

Housing

A total of \$96 million is needed in this year's budget to support rate enhancements for NYSOMH sponsored/licensed/funded mental health housing programs in New York

Approximately 40,000 New Yorkers with serious psychiatric disabilities depend on supportive housing arrangements sponsored, licensed and funded through the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH). Supportive housing includes a wide range of housing options with different levels of support. These programs make living in the community possible for people with psychiatric disabilities, helping them to achieve as self-sufficient a life as possible. These vulnerable residents usually enter housing programs from state psychiatric centers, prisons, and jails.

Over the past several decades, funding levels for existing housing units have not kept pace with inflation, rising administrative costs, and the increasing demands of serving people with co-occurring conditions and the management of complicated medications regimens.

These levels are not enough for providers to provide quality care and to comply with their obligations under contract and regulations. Without increased resources, many housing providers will have to consider closing or reducing the number of units to meet financial challenges

Adequately funding community-based mental health housing is a wise investment of state resources that helps avoid the costs of much more expensive institutionalization, hospitalization, emergency care, incarceration, and homelessness. Housing providers can receive \$7,600 to \$25,000 per person, per year, depending on housing model and geography. That translates to only between \$21 and \$68 per day, per resident, which is not enough to provide quality care and to comply with obligations under contract and regulations. For comparison sake, the per diem Medicaid rate for an OMH operated inpatient psychiatric hospitalization in 2022 was \$1,100, and the average cost for a full Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) visit in 2022 was \$1,411. Clearly, investing in housing options for people with psychiatric disabilities would result in cost savings for New York.

Legislative Need

The Governor's budget proposal includes \$39 million, which will help to pay staff an adequate wage and to enhance programs for housing residents with multiple medical and mobility challenges. MHANYS is calling on the Governor to add an additional \$57 million (for a total investment of \$96 million) to help close a funding gap for existing NYSOMH sponsored/licensed/funded mental health housing programs in New York.

¹ Costs of Emergency Department Visits for Mental and Substance Use Disorders in the United States, 2017, May 2020 Zeynal Karaca, Ph.D., and Brian J. Moore, Ph.D.

Talking Points

- ✓ 40,000 New Yorkers with serious psychiatric disabilities depend on supportive housing arrangements.
- ✓ For several decades, funding levels for existing housing units have not kept pace with inflation
- ✓ Without increased resources, many housing providers will have to consider closing or reducing the number of units
- ✓ Housing saves money: Housing providers are reimbursed between \$21 and \$68 per day, per resident, while a per day OMH operated inpatient psychiatric hospitalization in 2022 cost \$1,100