

A Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Project in Trinidad: Talking Points

What is Permanent Supportive Housing?

- 1) Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is not a traditional homeless shelter.
 - a. PSH is apartment style living for homeless community members who face the most barriers. Often, this includes a combination of mental/physical health challenges in addition to homelessness.
 - i. Residents are expected to sign a lease, abide by certain rules and pay rent. Rent is no more than 30% of their annual income. If a resident doesn't have an income, they are connected to benefits or job seeking resources to earn one.
 - ii. Residents aren't required to partake in services, but services will be provided on-site.
 - b. A PSH project in Trinidad would fall under the "Housing First" and "Harm Reduction" models of service.

What is Housing First?

- 1) Housing First is a homeless assistance approach that prioritizes housing before other services, thus ending homelessness and providing a platform from which they can pursue other needs and improve their quality of life.



What is Harm Reduction?

- 1) Everyone engages in harm reduction techniques, like applying sunscreen to avoid skin cancer and wearing a seatbelt. Harm Reduction in PSH recognizes that we must "meet people where they're at." To expect sobriety from someone before they have stable housing isn't realistic, and sets them up for failure.
 - a. Any positive step toward minimizing drug/alcohol use is encouraged. For example, a person who drinks a pint of vodka every day reduces their intake to 3 beers a week. This is considered success.

Where will the building be located?

- 1) Ideal sites for PSH projects are centrally located: near hospitals, workforce centers, grocery stores and other service providers/resources. Service providers will be onsite, which is beneficial for residents as well as the provider.

Who will be living in PSH in Trinidad?

- 1) We don't know yet, but we're collecting data to find out which demographic has the highest need. Some target populations might include:
 - a. Youth, ages 18-25
 - b. Veterans
 - c. Families

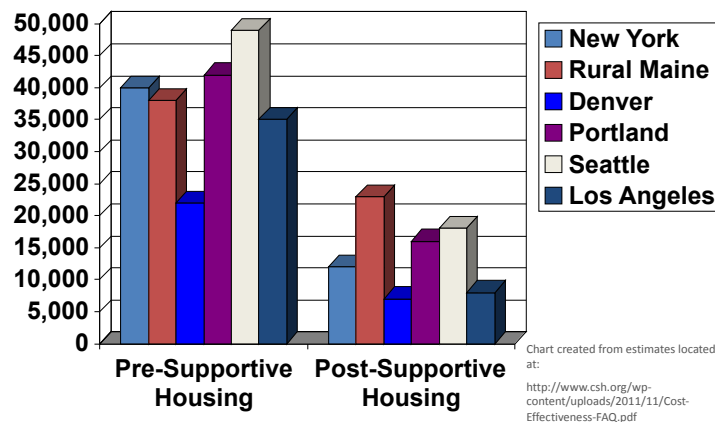
What about 'transient' and panhandling challenges?

- 1) Panhandlers are a distinct population, and not necessarily those who we seek to serve. Encourage those around you to donate their money effectively.

Why should we build housing for 'bums' who choose to be homeless? Why can't they just get a job?

- 1) Homelessness is not a moral deficiency and is a temporary and circumstantial condition.
- 2) People experiencing homelessness each have unique needs, and face unique challenges. For example, if you don't have an address you might not have an ID. Then, it's nearly impossible to get a job to earn income to pay rent, and the cycle of homelessness continues.
- 3) If you're concerned about visibility of the homeless, this solution removes people from the street.
- 4) To remain homeless is a financial burden on emergency services and law enforcement (and therefore taxpayers.) PSH effectively decreases the overall cost.

Per-Person Annualized Cost of Public Services Before and After Entering PSH



If PSH is so successful, why haven't I heard about it yet?

- 1) There are ongoing PSH projects all over Colorado.
 - a. The Journey Home project will provide 30 units of PSH to those in Canon City.
 - b. The Guadalupe Apartments in Greeley (47 units) garnered so much community support that they're calling their next project "Guadalupe 2.0"
 - c. Grand Junction, Denver, Alamosa, Boulder and others have completed or are working on PSH projects.