



Department of

**Mental Health &**

**Substance Abuse Services**

# Creating Homes Initiative

Office of Housing and Homeless Services

# Creating Homes Initiative (CHI)

- Started in 2000
- Created in response to the lack of safe, decent, quality, permanent, and affordable housing options for persons with mental illness in Tennessee
- Proven model of **strategic collaboration** and **assertive partnering** to leverage and secure funds and resources to create and preserve **safe, quality, affordable and permanent housing options** for Tennesseans with mental illness or co-occurring disorders
- FY 2020: expanded to include Tennesseans in opioid and other substance use and abuse recovery (CHI 2.0)





# Serving the Whole Person: Health & Housing

## Resilience, Recovery & Independence

- Access to Mental Health Care
- Access to Primary Care
- Integrated Care
- Affordability
- Transportation
- Identifying supplemental resources
- Peer Recovery Support
- Supported Employment (IPS)
- SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR)
- Individualized plans
- Social skills



# The CHI Team

- CHI 1.0 Regional Housing Facilitators
- CHI 2.0 Regional Substance Use Housing Facilitators
- Director of CHI Regional Housing Facilitators
- Consumer Housing Specialists
- Director of Housing & Homeless Services



Pictured: CHI 1.0 Regional Housing Facilitators meet for a 3-day training in 2018



# Funding Partners

- Federal Home Loan Banks
- HUD
- Tennessee Housing Development Agency
- City/Local Governments
- Community Development Centers
- Community Housing Development Organizations
- Public Housing Authorities
- USDA
- Tax credits
- Private banks
- Foundations
- Habitat for Humanity
- Private contributors
- Churches
- Match funding partners (Cash, In-Kind)
- Property Owners (Equity, Mortgage)



# CHI Partnerships: Stakeholders

- Recipients of behavioral health services
- Fellow State Agencies
- Policy Makers
- HUD Continuums of Care
- State, Regional & Local Community Groups/Organizations
- Funding Entities
- Housing Developers
- Behavioral Health Service Providers
- Substance Use Treatment & Recovery Services Providers
- Advocacy Groups & Organizations
- Professionals & Program/Services Staff
- Faith-Based Community
- Medicaid MCOs
- Volunteers
- Psychiatric Hospitals



# Working With Partners – Best Practices

- Frequent engagement and follow-up
- Foster productive partnerships, symbiotic relationships
- Establish S.M.A.R.T. goals and delegate action steps – track status & progress, and adjust when needed
- Listen to the community and to your partners
- Collective brainstorming for feasible alternatives or adjustments
- Funding sources: What does it say? What doesn't it say?
- Keep your leaders informed



# Working Through COVID-19

- Optimizing use of virtual technology, reframing our perspectives
- Replacing direct, in-person community engagement?
- Quality of communication – decreased degree of separation
- Intra-agency engagement and partnerships



# CREATING HOMES INITIATIVE

A Proven Model



**22,900**  
Housing  
Opportunities Created



**694 M**  
in Leveraged Funding  
Federal, State, Local, Grant, Foundation, etc.

Since 2000 for people living with mental illness



# Contact Information

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