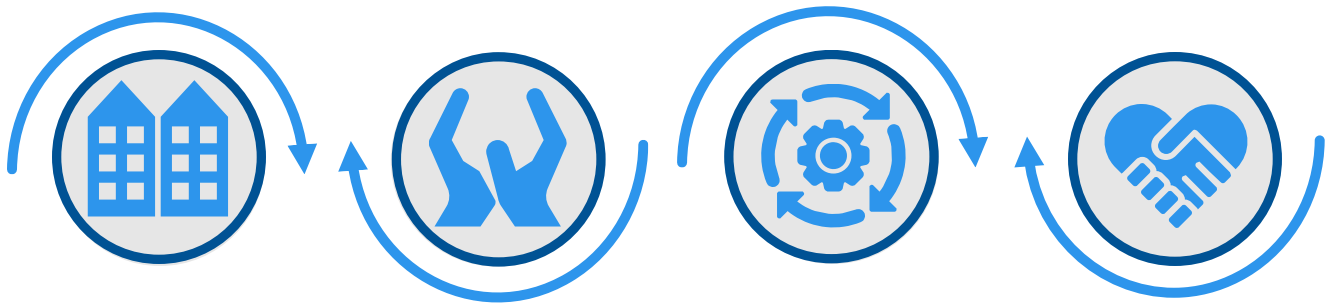


Supportive housing is a type of affordable housing that is designed specifically for people who need supportive services to thrive in their community. Typically, supportive housing is for people who are experiencing homelessness, institutionalization, and/or housing instability. Services in supportive housing are flexible and responsive so that people can choose the supports that will help them stay in housing and meet other goals they have for their lives.



Supportive Housing is...

- Quality affordable housing**
- Support services that help people get in and stay in housing**
- Access to flexible supports like healthcare, mental health or substance use**
- A proven model to build communities where all people can thrive**

In dozens of studies across the country over the last 20 years, supportive housing has proven to be an effective intervention that improves housing stability, reduces the use of expensive crisis care, and improves outcomes even for individuals with complex needs. Based on this body of research, the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) has long regarded supportive housing as an evidence-based practice that is “the most potent” intervention to impact housing stability and help people with disabilities and other barriers to housing achieve their desired goals.



The research clearly shows that supportive housing promotes stable housing and health and reduces unnecessary interactions with corrections and emergency departments. These outcomes are not only beneficial for people, but also cost-effective for government and other funders. Many of the studies noted in this summary take a housing first approach. [Housing first](#) is a model of supportive housing that strives to reduce barriers to entering and staying in housing while ensuring that people have voluntary access to a range of services.

People in supportive housing stay housed and nearly eliminate their use of shelter.

- ✓ In [Mecklenburg County](#), North Carolina, 80% of participants in housing first permanent supportive housing stayed housed for at least a year and reduced their used of shelter by 93%.
- ✓ In [New York City](#), over 91% of supportive housing tenants with significant histories of homelessness were still housed after one year. Compared to a group of people who did not receive supportive housing, those who did had a 40% reduction in days incarcerated. And these results last, a [10 year follow up study](#) found that the most common pattern among those with supportive housing was no further jail or shelter stays.

Supportive housing reduces recidivism and is fiscally responsible.

- ✓ Two Ohio state level departments, Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, [created programs](#) to connect people exiting jail or prison and who have a mental illness or substance use disorder with housing and services. These programs receive direct government investment in housing because of their proven effects at reducing recidivism and stopping returns to homelessness. Year after year, less than 9% of people served exit these programs to incarceration (prison or jail).
- ✓ It costs [\\$58,000/year](#) to incarcerate someone in the Palm Beach County, Florida jail AND [more than half re-enter the jail within 3 years](#). Not only does [supportive housing reduce jail bookings](#) by more than 90%, it does so for a third of the cost of incarceration.

Supportive housing results in positive shifts in health use, from crisis to preventive care.

- ✓ In Bozeman, Montana, a supportive housing initiative saw a 42.2% decrease in emergency department visits and a 47.2% increase in behavioral health appointments. 75% of tenants reported improved mental and physical health.
- ✓ In Santa Clara County, California, people in supportive housing [reduced their use of psychiatric emergency services](#) and increased their use of outpatient mental health relative to a group of people who did not receive supportive housing.
- ✓ In Denver, Colorado, after two years [participants in a housing first supportive housing initiative](#) had six fewer emergency department visits and more office-based visits and prescription medications.

Supportive housing using the housing first approach is a cost-effective strategy to reduce homelessness.

- ✓ An [analysis](#) based on a [review of 20 evaluations](#) on housing first found that every dollar invested in housing first saves taxpayers 1.44 dollars.
- ✓ A rigorous five-year analysis of a [housing first supportive housing initiative in Denver](#) found that approximately half the total annual per person cost of a Denver supportive housing program was offset by reductions in the per person costs of other services because of avoided outcomes. Participants had \$6,876 less in annual per person costs associated with avoided outcomes compared with the control group, with the biggest reductions in jail and ambulance costs.
- ✓ A [Housing First initiative in Pima County, Arizona](#) found that the costs of implementing supportive housing were offset by reductions in justice and health systems. These findings suggested that the intervention may be cost neutral while improving outcomes for tenants.
- ✓ Many localities are dealing with encampments which can [cost upwards of \\$8.6 million](#) annually to address. These dollars can be more effectively used by providing housing to people pushed into homelessness so that they can rebuild their lives.