

A PLACE TO LIVE

Susan W., who had lived independently in her own apartment for five years, thanks to a HUD Section 8 housing subsidy, required short term hospitalization to stabilize her mental health condition and adjust her medications. Her landlord advised Susan's case manager that the apartment had been abandoned and he had removed her belongings and rented to another person. Susan's hospital stay was extended for more than one year as a result.

In contrast, when Alice P. was admitted to Cedarcrest Hospital for "short term treatment" (90 days), her case manager collaborated with the Connecticut Legal Rights Project (CLRP) to assure that the rent was paid and her apartment remained available to her upon her discharge. Two comparable scenarios, but two very different outcomes.

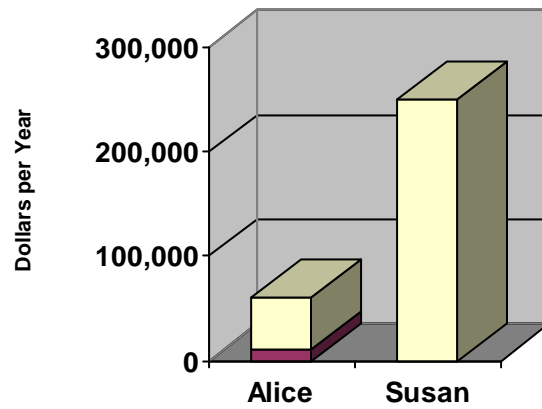


Safe, stable housing is critical for people to sustain their recovery. The lack of appropriate housing is often a significant barrier to discharges from hospital and other residential treatment settings. Prompt attention to the details of a person's housing at the time that an individual is hospitalized or incarcerated can ensure that he or she does not lose stable housing or their personal household belongings, thereby reducing long term hospitalization and preventing homelessness.

Simple Steps to Help People Maintain Housing in Times of Crisis

- ✘ Discuss when rent and utility bills are due and arrange to ensure they are paid on time.
- ✘ Inform landlords that the home is not abandoned.
- ✘ Be aware that some benefits may be discontinued if a person is in the hospital or prison for a period of time, making it difficult to pay the bills.
- ✘ Section 8 vouchers and public housing programs have many time sensitive requirements that can be rescheduled upon request as a reasonable accommodation.
- ✘ The CLRP HOME Project is available to help people take the steps required to maintain their housing during hospitalizations. Make referrals as quickly as possible.

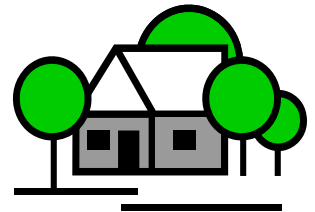
Preserving Community Housing



□ cost of inpt. State psychiatric
■ rent paid while in hospital



There is a housing shortage for people with mental health and substance use disorders. Let's do all that we can to preserve what we do have!



For more information, please contact Alice.Minervino@po.state.ct.us .
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