

PERMANENT HOUSING CASE STUDY



Title: Council of Community Services, Gillette, Wyoming, Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Families

Property Name: Way Station II

Basic Description: Six transitional housing units were converted to one, two, and three-bedroom, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units for chronically homeless families

Developer: No development was required

Property Management: Council of Community Services

Service Provider: Council of Community Services

Tenant Profile: Chronically homeless families with at least one member of the household having a mental illness

Service Approach: In coordination with the Department of Family Services (DFS), the primary goals of the Way Station II project are self-sufficiency, permanent housing, and family reunification. There is a heavy emphasis on helping families build needed life skills, including ensuring that families learn to manage their unit and meet the needs of their children. The project also engages several community partners, including a local master gardener who brings plants, flowers and vegetables to the families. Promoting self-sufficiency skills, the housing manager also encourages clients to utilize local, available resources such as the library for budgeting classes and utilizing the computers for job searches.

Project Background:

As the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program began to move away from funding transitional housing, the Council of Community Services began to review their housing priorities. At the time, they had six units of transitional housing that had been built in the late 1990s with donated land through a HOME loan. When the project was being run as a transitional housing program, the Council of Community Services recognized a significant amount of recidivism among their former residents. This data proved that there was a need for more supportive services to be offered to residents through PSH. As a result of this data and the shift of CoC funding priorities toward PSH, the Council of Community Services converted the transitional housing units to PSH.

Key Features and Impact:

- Tenants who previously had lost custody of their children to DFS were able to be reunified with their children
- Currently, tenants do not receive rental subsidies
- All tenants are employed
- Services provided include case management, budgeting, consumer education, parenting skills, interpersonal skill-building, educational advancement, job skills, nutrition and cooking skills, and needed referrals
- One housing manager carries out all property management, compliance, and service delivery for the project
- CoC Supportive Services Only (SSO) dollars are utilized to cover the housing manager's salary

FINANCING INFORMATION

Operations Budget

| Funding Source | Amount Received |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| HUD Supportive Services Only (SSO) | \$55,000 |
| Total | \$55,000 |

DEVELOPER PROFILE

The Council of Community Services, a nonprofit organization in Gillette, Wyoming, is committed to helping vulnerable and homeless communities become self-sufficient through the provision of a several housing and services opportunities, including emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing for individuals and chronically homeless families, a group home for adults living with severe mental illness, a food pantry, a soup kitchen, a thrift store and a weatherization program.

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