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Supportive Housing Network of New York Releases 2nd Annual State of Supportive Housing Report

Updated Report Includes First-Ever Statewide Analysis of Tenant Demographics, Underscoring the Urgent Need for Aging-Informed, Culturally Relevant Services

NEW YORK, NY – (May 19, 2025) – [The Supportive Housing Network of New York](#) (the Network) today released the *State of Supportive Housing: 2025*, the second installment of its groundbreaking annual report. This year’s edition marks a shift in focus, providing the first-ever comprehensive statewide analysis of the demographics of the state’s supportive housing tenants.

Supportive housing combines permanent, affordable housing with on-site or mobile services for people who have experienced homelessness and struggle with additional barriers to stability. Until last year’s release of the first State of Supportive Housing report, there was a marked lack of comprehensive data about the approximately 64,000 supportive units currently occupied across New York and the individuals and families who live there.

“For decades, supportive housing has been a critical solution to chronic homelessness in New York,” said **Pascale Leone, Executive Director of the Network**. “But knowing who is living in supportive housing is essential to delivering services that are effective, compassionate, and address the most pressing problems tenants are facing. This year’s report gives us that insight and challenges us to meet this moment with informed, intentional action.”

This year's report builds on the [2024 inaugural edition](#), which mapped the landscape of supportive housing infrastructure across the state—spanning 18 funding programs, 9 government agencies, and at least 46 specific population categories. The 2025 edition continues that work, while adding a human-centered lens that highlights the diversity and complexity of the people served by supportive housing.

A few major takeaways from the report, which can be accessed in full [here](#), include:

- 54% of tenants are aged 55 or older, rising to 65% in programs funded by the New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP). To properly care for tenants, there is an urgent need for aging-informed services.
- 54% of tenants identify as Black or African American, which is nearly four times higher than the Black and African American general population. This signals a need for expanded culturally relevant support and programming.

“As funders of direct services for older adults we have seen through our grantmaking the growing population of older adults in supportive housing,” said **Lauren Weisenfeld, Director of the Healthy Aging Program at the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation**. “We hope the data from this report will support the enhancement of services in supportive housing that will allow people to age-in-place.”

“This year’s data confirms what providers across the state have long observed: our supportivehousing population is aging, and we must act with urgency and compassion to meet their evolving needs,” said the **Racial Equity in Supportive Housing (RESH) Executive Committee**. “From the rising prevalence of tenants with dementia to the need for culturally relevant care, the demands on supportive housing staff and providers are growing. We need to act to ensure we can properly meet our tenants’ needs. This also means confronting the stark racial disparities in the supportivehousing tenant population and embedding racial equity at every level of policy, funding, and service delivery.”

"CSH commends SHNNY for this groundbreaking report, which brings to light crucial statewide data: individuals entering supportive housing are older, have more complex needs, and often come from communities overrepresented by incarceration,” said **Lauren Velez, NY, NJ, and PA Director at CSH**. “While coordinated entry is effective, we can no longer rely on outdated funding and inflexible service models. We must shift towards flexible, person-centered support and the necessary resources for frontline providers to implement what works.”

“Supportive housing has always been about the people who call it home, and who find dignity, security, community, and belonging within and beyond its four walls,” said **Brenda Rosen, President and CEO of Breaking Ground**. “Of the many insights in the latest State of SupportiveHousing Report, what resonates most are new data on tenants in supportive housing across the State – data that show how far we’ve come in helping our most vulnerable neighbors find stability in housing, and how far we have to go to develop the systems, services, and housing stock we need to address our homelessness crisis and build a more equitable future.”

“The findings in this year’s State of Supportive Housing report shine a necessary light on the shifting realities of our field,” said **Ralph Fasano, Concern for Independent Living Executive**

Director. “At Concern Housing, we see firsthand that our tenants are growing older and that systemic inequities continue to shape who enters supportive housing. These insights demand a more intentional approach—one that integrates aging-in-place strategies, culturally responsive services, and a commitment to racial equity into every level of policy and practice. This report is an important step in ensuring that supportive housing evolves to meet the complex needs of those we serve.”

“YWCA Binghamton is proud to be a long-standing member of the New York State SupportiveHousing community,” said **Carole Coppens, YWCA Binghamton Executive Director.** “We fully recognize that supportive housing is not one-size-fits-all—and we applaud this important statewide effort to center the lived experiences of tenants. This data affirms what we see daily: the urgent need for more supportive housing that responds to the unique needs of older adults, survivors of domestic violence, and people impacted by systemic racism. We are committed to continuing this work with a focus on equity, dignity, and access for all.”

“This report shows that Supportive Housing works! People with lower life expectancy due to systemic issues—when given access to stable housing—can live longer and thrive in the third and fourth quarters of life,” said **Mark Jennings, Executive Director of Project FIND,** a 50-year-old service provider focused on older adults. “In the context of housing, we must follow the growth trends outlined and be data-driven—investing not just in grab bars and ramps, but critical systems like Adult Protective Services, Older Adult Centers, Medicaid Redesign, SCRIE, and transportation services designed to meet the basic needs of those aging in place in our housingsites.”

“This groundbreaking report affirms what we have long seen on the ground: supportive housing is a critical aging issue,” said **Allison Nickerson, LiveOn NY Executive Director.** “With more than half of tenants over age 55—and even higher rates in state-funded programs—it’s clear that aging-informed services must be central to our supportive housing systems. The stark overrepresentation of Black New Yorkers also underscores the urgent need to embed equity into every layer of policy, funding, and care delivery. To meet this moment, we need sustained, increased investment in supportive housing programs that are designed to meet the needs of older adults and communities of color.”

Supportive housing was born from data. The movement was launched in the 1980s in response to research by Ellen Baxter and Kim Hopper conducted in 1979 documenting the lived experiences of New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. This new report carries that legacy forward, using data to help drive policy, investment, and innovation that can help New York meet the evolving needs of its most vulnerable residents.

“All supportive housing residents deserve to have their unique needs met,” **Leone concluded.**
“While there is still much work to be done on this front, this report serves as an important first step in identifying who supportive housing tenants are and how we can best help them.”

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About The Network:

The Supportive Housing Network of New York is a 37-year-old nonprofit membership organization representing more than 200 nonprofits statewide that build and run supportive housing. The Network began life as a handful of pioneers seeking to create a respectful new model of housing to meet the needs of chronically homeless New Yorkers and evolved alongside the movement. As the only supportive housing membership organization in the state and the largest in the country, the Network serves as a voice for the provider community, which has created the largest, best managed, and most innovative supportive housing stock in the nation.