

Hawai'i Supportive Housing Work Group



Findings & Recommendations

The Hawai'i Supportive Housing Work Group was formed to establish a broad stakeholder group among all of the various populations that could benefit from supportive housing, and to collectively increase our understanding of the needs for and components of this type of housing. A case statement report was developed to communicate the Group's findings and provide recommendations on these learnings, which is summarized here.

Overview of Supportive Housing

Supportive housing pairs a housing unit with a rental subsidy and supportive services that fit the residents' needs. This combination enables housing stability for community members with higher needs who may not be able to stay housed with a housing unit alone. Local and national studies demonstrate the benefits of supportive housing on individual residents, our public systems, and our entire community. While there are a variety of benefits, there are also many challenges that have prevented these units from being developed to meet the need. Challenges include combatting NIMBY sentiments and stigmas, limited funding and financing resources for these units, a lack of partnerships between providers of the various aspects of supportive housing, and the lack of focus on increasing stock specifically for these units.

Needs in Hawai'i

We have a number of resources with data estimates that stakeholders agree can serve as a foundational starting point to understand our supportive housing needs here in Hawai'i. This includes ballpark data estimates from the Corporation for Supportive Housing, which estimated a total statewide need of 3,840 supportive housing units across all of the populations that may need this type of housing. While we have good starting point data, it would be beneficial for Hawai'i to invest in ongoing comprehensive data collection across all sub-groups that can be broken down by county and placement need type. In addition to ongoing data collection to understand our need now and trends over time, modeling projections would allow for more proactive planning for supportive housing needs going forward.

Best Practices

Through the Work Group's learnings, the Group has developed a good understanding of best practices for supportive housing. Beginning from the planning stages, it is important to understand the residents intended to be served by the supportive housing units, including through stakeholder consultation. Partnerships are one strategy that can help supportive housing projects by leveraging expertise, including expertise in providing services and in development. As there may be NIMBY opposition to supportive housing projects and stigmas associated with those who are to be served, local agencies provided the Group with various strategies to engage the community and combat NIMBY-ism, including through communicating value, connecting with the community, being open to dialogue, and simply being a good neighbor. Lastly, as those who would benefit from supportive housing tend to have low income, in addition to the existing funding and financing resources that can be leveraged for these units, there is a need to prioritize the development and ongoing rent and services components of supportive housing through designated funds and other tools.

Recommendations

- 1 Prioritize the development of supportive housing units through creation of designated capital funding specifically for this population and with prioritization through the State's Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP).
- 2 Create dedicated funding sources for the ongoing components of supportive housing, including for rental subsidies and services costs to ensure long-term project stability.
- 3 Work with State and County Public Housing Authorities to ensure adequate capacity for administration of Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs).
- 4 Invest in ongoing data collection and modeling projections of supportive housing needs to better understand and predict community needs.
- 5 Incentivize consultation with key stakeholders, including the target resident population, service providers, property managers, and neighbors to create successful and sustainable projects.

For the full report, please visit: <https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/advocacy>

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