

## Recommendations for Increasing Supply of Supportive Housing

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Hello,

Following are recommendations for improving access and increasing the supply of housing among existing units for individuals with mental illness and/or chronic health conditions. The recommendations address “process” issues under the broad category of “redesign”:

- Much of the supply of supportive housing has a mixed tenancy; for instance, supportive housing developed by NYC HPD typically has a 60/40 allocation of (60%) formerly homeless individuals and (40%) low-income individuals from the local community in need of housing.
- Recommendation: With pro-rated additional service dollars and rent subsidies as needed, some housing sponsors may be willing and able (depending on agreements with local community boards, infrastructure, etc.) to increase the proportion of units dedicated to special need populations.
- Other than keeping people stably housed, outcome goals among supportive housing providers are a mixed bag and depend on a variety of factors. CUCS has done a three year analysis of Medicaid utilization in its supportive housing sites (among approximately 400 special needs tenants) and found that 73% do not use any institutional based Medicaid services (hospital, ER, Detox, etc.) on an annual basis. All of the sites studied have a preponderance of formerly chronically homeless, mentally ill individuals.
- Recommendation: Achieve and use a better understanding of the service designs of supportive housing organizations and other programs (street outreach programs, transitional living communities) demonstrating successful outcomes with high cost health/mental health populations
- Some supportive housing providers need on-site health services to reduce the use of institutional-based services among their tenants.
- Recommendation: With the addition of Medicaid funded nursing or similar services readily accessible to residents and working in concert with supportive housing programs, the use of institutional-based services could be reduced.
- Several “Moving On” demonstration programs have been conducted in supportive housing in the effort to assist tenants who are ready to move to more independent residential options. Vacated supportive housing units are made available to other individuals in need.
- Recommendation: Use the lessons learned from “Moving On” initiatives to understand and address the barriers that prevent individuals from moving on to more independent settings and consider conducting a robust future initiative.

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