



The Bridge's Iyana House

Iyana House is a 16-bed program that opened in October 2004. Iyana House is a pioneering program that provides permanent housing for post-incarcerated homeless women with co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse in a congregate setting. It means "sacred house" in a Native American language and is a special place offering hope and help to these women.

The Bridge has a long-term lease on a newly renovated building in East Harlem that consists of 16 "Class A" one-bedroom units for each woman, a large community room with a kitchen, a child-friendly area where the women can visit with their children, and a large backyard for gardening and recreational activities. The program offers permanent long-term housing upon release from prison, and The Bridge is the sponsor and service provider.

Tenant Profile:

The program accepts only adult severely and persistently mentally ill women who are homeless upon entry into the program. Many have co-occurring substance abuse. All referrals come from Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, who are ready for discharge and who go through The Bridge's *in-reach services* at the prison wherein project staff meets weekly to interview the women and begin the essential relationship-building process. The same staff continues to work with the women in the residence.

Goals and Outcomes:

- Eliminates the problem of relocating to permanent housing after a few months
- Reduce recidivism rates of all 16 tenants
- Prevents long-term homelessness and shelter use for these formerly homeless women
- Reduces the use of other costly public services

Services:

On-site services, available 24/7, include:

- Weekly trauma groups and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) groups
- Peer counselor assistance
- Case management
- Entitlements counseling
- Career Club to discuss work-related issues

Off-site services at The Bridge rehabilitation center include:

- integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment
- vocational training and job placement
- Each client is referred out for medical services
- Each woman has a dedicated parole officer with experience in working with the mentally ill

Staffing:

- 1 Project Director
- 1 Case Manager/benefits
- 1.3 forensic Peer
- 5.0 housing counselors
- .75 maintenance worker



Additional Project Details

Financing

Since the Iyana House is in a leased building renovated by the landlord under a long-term lease, there were no capital costs. The annual operating budget is \$287,035 (includes rent, utilities, maintenance, insurance, real estate tax surcharge, capital reserve, one-time furniture, audit). The annual services budget is \$292,587. Sources of funding include HUD McKinney Supportive Housing Program funds (\$358,861), Office of Mental Health Supported Single Room Occupancy funds (\$206,656 or \$12,916 per bed), and client fees of \$33,120.



About The Bridge, Inc.:

The Bridge, Inc. is an experienced mental health, rehabilitation and housing agency now in its 51st year of serving mentally ill adults, the homeless, people with HIV/AIDS, people with co-occurring substance abuse, and increasingly men and women released from jail and prison. More than 1,000 clients are served annually citywide. We offer a comprehensive array of services including mental health and medication monitoring, integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment, health services, vocational training and job placement, food services, homeless outreach and a drop-in center, and the city's first and only Assertive Community Treatment Program for mentally ill adults released from jail. In addition we provide housing with services for 500 men and women throughout Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx, with additional units of housing in development and construction. We are licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health and the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.

About CSH:

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) is a national, nonprofit organization that helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. CSH advances its mission by providing high-quality advice and development expertise, by making loans and grants to supportive housing sponsors, by strengthening the supportive housing industry, and by reforming public policy to make it easier to create and operate supportive housing. CSH delivers its core services primarily through eight geographic hubs: California, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, and Southern New England (Connecticut, Rhode Island). CSH also operates targeted initiatives in Kentucky, Maine, Oregon, and Washington, and provides limited assistance to many other communities.



Corporation for Supportive Housing

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