Past Issues

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CUCS News, updates, stories, and more from the Center for Urban **Community Services. July 2023**

I recently attended the Supportive Housing Network of New York (SHNNY) 2023 conference. The Network represents its nonprofit members in a "collective effort to end homelessness among the most vulnerable New Yorkers through the creation of sufficient supportive housing." Over 1,000 people joined together to learn from each other - discussing and sharing strategies that are successful yet sometimes challenging. The commitment, knowledge, and passion were inspiring. I want you to know there are thousands of people in New York City working every day to help those experiencing homelessness.

In our July CUCS Report, we offer you a high-level overview of permanent supportive housing and how it impacts all New Yorkers.

for individuals experiencing homelessness and is our best solution to homelessness. By providing stable housing, comprehensive support services, and community integration, this transformative approach not only improves the lives of individuals but also

benefits New York City as a whole.

Officer, and a long-serving CUCS leader and expert in

the field of permanent supportive housing. Our expert

Kingsbridge Heights, a permanent supportive housing site for families in the Bronx. Gabby helps us

understand how a grant to bring in tutors for students

helps them beyond the classroom and enriches the

Our opening quote is by Adina Barbosa, Chief Program of the month, Gabby Gomez, is the Program Director of lives of the entire family.

As always, we welcome your comments and questions

and we thank you for your partnership, as together, we

work towards a solution to this crisis - one person at a

time.

Chief Development and Communications Officer

Person-Centered Solutions

I started my career at CUCS over 23 years ago as a

supportive housing site. In fact, I know a few clients

The services offered by CUCS take a person-centered

individual goals - such as learning how to cook, taking

care of their mental and physical health, getting a job,

and reconnecting with family. Clients have a place to

call their own and they are supported every day by our

talented and caring onsite support teams which include

social workers, case managers, and career specialists.

I am so excited for every new permanent supportive

housing program we open because that is the best,

most effective intervention to solve homelessness.

Adina Barbosa, Chief Program Officer

Permanent Supportive

Housing:

A Transformational

Approach

Permanent supportive housing is the best hope for

This evidence-based model combines affordable

housing with vital support services to help clients

develop independent living skills, access essential

homelessness for good. CUCS spearheads efforts to

stable housing located across all five boroughs. We

organizations, and community partners, to ensure the

work closely with government agencies, nonprofit

success of our clients through these life-changing

While some clients are eager to move into housing

providers, systems and the processes that have

sometimes failed them. The journey from street to

feel supported and guided throughout. This critical

immediately, others need more time to build trust with

home can be complex, but CUCS staff ensures clients

relationship is often the pathway for clients to consider

The Journey

supportive housing begins by getting to know the client

history of homelessness, their medical or psychological

and their unique needs and experiences. CUCS staff

spend time with the client to better understand their

condition, and over time, their housing preferences.

Once these assessments are complete and a person

Administration. Based on their eligibility and interest,

the client is invited to visit available supportive housing

units that meet their needs. When a match is made and

all the necessary paperwork is completed and filed, the

CUCS supportive housing staff provides supportive

healthcare, and social services. Health care providers

maintain clients' mental and physical well-being, while

educational and vocational programs foster personal

The permanent supportive housing model promotes

housing site, reducing stigma, and helping clients build

note that permanent supportive housing is, at its core,

belonging by building a sense of community at the

their own supportive relationships. It is important to

an apartment with a lease. Support services are

client to decide how much they participate.

voluntary and flexible, and it is ultimately up to the

The impact of permanent supportive housing is often

transformational. Stable housing and support services

improve residents' mental, physical, and emotional

well-being, enabling personal growth and recovery.

emergency services, hospitals, and prisons. It also

sufficiency among residents. It is our best hope to find

a solution for people experiencing homelessness and

effective, reducing public expenses related to

stimulates local economies by promoting self-

all New Yorkers.

Economically, permanent supportive housing is cost-

services once clients are housed. Case managers

assist with employment, family connections,

growth, wellness, and self-sufficiency.

decides they are ready, the client's paperwork is

submitted to the NYC Human Resources

process moves forward for them to move in.

The journey from homelessness to permanent

programs.

moving indoors.

transition those experiencing street homelessness into

services, build a community, and ultimately exit

people experiencing homelessness in New York City.

approach to help support people in pursuing their

social worker at the Prince George permanent

who are still living there since that time!

Best Regards,

Rise Roth

Permanent supportive housing offers a beacon of hope

York City. 159 special needs families with histories of homelessness are currently served at CUCS family program supportive housing sites. 232 clients were relocated from street homelessness and placed into permanent supportive housing by CUCS street outreach services in 2022.

Questions... and Answers

Ask the Experts at CUCS

Our Impact

CUCS programs are data-driven. We consistently track

Supportive Housing Quick Stats:

CUCS/Janian in permanent supportive housing in New

2605 vulnerable New Yorkers are served by

and measure our impact to ensure the highest quality

of service possible.

Housing Sites Expert: Gabby Gomez Program Director, Kingsbridge Heights Supportive Housing Site

Topic: Tutoring at Permanent Supportive

How does tutoring help children at permanent supportive housing sites? As tutors and students build trust with each other, the students feel more comfortable being open about the skills they struggle with. This helps the student grow throughout the tutoring sessions. Several students reported that they felt more confident speaking up for themselves in the classroom as a result of working with the tutors. How does tutoring help parents?

Parents have had to "step up" to make sure their kids

attend their tutoring consistently. When those parents

see the positive impact they have, it helps them open

being committed and accountable to their own goals.

up and reflect on the issues that prevent them from

Is tutoring just helping kids finish their homework or is it something more? It's something more! Students feel heard and are empowered to self-reflect. They get a better understanding of what they need for themselves in order to grow. Having confidence and the belief that you can do this is a key component to their success. Can we measure the effects of tutoring?

Yes, we can. We can measure academic skills,

growth in students. Based on these results, tutors

administer lessons designed to improve organization

skills, working memory, short- and long-term memory,

attendance or using assessments to determine areas of

and self-advocacy. How many kids does CUCS help with tutoring? We have started with 19 this year. On Saturdays, students from two of our supportive housing sites,

Sydelle and Lenninger, come to Kingsbridge Heights

for tutoring. Parents also utilize community resources

What is a moment when you realize you are

advocacy from staff.

and school-based tutoring as well, with assistance and

really making a difference? When a student stated that he feels heard, and that he forgets he has a learning disability – because at school he is always reminded of that.

Stay informed and follow CUCS on social media: f (in (y)

Thank you for reading the CUCS Report. Our goal is to make sure New

Yorkers are well-informed as we continue our work to help people rise

from poverty, exit homelessness, and be healthy. The CUCS Report is a publication of the Center for Urban Community Services. Do you have questions about the CUCS Report, our services, facilities or programs? Contact: devcom@cucs.org

The CUCS Report I July 2023

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