

What's in Washington DC's Draft Production Plan for Permanent Supportive Housing?

The District has published a draft production plan for permanent supportive housing (PSH) for the chronically homeless. **The deadline for comments is May 16, 2008.**

If you have comments:

- A. **Contact Sanja Partalo**, Chief, Office of Policy, Research and Analysis.

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- B. **Attend the hearing** on Tuesday, May 6th from 10:00AM-12:00PM at 1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Room G9.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is included under the District's definition of "chronically homeless"?

The District's proposed definition for "chronically homeless" is broader than the HUD definition and includes both homeless adults and families who:

- (1) Have chronic health conditions that are at least episodically disabling such as mental illness, substance use issues, and HIV/AIDS or other substantial barriers to housing stability (e.g., domestic violence, trauma, or history of out-of-home placements); AND
- (2) Have been homeless for long periods of time (one year or more) or repeated stays in the streets, emergency shelters, or other temporary settings, sometimes cycling between homelessness and hospitals, jails, and/or prisons.

This definition includes people living on the streets or in abandoned buildings, people living in transitional housing, and individuals leaving institutional settings.

2. How many PSH units does the District plan to create?

The District plans to create 2,500 units of PSH for the chronically homeless. The District calculates that, since December 2004, it has created 165 of the 2,000 PSH units intended for individuals and 95 of the 500 PSH units intended for families. The District plans to create 1,835 additional PSH units for individuals and 405 additional PSH units for families. The plan includes a cost estimate for the production of these units.

3. What is the timeline for production?

The District plans to produce the remaining PSH units by the end of 2014.

4. What is considered a PSH unit for the chronically homeless under the District's plan?

A PSH unit under the District's plan is a unit of rental housing that is restricted as permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals or families and is supported by any amount of government resources.

5. What models of housing has the District proposed?

- (1) Single site single purpose developments: buildings devoted entirely to PSH.
- (2) Single site mixed income developments: mixed-income buildings that have units set aside as PSH.
- (3) Scattered site developments: a collection of smaller buildings scattered throughout an area, individual PSH units spread among housing developments, houses, or PSH units within a duplex or in apartment buildings. The District recommends that scattered site units be located close to each other to make management and delivery of services more efficient.

The plan does not say how many units of each model will be created.

6. How many PSH units will be newly constructed or renovated as opposed to units that are leased?

The draft plan calls for the construction or renovation of 773 PSH units, representing 35% of the total units. The rest, or 65%, will be leased units.

7. How much money does the District recommend individuals and families pay towards rent?

The District recommends that people in PSH units pay no more than 30% of their income.

8. Will services be available to people?

The proposed plan offers three levels of services: (1) High Intensity, (2) Medium Intensity, and (3) Low Intensity. Based on the current estimated costs, 60% will receive highly intensity services, 30% will receive medium intensity services, and 10% will receive low-intensity services.

(1) High Intensity Services include case management, mental health, substance use treatment, prevocational and vocational services, parenting skills classes, age-appropriate services for children in families, transportation and recreational programs, access to health and dental care, and services to support housing retention. The recommended case management ratio is 1 to 10-15 for singles and 1 to 6-8 for families. The services are available for as long as needed by individual or family. Consumers would typically meet with case managers at least once per week.

(2) Medium Intensity Services include case management, services to support housing retention, and connections to mainstream resources. Typically, the consumers' main service provider would meet the consumer weekly for six months to a year, less frequently (e.g. once per month) for the following one or two-year period, and then on an as-needed basis to support consumers' connections to community-based services.

(3) Low Intensity Services includes housing assistance, limited case management, and connections to mainstream resources. The length of services is limited by the consumer, but can be reactivated if necessary.

9. Would services be provided on- or off-site?

For High and Medium Intensity Services, single site units would have on-site service providers and/or mobile service teams. Community-building and educational activities would be offered on-site. In scattered site programs, case managers would travel to the units. Community-building and educational activities would generally be off-site.

For Low Intensity Services, individual case managers or a mobile service team would provide services at consumers' homes on single and scattered sites. Consumers could also access services at the provider's office. Consumers' community-building activities may be limited and would likely access educational activities off-site.

10. Who determines what level of services people need or when people may change services?

Individuals and families may receive services at various levels as their needs change. The current plan does not specify who determines the services level. It also does not specify who determines when consumers' needs change.

11. What District agencies are responsible for developing and implementing a PSH Plan?

Office of the City Administrator and Department of Human Services.

12. How do people get copies of the District's PSH Production Plan?

Call (202) 772-4312 or go to <http://ich.dc.gov/ich/site/default.asp> (under "ICH Documents" choose "Permanent Supportive Housing"). Copies will also be available at the public hearing on May 6th.

**This summary was prepared by the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless.
Questions? Call (202) 328-5500**