

# Advances in Supportive Housing

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## *Living the Mission!*

The Mission of the Department of Developmental Services is to partner with the individuals we support and their families, to support lifelong planning and to join with others to create and promote meaningful opportunities for individuals to fully participate as valued members of their communities.



# History and Outline

# Supportive Housing Initiative

- 2014 - invited and joined State interagency committee on supportive housing
- Initiated our IDASH effort (Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder Housing)
- IDASH focused on establishing partnerships between our providers and developers of affordable housing to create housing units (apartments) in these projects for individuals supported by DDS
- DDS providers facilitate the relocation and provide ongoing services as needed to support these individuals in living as independently as possible
- 2021 - we were beginning the process of relocating DDS Supported individuals into their new apartments

# Initiative Goals

1. Expand access to community integrated affordable supportive housing.
2. Strengthen connection between service providers and housing providers.
3. Demonstrate effective deployment and use of smart home and assistive technology
4. Support transitions from institutional care models to full community integration

# What Do Individuals Want?

- Safe and affordable housing
  - Rental assistance
  - Option to have a room mate
- Services that enable them to live independently
  - Accessible/ accessible ready housing
  - Access to technology and other developments
- Access to transportation
- Access to community spaces
- Inclusion in community activities
- Option & opportunities to participate in employment

# Criteria

- No more than 25% of units designated for individuals supported by DDS
- Building must provide common space
- Plan for services must include community engagement activities (for entire community) to foster better integration of the folks we support into the life of the community
- Plan for ongoing services is created by the provider and approved by both the regional and Central DDS Offices

# Process

1. Developer w/ track record developing low income and mixed income housing and DDS Service Provider with a track record of excellence with DDS find each other
2. A plan is developed for scattered 1 & 2 BR units (no more than 25%) some accessible
3. A support plan is developed for the individuals who would relocate there
4. DDS issues a letter of commitment & hope the development is selected for the tax credit funding (15-year commitment)
5. If selected, the housing is developed

# Current Project Status

## Open and Operational (76 individuals/50 units)

- Bloomfield
  - Canton
  - Hartford
- West Hartford
- Torrington

## Under Construction (102 individuals/89 units)

- Hartford (2 projects)
  - Farmington
  - New Britain
  - New Haven
  - New London
    - Orange
  - Pawcatuck



# What Makes Supportive Housing Successful?

- Person centered living environment.
- Person centered approach to services – continuum as needs change so will services.
- Physical integration
  - No more than 25% of the units
  - Scattered throughout the development.
  - Economies of scale (physical proximity of individuals being supported reduces travel time for individuals providing the services (DCP's, nurses, PT, CM, etc.)
  - Ability to change/ evolve/ age in place.
- Strong relationship among provider, developer, & property manager.
- Rental assistance / rental subsidies

## Newer Iteration of Supportive Housing

- Non-project based supportive housing (Identify existing apartments; DDS providers work with property managers to make these units available for individuals we support
  - Three providers have developed projects in their service area and are in the process of relocating individuals we support into these units
  - We are repeating the funding opportunity
  - These developments likely have a proportion of units designated for special populations
  - Providers seek to have no less than 3 units designated for individuals supported by DDS
    - The process is the same. A DDS (regional and Central office) approved plan for providing supports is developed
    - Individuals relocate to the SH unit
    - The location from which they are relocating is held for 6 weeks to give this individual an opportunity to acclimate
- You will be hearing from residents who have transitioned through this program

# News?

**Thank  
You!**