

Accessing Housing: No Easy Answers

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What IS Affordable?

- 30% of Income spent on housing related expenses like rent, electricity, gas, etc.

What IS Supportive Housing?

Supportive Housing is affordable rental housing for people with very low incomes and disabilities (or multiple barriers to community living) **PLUS** the social/health services (including behavioral and physical health) that they want and need to succeed in the community.

Supportive Housing is not intended for every population that needs access to affordable housing. The threshold of need for supportive housing is higher than the simple need for affordable housing.

Housing Opportunities

- Public Housing Authorities
- More than 100 around the state
- Waiting Lists
- Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV)
- Public Housing (Section 202 Senior and Disabled Housing)
- HUD Resource Locator App (Apple and Android) or on desktop: <https://resources.hud.gov/>

Continuum of Care

- 20 Continua across the state of Illinois covering every county
- Work on issues from Prevention of Homelessness to Affordable Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing
- Case Management, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing
- Need involvement of various disability service providers
- Great place to connect with people with resources

Community Mental Health, Substance Abuse Services, HIV/AIDS Providers

- Many specialized social service providers have developed housing options for the people they serve
- Connections to social service supports strengthen positive outcomes
- These connections can lead to accessing housing resources

Statewide Referral Network

- Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) – State Housing Finance Authority
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)
- IHDA wanted to create more supportive housing, give extra points for setting aside 10-20% of entire projects units as supportive housing
- Service providers “pledge” to support the person referred by providing social services
- www.ILHousingSearch.org – online waiting list (also housing locator)

Statewide Referral Network

- Eligible referrals are people with a disability, people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and who are making no more than 30% of Area Median Income (AMI)
- Not a lot of units (1,700 and growing) but a potential resource

Section 811 Rental Subsidy

- Project Based Rental Assistance (PRA)
- Layered onto LIHTC Statewide Referral Network units
- Eligible Tenants: Extremely low-income households where at least one person must be an individual with a disability that is 18 years of age or older and less than 62 years of age at the time of lease signing
- Target Population: Williams, Colbert and Ligas Class Members and persons wishing to move out of skilled nursing facilities.
- The person with a disability must be eligible for community-based, long-term services as provided through Medicaid waivers, Medicaid state plan options, state funded services or other appropriate services related to the target population

Become an Advocate

- Managed Care
- Coordinated Care
- 1115 Medicaid Waiver
- Affordable Care Act
- Medicaid Expansion
- Social Determinants of Health
- Integrated Housing
- Rebalancing Initiatives
- It's up to you!

Biggest Housing Resource - Relationships

- Get involved with local Continuum of Care
- Get involved with the Alliance for Health/ 1115 Waiver workgroups
- Attend local events
- Connect to local Landlord Associations
- Partner with Social Service Providers
- Contact your ISC/Add to Person Centered Plan

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