

NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES  
BUREAU OF HOUSING SERVICES

DECEMBER 2009 UPDATE ON  
OASAS PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH) PROGRAMS

**Current Status of Permanent Supportive Housing Programs:**

- The NYS OASAS Bureau of Housing Services has developed and managed a “multi-brand” Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Program since our establishment in May 2007.
- The OASAS Vision is that Permanent Supportive Housing (rental subsidies in Scatter-site and Congregate buildings up to Fair Market Rental rates; client contributions toward rent; intensive case management; employment counseling and job development; other supportive services) is critical for successful long-term recovery of homeless single adults and families struggling with substance use issues.
- When the Housing Bureau was established in May 2007, OASAS had a **Housing Portfolio** of 850 apartment units, all funded through HUD Shelter Plus Care homeless grants. There were PSH programs in NYC and twelve other communities, including just two rural counties.
- By the end of SFY 2009-10 the OASAS PSH programs will have a Housing Portfolio of approximately 1,275 apartments for 825 single adults and 450 heads-of-household living with over 1,000 children. OASAS PSH programs are located in all five boroughs of NYC and 22 other counties, including 8 rural counties.
- Today there are 900 apartments under HUD Shelter Plus Care contracts; 325 apartments under the NY/NY III Homeless Initiative; and 50 apartments under the Upstate PSH Initiative.
- There are now forty NGOs who are OASAS Housing Providers, including twenty in NYC. The OASAS Housing Bureau works closely with our Housing Providers. Since June of 2007 we have conducted Quarterly Housing Providers’ Meetings both Downstate (in our NYC offices) and Upstate (in our Albany offices). We have actively participated with the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of NYS since early 2008 in their Housing Workgroup.
- The Bureau is an active member of the New York/New York III Homeless Initiative Oversight Committee and the MISCC Housing Committee.

These Programs are highly successful --- over 90% of participants remain in permanent housing for more than two years duration; over 90% of participants do not require either hospitalization or intensive treatment service episodes related to addiction or psychiatric problems; and over 40% of Program participants are employed full-time.

## **Near-term Plans Consistent with MISCC Housing Goals:**

OASAS is finalizing plans to tap an existing federal SAMHSA **Technical Assistance grant** to use Participatory Action Research through a series of Focus Group Interviews with our Program Participants. This effort should begin in April 2010.

- The interviews will attempt to learn about Program participants' life experiences when homeless and since placement into our PSH program, housing and life style preferences, and specific recommendations for modifications to their PSH program and recommendations as to new program development.
- Proportional to the number of PSH participants in specific Regions of the state, it is anticipated that four groups will be held in NYC, two in Utica, and one each in Newburgh (Lower Hudson Valley), the Capital Region, and Buffalo. Since approximately 40 % of PSH participants are employed full-time, it is expected that the Focus Groups would meet in the early evening or on a Saturday. We expect at least 200 participants in total.
- The Consultant organization and the Housing Bureau will develop a Report on the Focus Group Interviews, which will be made available on the OASAS website. This Initiative will be the largest single effort nationally to reach out to formerly homeless men and women in recovery who are now living in permanent supportive housing.

## **2010-11 OASAS PSH Programming:**

- OASAS expects to introduce a **Fourth PSH "Brand"** in 2010-11. OASAS will be issuing an RFP for NYC later this month (December 2009) for the development and operation of a **Re-Entry Permanent Supportive Housing Program for Parolees** who are returning to the community as a result of **Drug Law Reform Re-sentencing**. It is estimated that at least 25% of parolees returning to NYC are functionally homeless, and enter Homeless Shelters within the first thirty days post-release. This First Phase of a Re-Entry PSH Initiative will support one award for twelve apartment units --- ten studio apartments and two one-bedroom units that can be occupied by a parent who is re-uniting with a child who has been living in a kinship arrangement while the parent was in state prison.
- OASAS expects to add fifty (50) more apartments to our NY/NY III Homeless Initiative in the form of a congregate site in The Bronx; this site should be ready for occupancy by October 2010. This addition will bring our NY/NY III PSH Program to its committed capacity of 375 apartment units for homeless single adults in recovery who have been living in Homeless Shelters or on the streets.
- OASAS expects to add two new Shelter Plus Care grants in Upstate New York in 2010-11. One grant will cover two rural counties (Columbia and Greene counties) and the second will cover three more rural counties (Montgomery, Fulton, and Schoharie counties). Approximately twenty (20) more apartments will become available in these communities, with one-half dedicated to families in recovery.

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