

HealthChoices Reinvestment funds provide a unique opportunity for a financial incentive to reward sound financial management practices, allow the creative use of funds to fill identified gaps in the service system, test new innovative treatment approaches, and develop cost-effective alternatives to traditional services.

In 2015, BHSSBC received state approval for a reinvestment plan based on savings realized in FY 2013/2014. These HealthChoices reinvestment funds will be used to fund the Bedford Supportive Housing Program.



Bedford County Supportive Housing

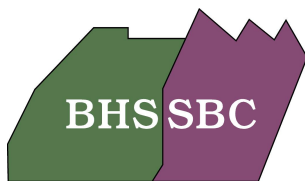
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*Helping people choose, get,
and keep appropriate housing*

Supportive Housing Works!

What is Supportive Housing?

Bedford Supportive Housing offers voluntary, flexible supports to help people with psychiatric disabilities choose, get, and keep housing that is decent, safe, affordable, and integrated into the community.

Central to the approach is a belief that people with psychiatric disabilities should have the right to live in a home of their own, without any special rules or service requirements.

How Does Supportive Housing Work?

With flexible supports, people with psychiatric disabilities can live in housing of their choice, just like any other member of the community. Programs take different approaches to housing. In some, people live in units reserved for the program's tenants, among those with and without special needs. In others, people receive the program's help finding, qualifying for, and keeping housing on the open market. All tenants have access to an array of services that help them keep their housing, such as case management, assistance with daily activities, conflict resolution, and crisis response. Tenants also receive help in becoming fully participating members of the community, through assistance with socialization and seeking employment.

Eligibility

- The target population who will benefit from this Housing Initiative is Medicaid/HealthChoices eligible adults with serious mental illness, substance abuse, and in many cases, co-occurring disorder of substance abuse and mental illness. This target population also includes transitional youth/adults between the ages of 18-25 who are transitioning to independent community living from a Residential Treatment Facility (RTF), group home setting, or a Community Residential Rehabilitation Host Home (CRR-HH) setting.

What are the Options for Supportive Housing?

■ Housing Support



Housing Support includes tenancy support for persons moving into housing including skill development, budgeting, and recovery support through goal planning and teaching people to be responsible tenants. For more information on this service, contact Cornerstone Community Services.

■ Master Leasing



The Master Leasing Program provides one or two bedroom, scattered site apartments to allow occupant(s) to secure a permanent living arrangement. These apartments are used for people who have significant barriers to finding permanent housing such as criminal backgrounds, poor rental histories, being released from institutions to include prison, discharged from a long term mental health or substance abuse facility, and/or poor credit ratings. For more information on this service, contact Cornerstone Community Services.

■ Bridge Subsidies



Bridge Subsidies provide immediate permanent supportive housing for people while creating a structured link to a more permanent subsidy through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. These bridge subsidies reduce the rent down to 30% of income or 100% subsidy to be determined on a case by case basis using established criteria. Initial subsidies are approved for four to six months and can be approved for a longer term if needed, not to exceed 24 months. For more information on this service, contact Center for Community Action.

■ Housing Contingency Funds



Housing Contingency Funds assist people in need of safe, affordable housing and includes items such as security deposits, first month rent, set up of utilities, household items/basic necessities, and/or one-time only expenses that would be outside of what a person could afford in their typical monthly budget. For more information on this service, contact Center for Community Action.

Supportive Housing helps people choose, get, and keep housing that meets their needs and preferences.