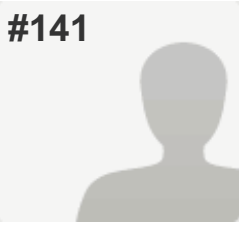


Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

#141



COMPLETE

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Q1: OPTIONAL: This recommendation was submitted by (please provide your first and last name, affiliation, and email address)

Respondent skipped this question

Q2: Title of your recommendation

Transitional housing support for incarcerated individuals returning to the community

Q3: Please provide a description of your proposed recommendation

Formerly incarcerated persons face many challenges when released to the community. Successful re-entry depends on many variables. Many formerly incarcerated persons are not adequately prepared to navigate back into their communities, families struggle to address the needs of formerly incarcerated persons upon release, and communities are not prepared to meet the needs of the reentry population. It is important to understand and create systems, policies, or programs to assist in the reentry process, given that many barriers to successful reentry are associated with costly returns to prison or jail.

Incarceration places individuals at increased risk for housing instability and insecurity. Often, the housing placement is temporary or inadequate to meet the multiple needs of those re-entering the community after incarceration. Securing adequate permanent housing for the formerly incarcerated has been documented as a serious challenge local and state governments have found difficult to overcome. However, all agree that locating appropriate and stable housing, in addition to assistance with other support services: employment/vocational training, family reunification skills, anger/violence prevention and substance use & mental health services is critical to assist in successful re-integration.

It is often said that Housing is Prevention and Prevention is Housing, if so, then securing adequate and stable housing (as well as other support services) for HIV+ persons released from prisons, especially after long periods of incarceration would play a critical role in linkage to care, treatment adherence, etc.

Q4: For which goal outlined in the Governor's plan to end the epidemic in New York State does this recommendation apply? (Select all that apply)

Linking and retaining persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and getting them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission

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Q5: This recommendation should be considered by the following Ending the Epidemic Task Force Committee (Select all that apply)

Housing and Supportive Services Committee:
Develop recommendations that strengthen proven interventions enabling optimal engagement and linkage and retention in care for those most in need. This Committee will recommend interventions that effectively address complex and intersecting health and social conditions and reduce health disparities, particularly among New York's low-income and most vulnerable and marginalized residents. These interventions will diminish barriers to care and enhance access to care and treatment leaving no subpopulation behind.

Q6: Does this recommendation require a change to an existing policy or program, or the creation of a new policy or program?

Change to existing policy,

Other (please specify)

It has been documented that securing stable housing for formerly incarcerated persons is a challenge faced by corrections because the options are limited and may not be available in all communities, especially in rest of state areas (not NYC) where about 40% of inmates are released to. Please refer to the following report for additional information:
<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412552-Housing-as-a-Platform-for-Formerly-Incarcerated-Persons.pdf>

Q7: Would implementation of this recommendation be permitted under current laws or would a statutory change be required?

Unknown

Q8: Is this recommendation something that could feasibly be implemented in the short-term (within the next year) or long-term (within the next three to six years)?

Within the next three to six years

Q9: What are the perceived benefits of implementing this recommendation?

Adequate housing may mean HIV+ inmates would be stable and better positioned to self manage their HIV infection. Other support services would ensure sustained retention. Stable housing and support services provided may even impact recidivism rates.

Q10: Are there any concerns with implementing this recommendation that should be considered?

Although about 60 - 70% of inmates (state prisons) are released to NYC, increasingly inmates are being released to rest of state areas where there are very limited resources for temporary housing let alone stable housing. Behavioral and support services are also not as widely available.

This recommendation would need to be implemented in partnership with the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision as well as local jails as housing placement is decided before an inmates is released at this level and depends on many variables that this committee may or may not fully understand or be aware.

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Q11: What is the estimated cost of implementing this recommendation and how was this estimate calculated?

Unknown.

There may be cost associated or perhaps re-direction of existing funds to ensure this vulnerable population has access to the housing resources that already exist - statewide.

Q12: What is the estimated return on investment (ROI) for this recommendation and how was the ROI calculated?

Adequate housing may mean HIV+ inmates would be stable and better positioned to self manage their HIV infection. Other support services would ensure sustained retention. Stable housing and support services provided may even impact recidivism rates.

The return on investment would depend on sustain linkage to care, viral load suppression and the impact on recidivism rates.

Q13: Who are the key individuals/stakeholders who would benefit from this recommendation?

HIV + persons formerly incarcerated, their families.

Medical providers (stable housing may mean adherence)

Corrections/law enforcement (stable housing and support services may mean less likely to re-offend).

Q14: Are there suggested measures to accompany this recommendation that would assist in monitoring its impact?

% of HIV positive persons re-entering the community from a state prison (or county jail) to achieve stable and adequate housing.

% of HIV positive persons that achieve stable and adequate housing that are successfully linked to care, achieve viral suppression.

% of HIV positive persons that achieve stable and adequate housing that are successfully linked to care, that avoid re-incarceration.

There might be more but those are the three top ones.

Q15: This recommendation was submitted by one of the following Other (please specify) AIDS Institute Staff