



Supportive Housing Network of New York Releases First-Ever State of Supportive Housing Report

Comprehensive Overview of the 44-Year-Old Statewide Supportive Housing Landscape Reveals Vast Disparity in Status, Availability of Units & Services, Provides Benchmark to Inform More Effective Future Investments, Policies & Priorities

NEW YORK, NY – (April 4, 2024) – The [Supportive Housing Network of New York](#) (The Network) today released a first-of-its-kind comprehensive report cataloguing the state of supportive housing programs and program funding levels across New York. Until now, there has been no single clearinghouse of data on the diverse and multi-layered tapestry of supportive housing – a model New York led the nation in pioneering more than four decades ago.

“Supportive housing has grown from a small New York City experiment to one of the most successful and proven methods of addressing chronic homelessness,” **said Pascale Leone, executive director of the Network.** “But over time, layer upon layer of programs and funding mechanisms has been added, creating a complex and difficult-to-navigate system about which no clear overview was available. Until now. I am incredibly proud of The Network team for putting together this detailed and overarching report, which I hope will inform efforts to protect, improve, and grow supportive housing well into the future.”

The report, which can be accessed in full [here](#), makes clear that supportive housing – permanent, affordable housing with voluntary services that serves as a critical tool in combatting chronic homelessness – is not a monolith. In fact, it features a wide variety of services and units that experience a significant disparity in funding, oversight, and need. For the first time, The Network has collected and published all in one place a supportive housing census, revealing there are:

- 61,961 active units;
- 18 different supportive housing programs;
- 9 overseeing government entities;
- 46 specific population categories.

Supportive housing has been proven time and again to help formerly homeless individuals live in dignity in the community. When supportive housing was created in the 1970s, there were just a few hundred rehabbed single room occupancy residences (SROs) in New York City, created as an experiment by a handful of nonprofits and faith-based organizations.

Today, as the report shows, programs have expanded across the state, with about half operating as congregate residences and half operating as scattered site operations. Operating costs for scattered site programs only involves paying rent to a private landlord whereas congregate residences' operating costs include the costs of building security, cleaning, maintenance, repairs, insurance, utilities, and more. However, scattered site programs lack several resources that congregate residences have, like in-house support services.

The supportive housing tenant population has expanded from predominately those with serious mental health diagnoses or HIV/AIDS to a wide array of at-risk populations including people with substance use disorders, young adults, families, veterans, individuals leaving incarceration, survivors of domestic violence, and older adults with additional barriers to stability.

The report highlights ambitious expansion plans including the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) and NYC 15/15, which are expected to create 35,000 units. Yet, it also notes that 40% of the statewide portfolio of congregate supportive housing was created 15 or more years ago and only 8% of these units have been updated.

Funding disparities based on the age of supportive housing initiatives forces different programs to provide different levels of care to their tenants. The New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP), which was created in the 1980s, provides \$2,964 for individuals and \$3,900 for a family per year for services only. Comparatively, ESSHI provides \$25,000 per household per year and NYC 15/15 gives up to \$38,632 for a single adult and \$55,567 for a family.

“Once again, the Supportive Housing Network of New York has given us a comprehensive picture of the state of supportive housing today. Good planning and practices are dependent on having comprehensive, accurate information. This report does just that,” **said Ralph Fasano, executive director of [Concern for Independent Living](#) and The Network Board Treasurer.** “Of particular note is the vast difference in funding levels between programs. The underfunding of thousands of units of housing makes it difficult for these programs to be sustainable. In fact, it threatens the whole supportive housing community. Let's use this information to preserve and improve what we know is the solution to homelessness.”

This report is intended to serve as a resource to help shape future supportive housing plans and advocacy work. As the first report of its kind, it provides an unprecedented look into the supportive housing movement and how it can expand.

“While significant strides have been made since the first supportive housing residence opened in New York State over 40 years ago, the current demand for supportive, affordable housing opportunities presents unprecedented challenges. The Supportive Housing Network of New York's 2024 report on the State of Supportive Housing illustrates the successes of the past while also making a strong case for increased financial support to ensure nonprofits like DePaul are able to continue uplifting vulnerable populations, enabling individuals to live with dignity and support. We extend our gratitude to The Network for continuing to make the case for more

funding and policies that prioritize supportive housing initiatives,” **said Mark Fuller, president of [DePaul](#) and Network board member.**

“New York is the birthplace and innovation hub of supportive housing. The first-of-its-kind State of Supportive Housing report shows how much we have accomplished together over more than four decades, and, critically, how far we have yet to go to ensure equitable access for vulnerable New Yorkers” **said Brenda Rosen, President and CEO of Breaking Ground and Chair of The Network.** “We should celebrate that more than 60,000 people have a home with the support they need to remain stable across City and State. But the challenges ahead – stagnant contract rates, rapidly aging housing stock, increasingly complex funding sources, and the most challenging residential real estate market in decades, among others – all threaten to derail our progress. It took extraordinary effort to synthesize complex data on 18 different supportive housing programs, overseen by 9 government agencies, and the 46 population categories they serve. We applaud The Network team for bringing the report together, and we look forward to working with our partners in the private and public sectors to ensure that New York continues to have the most robust and creative supportive housing resources anywhere.”

“All supportive housing residents deserve equal and adequate resources,” **Leone concluded.** “While there is still much work to be done on this front, this report serves as an important starting point in identifying where supportive housing is today and as a resource for everyone involved in the supportive housing movement.”

For more information contact Liz Benjamin: Liz@Marathonstrategies.com, 518-424-0356.

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About The Network:

The Supportive Housing Network of New York is a 32-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.