

## WHAT IS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING?

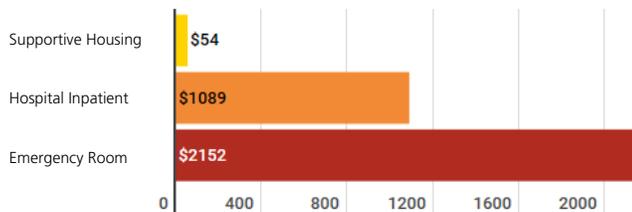
Supportive housing is a proven, cost-effective means of re-integrating families and individuals with mental illness, substance use or chronic health challenges into the community by addressing their basic needs for housing and on-going support.

**Supportive housing is a solution for those with high needs experiencing homelessness** because it addresses its root causes. It is an alternative to more expensive and less effective institutional settings.

### THE ISSUE: We don't have enough support services or rental subsidies

The state is in need of the housing stabilization support and wraparound services that keep highly vulnerable people stable in their housing as well as the rental subsidies that make the units affordable. Budget rescissions have led to a gap in services in the system that is being felt across the state.

#### Cost per day of Supportive Housing compared to alternate forms of care



### Supportive housing has two major components:

**Safe, secure rental housing** that is affordable, independent, and permanent. Primarily funded through the Department of Housing (DOH).

**Voluntary support services** provided by staff trained in working with people experiencing homelessness and people with disabilities.

## BREAKING THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS

Supportive housing is a sustainable solution to long-term homelessness because it:

- Fosters self-sufficiency and stability
- Facilitates the process of securing and retaining employment
- Prevents unnecessary use of emergency health systems
- Reduces recidivism and lowers incarceration costs
- Promotes preventative care

*The cost of supportive housing is roughly 20 times less than a stay in hospital inpatient and 40 times less than emergency rooms.*

## THE SOLUTION

The state needs more supportive housing services to be paired with subsidized rental units to help provide housing stabilization for vulnerable populations. Preserving Housing Support Services at DMHAS at \$23 million and implementing the Governor's proposed Medicaid Supportive Housing Benefit are critical steps.

The DMHAS Housing Support Services line item allows us to maintain the necessary housing stabilization support and wraparound services that keep highly vulnerable people stable in their housing. The Housing/Homeless Services line item at DOH is at the core of the state's efforts to end homelessness. It includes rental subsidies which are critical for supportive housing. Medicaid covered supportive housing services advance efforts to end homelessness and create a path for both expansion and sustainability for housing stabilization supports for the highest cost and most vulnerable subset of homeless individuals currently underserved by existing services.

The Medicaid Supportive Housing Benefit is proposed in both the Department of Social Services (DSS) and DOH budgets. DSS estimates reductions in Medicaid expenditures of \$2.7 million in FY 20 and \$13.9 million in FY 21. Funding is included in the DOH budget for the rental assistance associated with the development of a 1915(i) state plan amendment that will provide supportive housing to up to 850 individuals who experience homelessness.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: