

About Permanent Supportive Housing

Home is where recovery starts

For people experiencing homelessness with mental illness, addiction, and other trauma-related issues, obtaining and maintaining housing can be a major challenge. They have few options that address their circumstances, recovery, and ongoing wellness. At Community Housing Network, we open our doors to the most vulnerable among the homeless, because home is where recovery starts.

Housing First

Community Housing Network uses a Housing First model: It's only after people have a home to rely on that they can begin to experience safety and stability. Fulfilling that basic human necessity then clears the way to address other human needs, especially those that are complex. Housing First does not require people to address all their obstacles before being offered housing.

With Housing First, we accept people as they are. We offer voluntary supports designed for flexibility and responsiveness, so that at any given time, residents can make their own choices for their own health. Having choices makes services more effective once people are ready to engage.

Studies on Housing First indicate that when residents exercise their autonomy, recovering at their own pace and on their own terms, they are more successful at retaining stable housing and improving their lives.

Communities that welcome Housing First programs may realize cost savings, because people in Housing First programs use emergency services (including hospitals, jails, and shelters) less than those who are homeless. One study found an average cost savings on emergency services of \$31,545 per person housed in a Housing First program over the course of two years. Another study showed that a Housing First program could cost up to \$23,000 less per consumer per year than a shelter program.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Within the Housing First model, CHN provides Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) that focuses on stabilizing people who have experienced homelessness with mental illness, addiction, and other trauma-related issues. PSH is a nationally recognized, proven, and cost-effective solution to reducing homelessness.

At Community Housing Network, residents can stay until they are ready to move forward—two to four years on average. All units are subsidized and rent is calculated on a sliding scale. For individuals who want specialized help, we create voluntary, individualized housing support plans with our network of human services, healthcare, addiction counseling, and other partners throughout Franklin County. By partnering with local experts, CHN ensures that residents have access to all the services they may need to recover. [\(continued on back\)](#)

Between 2015 and 2020, an average of 96% of CHN residents maintained permanent housing, and 98% of those who moved out did not return to homelessness.

About Permanent Supportive Housing continued

In engaging residents, CHN recognizes that lasting behavioral changes often require multiple steps to achieve results and intentional effort to maintain changes after taking action. We're here to support residents no matter which stage they're at, without judgement or pressure, reinforcing their self-determination.

Because many CHN residents have endured trauma, both before and during their experiences of homelessness, CHN and its partners also practice trauma-informed care, in the services we offer and the way buildings are designed. This approach is based on the understanding that trauma negatively impacts physical, mental, and emotional health. We prioritize the safety of each

resident, avoiding re-traumatization by building relationships based on sensitivity, trust, and collaboration. At every stage, we work with residents to establish their goals, respect their choices, offer support, and celebrate success.

When people feel a sense of control and empowerment, they are better able to overcome obstacles, achieve well-being, and work toward their personal aspirations.

Through supportive services, many residents succeed at recovering from addiction, learning job skills, raising their income level, and attending school. They sustain their physical and emotional health, maintain healthy relationships with their families and others, secure and maintain income and employment, and enjoy productive, purposeful lives.



For more information and to donate, please visit:

chninc.org

Community Housing Network
1680 Watermark Drive
Columbus, OH 43215

**COMMUNITY
HOUSING
NETWORK**
