

## Supportive Living, Reduced Recidivism, and Re-Incarceration Monroe County, New York -- Executive Summary, 2003

Broadly, this report establishes the need for additional supportive living for homeless people with substance abuse disabilities and / or those recently released from jail. Specifically, it recommends a collaborative pilot program to develop ten supportive living residences over a three year time period.

**The Need:** Annually, community-based supportive living is available for about 1,000 adults with primary substance abuse disabilities in a supportive living environment in Monroe County. Supportive living ranges from transitional to permanent housing, and includes various support services needed to develop the skills necessary to live interdependently. Supportive living is a key element in an individual's chemical dependency recovery and / or re-entry from jail/prison. Based on this Needs Assessment, at any point in time, approximately 700 additional adults, 300 for transitional and 400 for permanent living, have a strong interest in community-based supportive living. In addition to the adults, approximately 300 additional children need supportive living at any point in time.

**Available Resources:** Over many years, East House, Sojourner House, the YWCA, Wilson Commencement Park, MainQuest, and other organizations have increased supportive living resources. Economic and social trends together have outstripped the community's current resource capabilities. The need continues to far exceed the available supply. Program services funding from Federal and State Government agencies and national foundations must complement the housing-related funding from public and private resources within Monroe County.

**Benefit:** Approximately 10% of the surveyed population wants and needs supportive living that coordinates:

- safe, secure, and affordable housing options
- outpatient treatment service
- vocational, educational, and parenting services
- relationship and basic living skills development.

Without a holistic approach, the current 70% recidivism and re-incarceration recycling will continue. The impact on the criminal justice, medical, counseling, and homeless service networks is significant. Recent studies have demonstrated supportive living's economic, social, and human value for homeless people with primary mental health disabilities. Supportive living programs for people with primary substance abuse disabilities have highlighted the social and human benefits, e.g. 70-80% rates of living productive lives. Transitional living plus outpatient treatment costs the same as equivalent time in jail, \$20,000. Permanent living costs about \$8,500, less than 30% of the annual cost of jail. In Monroe County, many view safe, secure, and affordable supportive living as their primary human need.

**Collaborative Pilot Program:** The need far exceeds the community's current housing, professional support, and volunteer resources. A collaborative approach with housing providers, service providers, and the criminal justice system is required. The effort will start slowly and build on success. The Pilot Program will include up to 10 residences, mostly permanent, and outcomes in the following areas will be assessed:

- reduced recidivism and re-incarceration
- improved interdependent development of individuals and communities
- positive economic cost / benefit.