

# Supportive Housing

An evidence-based model with opportunities  
for clubhouse collaboration



NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
**HOUSING  
+ HEALTH**

**FOUNTAIN  
HOUSE**

# Introduction

Supportive housing is a proven, evidence-based, cost-effective housing model that allows individuals with disabilities and complex needs to achieve long-term stability and recovery. Clubhouses can play a critical role in helping members access supportive housing and maintain housing stability. This document is designed to help clubhouse audiences understand the basics of supportive housing.



## What supportive housing is



Supportive housing combines deeply affordable housing with flexible support services for people with serious mental illness and other significant barriers to housing stability.

Many people in supportive housing are also managing issues such as substance use disorders, chronic health conditions and have extensive histories of trauma and/or homelessness.



Supportive housing does not require “housing readiness” or treatment compliance. Instead, it meets people where they are and provides a stable foundation for recovery, health and community integration.

Supportive housing may be delivered in single-site settings, where tenants live together in one building and services are available on-site, or in scattered-site housing, where individuals live independently in the community while receiving mobile or community-based supports. Some scattered-site programs may be co-located with other affordable housing units. Additionally, supportive housing programs may serve specific populations like veterans, people living with HIV/AIDS or families. **However, all programs provide non-time-limited, affordable units with services such as case management and behavioral health support.**

# Core features of supportive housing

Supportive housing combines affordable housing with supportive services helping people with disabilities and complex needs to achieve stability and autonomy, while also ensuring dignity. People living in supportive housing are tenants with their own lease.

Supportive housing is not a clinical facility, like a nursing home or treatment facility, and abstinence is not a requirement to remain housed. However, tenants are obligated to abide by the conditions of a standard lease, such as paying rent on time.

**Supportive housing may look different for different communities and populations, but all quality supportive housing programs will share these key components:**



## **Housing is affordable**

Tenants pay no more than 30% of their income toward rent, with subsidies covering the rest.



## **Housing is not time-limited**

This means that tenants can remain housed so long as they adhere to basic lease requirements, just like any renter in the community.



## **Services are voluntary, flexible and comprehensive**

Participation in support services is always voluntary and does not impact an individual's ability to remain housed.



## **Housing and services are tenant-centered**

Supportive housing regards tenants as experts in their own lives, and prioritizes their goals, preferences and choices during service planning.



## **Services are coordinated and collaborative**

Case managers serve as advocates, helping tenants navigate threats to housing stability while also supporting their recovery.

For more on supportive housing, see: [CSH | Supportive Housing 101](#)

## Proven outcomes

When supportive housing is implemented with quality and fidelity, programs report desirable outcomes, including [high rates of housing retention](#) and tenant satisfaction, [improved physical and behavioral health](#), [increased medication adherence](#), [fewer psychiatric hospitalizations](#), [fewer incidents of incarceration](#) and strong community connections with increased social support. Supportive housing has also been shown to [reduce the use of costly crisis and emergency services](#), and creates the opportunity for continued engagement in support services.



## The benefits of clubhouse collaboration

For supportive housing providers, clubhouses can fill a critical gap that housing and case management alone often do not address by offering sustained social connection, purposeful daily activity and pathways to employment and community participation.

In practice, providers can use clubhouse partnerships to strengthen referrals, expand recovery-oriented programming and give tenants an ongoing community-based setting that reinforces belonging, skill-building and long-term housing stability.





## How clubhouses can connect with supportive housing

Supportive housing is designed to help individuals with serious mental illness and other disabilities to live and thrive successfully in the community. Clubhouse teams are key partners in that success.

### Clubhouse staff can support by:



#### Understanding local processes

Explore eligibility criteria, tenants' rights and referral processes for supportive housing in your area.



#### Supporting housing stability

By reinforcing member choice, supporting recovery goals, and connecting individuals to workforce opportunities such as Individual Placement and Support, supportive housing helps improve long-term housing stability.



#### Coordinating with providers

Partner with housing programs to understand how services are delivered for individuals in supportive housing and address early risks to tenancy.

This knowledge can help you to support members' housing goals, collaborate effectively with housing providers and reinforce the clubhouse values of choice, independence and recovery.



## How to find supportive housing in your community

Eligibility and availability for supportive housing programs vary by funding source and community. People who meet [HUD's definition of homelessness](#) may be eligible for supportive housing through a Coordinated Entry referral system. In addition, local, county

and state governments may offer other supportive or affordable housing options. [The HUD Resource Locator](#) is a helpful tool for finding affordable housing and homeless assistance resources in your area.

## Conclusion

Supportive housing is more than just a roof over one's head. It is the platform that enables recovery, stability and full community participation for people with the most complex needs.

**For clubhouse leaders, the opportunity is clear:**

Actively connect members to supportive housing and partner with providers to ensure long-term success.



## About us



### Corporation for Supportive Housing

Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) is a national nonprofit organization and Community Development Financial Institution. Our mission is to advance affordable housing aligned with services as an approach to help people thrive. We do this by advocating for effective policies and funding, investing in communities and strengthening the supportive housing field.



### The National Center for Housing + Health

The National Center for Housing + Health (NCH+H), powered by CSH, is an innovative resource dedicated to advancing the alignment between affordable housing and healthcare. The Center brings together innovations, proven models and practical strategies and policies that help housing providers, healthcare organizations, policymakers and community and system leaders work better together — and make a bigger difference for people and communities.



### Fountain House

For nearly 80 years, Fountain House has been a beacon of hope and recovery for people living with serious mental illness. Through our direct service clubhouse programs in New York City and Los Angeles, as well as national policy, advocacy and research initiatives, we have transformed the lives of tens of thousands of people living with serious mental illness.

Founded in 1948 in New York City, Fountain House originated the clubhouse model of community mental health that has been replicated more than 370 times in nearly 40 U.S. states and in 30 countries around the world.