

Permanent Housing Referrals:

All housing referrals for homeless persons can be accessed through the NY-603 Long Island Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry System (CES), which is managed by LICH.

Referrals can be processed to, but not limited to the following types of programs:

CoC-funded permanent supportive housing (PSH) has owned, leased or voucher-based units managed by various non-profits. All permanent supportive housing includes housing with support services/case management offered to all program participants. Permanent supportive housing funded by the CoC operates under a “Housing First” model which removes barriers to program entry such as sobriety or income and requires progressive engagement efforts to keep people in program once referred. If a participant household does have income (not required to enter a program) up to 30% of their income can be charged for rent as part of a lease agreement. Some units can be single/private units while others may be in a shared housing setting. These units are exclusively available to individuals and families that are homeless one year or more and have an adult in the household with a disability. Housing placements are prioritized to those chronically homeless households that have been homeless the longest. The LICH office is currently engaging individuals and families that have been homeless between 3 years through 20+ years. Per a 2017 census count using the *Homeless Management Information System*, there are over 300 households on Long Island that have been homeless for one year or more with an adult in the household that has a disability. Chronically homeless households are only referred to units of their choosing and acceptance, using a client-centered model. In 2016, there were 62 CoC-funded permanent supportive housing units that became available, based on turnover. There is about 9.5 million dollars awarded to CoC-funded permanent supportive housing program, annually, through a competitive funding process (not guaranteed for renewal). All referrals go through the CES to chronically homeless households. This funding allows for programs to maintain units and case management for all program participants.

CoC-funded rapid rehousing (RRH) are programs that provide short to medium term rental assistance as well as offering all clients supportive services that focus on stability, employment and financial sustainability. These programs will work with clients that are homeless the longest to help them locate rental units, assist with rental payments, and provide support services. Although each placement is permanent, the program will only assist with rent on a temporary basis and then program participants will assume 100% responsibility for rental payments. These programs (two) are new programs that will be available around July 2017 and are projected to serve about 80 homeless households (single adults and families) in the remainder of 2017 and early 2018. In the first year of funding, there will be approximately 1.1 million dollars awarded to CoC-funded rapid rehousing programs from 2017-2018, through a competitive funding process (not guaranteed for renewal). All referrals go through the CES.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) rapid rehousing provides very short term, one time rental assistance for those that need minimal [financial] support to exit homelessness. Emergency Solutions Grant funded is awarded to Nassau County, Suffolk County and the Town of Islip. ESG funding is awarded annually to the Nassau County Housing Department and sub-recipients through Suffolk County and the Town of Islip. These programs provide rental subsidies to households referred through the CES (LICH).

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) rapid rehousing are programs that provide short term rental assistance and supportive services to veteran households, both single adults and families. SSVF programs are funded by the VA. Open enrollment for any homeless veteran household.

Veterans Administration Supported Housing (VASH) vouchers are rental subsidies for veteran households that also offer support services along with the housing voucher. The veteran household is issued a voucher and has a certain period of time to locate a unit to use that voucher with. VASH vouchers are funded by the VA.

Office of Mental Health (OMH) housing through Single Point of Access (SPOA) are permanent housing programs that have varying levels of support for persons with severe and persistent mental illness. OMH programs are funded by the NYS Office of Mental Health. Referrals go through SPOA and the CES.

Other permanent supportive housing such as **HUD Homeless Housing Assistance Projects (HHAP)**, **Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities (HUD 811)**, and **HUD Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program (HUD 202)** provides housing and supportive services for homeless households but are not mandated to use a “Housing First” approach or to accept referrals from the CES (program discretion).

Affordable private rentals are also part of the housing stock for homeless persons. LICH actively engages private landlords that are willing to work directly with LICH to place homeless families. This is for households that can afford rent, but are having trouble locating a unit and/or working through barriers such as poor credit history or criminal background, which some landlords will screen for.

Section 8 housing vouchers are offered through various townships and public housing authorities. Many waitlists are currently closed and only currently vouchers that are recycled (turnover) become available. Section 8 is funded through HUD.

Homeless persons can access the system from anywhere on Long Island, no matter where they present. All households that enter emergency shelter are part of the CES through the HMIS database. LICH also cross-references HMIS data with DSS, VA, hospitals and other major stakeholders. LICH coordinates with all outreach teams and other community resources to identify homeless. Any homeless person can also access the CES by calling the homeless hotline at 631-464-4314 x 118. LICH is in the process of creating a web-based referral through their website. The CES, which is currently in pilot phase, will be advertised community-wide by January of 2018.