

Lantern Group

SHNNY Conference

Child Welfare and Supportive
Housing

The Lantern Group, established in 1997, is a not-for-profit whose mission is to strengthen New York City communities by increasing the supply of permanent affordable housing.

Lantern develops, manages, and provides services at housing for vulnerable populations including: formerly homeless, mentally ill, HIV/AIDS, youth aging out of foster care, veterans, and low-income households in need of affordable housing in New York City.

- *13 buildings completed or in construction: 1,028 units*
- *3 buildings in pre-development: 331 units.*

On-site services help tenants set their own goals and realize them, make healthy decisions, go back to work and participate in the community.

Housing For Families and Young Adults Aging Out of Foster Care:

Cedars Hall: 95 Units total, 28 NYNY3 Families, Opened in 2008

Jasper Hall: 52 Units total, 30 NYNY3 Families, 22 Young Adults, Opened in 2008

Leeward Hall: 15 HASA Families, Opened in 2004

Schafer Hall: 95 Units total, 30 NYNY3 families (services provided by Bailey House), 25 Young Adults funded by SHFYA, Opened in 2000

Silverleaf Hall: 118 Units total, 35 homeless families funded by SHFYA, Opened in 2006

Vicinitas Hall: 68 Units total, 43 NYNY3 Young Adults, Opening Summer 2011!

Housing For Families and Young Adults Aging Out of Foster Care:

Key Funding Sources:

- NYNY3
- SHFYA
- KFT Program
- Section 8
- HUD Supportive Housing Program

Housing For Families and Young Adults Aging Out of Foster Care:

For the NY supportive housing community with a history of serving primarily single adults with SPMI, how do social services differ for families and young adults?

Single Adults:

- Isolated, engagement can be a challenge
- Afraid to go back to shelter

Young Adults:

- Fearless
- Seeking Friendships
- Engage via Rebellion
- Need Life Skills Training
- High proportion of LGBTQ youth

Families:

- Multiple Roles for Provider
- Changing Family Composition and Developmental Stages of Children
- Engagement through children
- Children are a good barometer for what is going on in the family even when the parents may be resistant

Housing For Families and Young Adults Aging Out of Foster Care:

Benefits of housing these populations:

- Breaking the Cycle: A chance to prevent a lifelong cycle of homelessness and child welfare involvement
- Create an environment to heal from past trauma

Challenges:

- Balancing different roles
- Learning curve for agencies used to working with single adults
- Adjusting services to age of children in families and developmental stage of young adults
- Transitioning out of care and into a new mentality

Housing For Families and Young Adults Aging Out of Foster Care:

Key Issues in Supportive Services Framework:

- Tenant Engagement (informal at first, client-centered)
- Staff as role models (modeling how to be a parent, employee, citizen)
- Developmental Milestones (rebellion is natural)
- Trauma-Informed Services
- LGBTQ Tenants
- Permanent Housing, Transitional Program
- Independent Living, Supportive Housing

Housing For Families and Young Adults Aging Out of Foster Care:

Successes:

- 85% of Young Adults at Schafer Hall are working
- 88% of Families at Cedars pay their rent on time
- Average length of stay at Silverleaf Hall is 4.4 years (and climbing)