

Best practice.....Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is decent, safe, affordable, community-based housing for people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness.

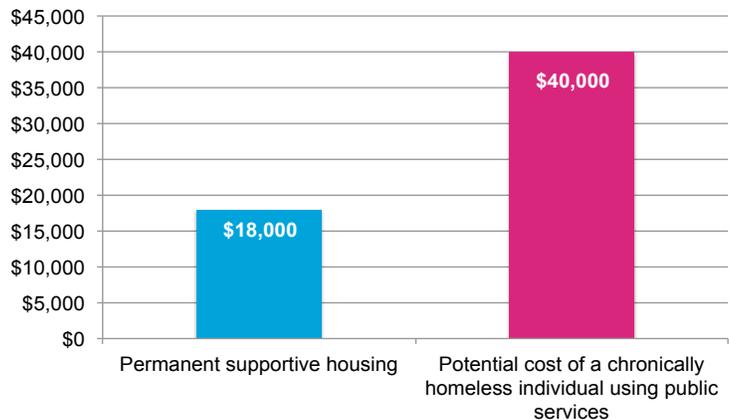
The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) states, “Permanent supportive housing is a proven, effective means of reintegrating chronically homeless and other highly vulnerable homeless families and individuals with psychiatric disabilities or chronic health challenges into the community by addressing their basic needs for housing and providing ongoing support.”

PSH looks and functions much like any other brand of housing. People living in supportive housing have a private and secure place to make their home, just like other members of the community, with the same rights and responsibilities. Services may include the help of a case manager or counselor, help in building independent living and tenancy skills, assistance with integrating into the community, and connections to community-based health care, treatment, and employment services.

The length of stay in PSH is up to the individual or family. There is no time limitation, and tenants may live in their homes as long as they meet the basic obligations of tenancy.

Virginia Supportive Housing was the first non-profit organization in Virginia to develop and provide permanent supportive housing for homeless single adults. In 2006, Virginia Supportive Housing and the South Hampton Roads Regional Task Force to End Homelessness collaborated to build Gosnold Apartments in Norfolk, which is the country’s first regionally funded permanent supportive housing development for homeless individuals.

Annual Cost Comparison of Permanent Supportive Housing v. Doing Nothing



Since 2006, Virginia Supportive Housing has developed a total of 320 affordable units in Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach, and manages 650 units across Virginia. The individuals and families served through VSH generally earn 30 percent or less than the median income.

The success of permanent supportive housing is seen in the outcomes tracked by Virginia Supportive Housing:

- More than 95% of VSH residents do not return to homelessness
- Average incomes of residents increase by 127% within one year of becoming permanently housed

For more information on permanent supportive housing in Virginia, visit: <http://www.virginiassupportivehousing.org>.