive housing portfolio to an affordable apartment of their own in Hartford, thereby making 40 supportive housing units available to long-term homeless individuals.

Identification and Assessment Process

The criteria used to evaluate participant’s readiness to move to independent housing under this initiative included:

- Length of tenancy (at least 24 months)
- Successful payment of rent and utilities for at least a year or more
- Connection to community-based services

Initiative Partners

- Journey Home
- Housing Authorities in the Capitol
- Region and Seven Hartford Supportive Housing Providers

Funding Sources

- The CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services provided funding for aftercare services

Housing Resources

- The City of Hartford committed 25 Project Based Section 8 Vouchers
- The West Hartford Housing Authority committed 15 Project Based Section 8 Vouchers

Services

Services under this initiative were designed to be person-centered and flexible. Services ranged from none whatsoever to periodic home visits to financial support for tenant moving expenses. Aftercare funds were used flexibly on an as-needed basis for items such as security deposits, first and last month rent, and furnishings for the new apartments.

Backfilling Supportive Housing Units

Supportive housing units vacated through this initiative were made available to individuals and families who had experienced long-term homelessness and were identified as either:

- a. Vulnerable based on the Vulnerability Index or
- b. High Service Utilizers

Participating supportive housing providers provided enhanced in-reach services to identify the most vulnerable and high service utilizers. Each new tenant was assessed to determine the level of services needed to ensure housing stability. Services were designed to support clients in each step of the housing process in order to eliminate as many barriers to housing as possible. This included a team approach to service provision. Enhanced services included shelter in-reach where a case manager engaged eligible clients in the shelter; housing application support to help clients navigate the housing application process, services during the first year of tenancy which included home visits, peer support groups, and access to recreation activities.

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