

Supportive Housing Fact Sheet

Mayor Michael Bloomberg is committed to ending chronic homelessness in New York City. In 2004, he announced Uniting for Solutions Beyond Shelter, a coordinated strategy that brings the public, non-profit, and business sectors together to reduce homelessness and shift City policies away from shelter and toward prevention. For disabled individuals in the homeless shelter system, one demonstrated solution is supportive housing – permanent housing with on-site supportive services. Through the New York/New York III agreement, the City and State have joined together to create 9,000 units of supportive housing over ten years.

What is supportive housing?

- Supportive housing is permanent, affordable housing with on-site support services to serve the needs of the most vulnerable New Yorkers, including the homeless. Supportive housing residences are owned and operated by experienced community-based organizations that maintain a high standard of property management.
- Each tenant signs a lease and must comply with the terms of that lease. Lease agreements require that tenants pay their rent on time each month, do not conduct any illegal activity in the building, and be respectful of other tenants. If tenants do not comply with the terms of the lease agreement, they may be evicted.

What does supportive housing look like?

- Supportive housing looks like any other apartment building. The first floor has a security desk, a lobby/mailbox area, offices for social service staff and community space for events and meetings. Typically, each tenant has a studio apartment with its own bathroom and kitchen.

Who lives in supportive housing?

- Residents of supportive housing are low-income, formerly homeless, and may have chronic health conditions, such as a psychiatric disability, chemical dependency, or HIV/AIDS.
- These residents have been selected by the experienced owners and managers of supportive housing developments because they are ready for independent living.

Supportive housing benefits tenants.

- On-site social services include case management to help residents set goals, employment assistance, educational and vocational training, access to health care and counseling, health, wellness and nutrition classes, and peer support.
- Stable housing provides a solid foundation for tenants, allowing them to get healthy and remain healthy.
- Through supportive housing, disabled individuals are able to live independent and productive lives.

Supportive housing benefits taxpayers.

- Supportive housing is less expensive than high-cost crisis care and emergency housing systems that homeless individuals frequently use. It costs \$1,185 per day to house a homeless individual in a hospital, \$467 in a psychiatric hospital, and \$54 in a shelter – but it only costs \$42 per day in supportive housing.
- Supportive housing is an opportunity for government to invest in a demonstrated solution that has positive outcomes for people and neighborhoods.

Supportive housing benefits communities.

- Supportive housing enhances neighborhoods. The buildings are attractive and designed to match the neighborhood density, scale and appearance.
- On-site security makes the buildings and neighborhoods safer.
- Playgrounds, gardens, and community rooms maybe available for community use – for example, supportive housing residences have opened up their community rooms for use by Community Boards, block associations, and other local groups. Supportive housing developments have hosted annual block parties, spearheaded neighborhood clean-up initiatives, and opened up participation in programs such as Head Start to the community.
- In HPD-financed buildings, 40% of the units are set aside for low-income individuals earning about \$29,000 per year. Individuals earning this income may have careers such as nursing aide, home health aide, bank teller, school bus driver and retail salesperson. Rents for these units are \$650-\$750.
- Supportive housing development brings Federal, State and City dollars to neighborhoods, creating employment opportunities for neighborhood residents. A typical 100-unit supportive housing building brings eight social worker jobs, eight property management jobs, and 133 construction jobs.