

Tailored Housing Opportunities for People Involved with the Criminal Justice System

People with criminal records face unique challenges to accessing housing and are disproportionately represented among individuals experiencing homelessness. Individuals reentering the community from jail or prison may experience additional challenges that exacerbate barriers to safe and stable housing. Tailored, trauma-informed housing strategies can be particularly important for individuals with recent experiences of incarceration who may be impacted by carceral trauma. At the same time, housing resources that are typically available for individuals experiencing homelessness are often limited for this population because of institutional stays that impact eligibility.

This tool provides practical guidance to Continuums of Care (CoCs), direct service providers, and other homeless system partners to increase housing opportunities for people with criminal records, including to ensure housing opportunities for individuals whose incarceration impacted their homeless or chronic homeless status.

Key Strategies and Action Steps

- **Design programs responsive to the needs of individuals** reentering the community from incarceration
- **Understand criminal justice system housing resources and their limitations** to develop an integrated continuum of housing and services
- **Leverage resources to expand housing opportunities** that overcome challenges resulting from eligibility barriers or stigma

Design Programs Responsive to Needs

Successfully serving people impacted by incarceration requires understanding the challenges that can result from experiences in jail and prison. Consider the following steps when developing tailored housing for people with criminal records:

- Center People with Lived Experience in All Stages of Programming
- Incorporate Trauma-Informed Design and Responsive Programming

Center People with Lived Experience in All Stages of Programming

Actively engaging people who have been impacted by the criminal justice system is essential to creating an effective housing program. The deep expertise generated through personal

experience can provide valuable insight at every stage of program development, implementation, and evaluation.

- ❑ **Program design** – Engage people with lived experience of incarceration and homelessness in focus groups, community planning sessions, and program design steering committees; if your CoC has a lived experience advisory board, consider working with them to support recruitment and engagement.
- ❑ **Program implementation** – Work with residents to develop programming and services; establish a resident advisory board to provide ongoing leadership and to act as a liaison between residents and program leadership; employ individuals with lived experiences of homelessness and criminal justice system involvement as program staff (see section below on recruiting staff with lived experiences of incarceration).
- ❑ **Program evaluation** – Establish ongoing opportunities for anonymous, authentic feedback from program participants through processes such as surveys, listening sessions, and a comment box; communicate regularly with residents to share the feedback that has been received and next steps being taken; evaluate data regularly to support course correction and continuous improvement to enhance housing retention, stability, and well-being for participants.

Community Spotlight: San Francisco, CA

Five Keys' [Home Free](#) in San Francisco, California provides a restorative environment for women reentering the community after serving long prison sentences.

Designed in partnership with participants, all of whom were incarcerated due to their experiences of gender-based violence, Home Free includes private rooms in a safe, non-carceral environment filled with natural light, access to garden space, and privacy. Services focus on healing and supporting participants to navigate the world in a new way. Home Free incorporates a trauma-informed approach that is tailored to meet residents' specific needs and support their healthy transition back into the community.

Recruiting Staff with Lived Experiences of Incarceration

Cultivating a diverse workforce reflecting the demographics and lived experiences of the client population supports programs to be more effective. Having staff with lived experiences of homelessness and incarceration can foster rapport and trust with participants, inform culturally competent program design, and provide clients with role models and mentors who have experienced similar challenges. Programs with a specific peer component, such as peer-led support groups, can also be extremely successful.

Individuals with criminal records may have unique strengths and challenges as a result of their experiences. Successful cultivation of a diverse staff team that includes individuals with lived

experiences of criminal justice system involvement can benefit from an **effective recruitment process** and investment in strategies to **support success on the job**.

Establish an effective recruitment process:

- ❑ **Network** - Reach out to other service providers, parole, and probation to share the organization's interest in hiring people with lived experience. Ensure the position is posted for a time period that is long enough to reach potential candidates and enable them to apply.
- ❑ **Clear Job Posting** - Focus promotional materials on people with lived experience – when posting job descriptions, affirmatively state that relevant life experience is an advantage for employment.
- ❑ **Avoid Unnecessary Requirements** - Avoid job requirements that are not necessary for the position, such as a college degree or a minimum number of years of work experience.
- ❑ **Train Interviewers** - Ensure interviewers have engaged in anti-bias training and are aware of the potential for stigma and strategies to prevent bias from impacting the interview process.

Support success on the job:

- ❑ **Professional Development** - Provide relevant training with meaningful supervision and support for individuals with more limited employment histories.
- ❑ **Prevent Burnout** - Establish systems to proactively address risks of burnout or over-identification that can occur when working with individuals with similar lived experiences.
- ❑ **Center Individual Preferences** - Protect staff's confidentiality and allow them to take the lead on when to share information about their personal history; allow staff to volunteer for tasks based on their interest rather than automatically assigning activities because of their lived experiences.
- ❑ **Proactively Address Stigma** - Engage in change management processes with staff to openly discuss concerns, stigma, and bias that may arise when working with colleagues and clients with criminal records.

Incorporate Trauma-Informed Design and Responsive Programming

Individuals who have been involved with the criminal justice system may experience carceral trauma, a consequence of the traumatic experiences of arrest, detention, and incarceration. Carceral trauma can manifest as a series of symptoms and behaviors that were necessary to surviving incarceration but can present significant barriers to obtaining and retaining housing (See "Housing-Focused Case Management for People Returning from Incarceration").

When designing housing and services for individuals with experiences of incarceration, it is important to ensure that the program's **physical design** and **programmatic services** reflect trauma-informed principles that are responsive to individuals' experiences of carceral trauma, address the unique needs of individuals with experience of incarceration, and create a sense of inclusion and community for participants.

Strategies to optimize physical design:

- ❑ **Understand Trauma-Informed Design:** Trauma-informed design is a way of creating built environments that are sensitive to the trauma inherent in the experience of incarceration and homelessness.
- ❑ **Comfortable, Non-Carceral Spaces:** Create spaces that are distinct from carceral settings and congregate shelters, with natural light and non-institutional design elements.
- ❑ **Opportunities for Privacy and Quiet:** Provide spaces for privacy and quiet that promote healing and connection.
- ❑ **Informed by Lived Experience:** Include people with lived experience in housing design to ensure that it is trauma-informed and meets the needs of people with carceral histories.

Strategies for effective programming:

- ❑ **Voluntary Services:** Ensure programming is housing first and low barrier, centering client choice and voice and ensuring that housing is not contingent on participation in services.
- ❑ **Distinct from Supervision:** Differentiate the role of services providers from community supervision requirements to foster and maintain trusting dynamics between service providers and clients.
- ❑ **Incorporate Peer Programming:** Create peer coaching and other support opportunities, including spaces led by former program participants, to facilitate connection and wellness support.
- ❑ **Community Connections:** Identify and build collaborations with existing community organizations, including social services agencies, faith-based groups, peer support groups, and behavioral health providers, to strengthen supports for program participants.

Community Spotlight: New York, NY

The nonprofit [Fortune Society](#) provides wraparound services to formerly incarcerated people, and in 2010 opened Castle Gardens, a mixed-use development in West Harlem, New York that includes supportive housing for people with histories of incarceration who are experiencing homelessness.

Harnessing the expertise of people with lived experiences of incarceration, Fortune formed a community outreach team with staff from the local community, including people who had been formerly incarcerated. This team, along with the Fortune Academy Community Advisory Board, conducted extensive community outreach, facilitated one on one conversations, and made a deliberate and successful effort to transform community opposition to community support for the project.

Additional Resources

- [Employing Your Mission: Building Cultural Competence in Reentry Service Agencies through the Hiring of Individuals Who Are Formerly Incarcerated and/or in Recovery \(Fortune Society\)](#): A toolkit for creating a culturally competent workforce in an agency serving people involved with the CJS
- [Trauma Informed Care \(HUD\)](#): A resource page outlining the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's (SAMHSA) six key principles of a trauma-informed approach and trauma-specific interventions
- [Resource Roundup: Trauma Informed Care \(USICH\)](#): A list of key federal resources to strengthen efforts to implement trauma-informed approaches to end homelessness
- [Building Connections to Housing During Reentry \(CSG\)](#): A report on the first national survey of state Departments of Corrections reentry coordinators
- [No Bars to Home: Meeting the Housing Needs of People Impacted by the Criminal Legal System \(Homebase\)](#): This report highlights essential elements and key takeaways of successful housing programs supporting people impacted by the criminal justice system
- [Breaking Down Barriers: Lessons from Housing and Justice System Collaborations \(CSG\)](#): An article highlighting four communities that are building and leveraging cross-system partnerships to increase access to housing for people leaving prisons and jails

Understand Criminal Justice System Housing Resources

It is important for CoCs to have some familiarity with the housing options that may be available through the criminal justice system for the reentry population. The most common of these include halfway houses, recovery housing, and a range of community-based housing options. Most of these programs are temporary in nature, and often mandatory for those exiting or diverted from incarceration. While these can be important resources to prevent homelessness, their typically time-limited nature and lack of Housing First principles can result in transitions to homelessness.

Halfway Houses, Recovery Housing, and Community-Based Options

Criminal justice system housing resources includes **halfway houses**, **recovery housing**, and **community housing options**. In most cases, criminal justice system agencies subcontract with other agencies or provide subsidies and supportive services rather than serving directly as the housing provider.

- ❑ **Halfway Houses:** A halfway house is a group residence for individuals involved with the system. Residents can include individuals being diverted from incarceration, serving all or part of a sentence, or transitioning to the community from prison or jail. Many halfway houses are privately operated, and levels of oversight can vary significantly. Halfway house facilities typically share common features, including:
 - Community-based temporary housing coupled with supervision and services to assist in transitioning back into the community.
 - Around-the-clock supervision and contact with staff, as well as requirements for participants to follow a strict set of rules that include curfews and drug testing.
 - Services relating to employment, education, life skills, and drug and alcohol treatment. The services provided by each halfway house depend on the program and residential population.

| Common Types of Halfway Houses | |
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| Residential Reentry Centers (RRCs) | Transitional housing facilities that provide safe, structured and supervised environments for people leaving federal prison. Provides residents with various programs and services, including employment counseling, job placement, and financial management assistance. |
| State-Licensed Halfway Houses | Work alongside corrections departments to house individuals leaving prison who are often on parole or some other sort of post-release supervision or housing plan. Facilities in this category include Transitional Centers, Reentry Centers, Community Recovery Centers, and others. |
| Restitution Centers/Community-Based or Residential Correctional Facilities | Typically include a mandatory work-related component, such as work release. These facilities are often used as alternatives to prison or jail, and individuals are usually sent to these facilities to serve their whole sentence. |

❑ **Recovery housing:** Recovery housing programs are designed to support individuals who are seeking a substance-free and supportive living environment to support their substance use disorder recovery process. While most often used as a transitional housing option for individuals leaving inpatient, outpatient, and residential treatment programs, recovery housing is also frequently used as a transitional space for people in reentry. Most recovery housing includes some form of peer support, substance use disorder treatment, clinical services, and requirements around community involvement, employment, and attendance at sobriety meetings. That said, individual programs vary significantly in support and structure and generally fall into two categories: **recovery residences** and **sober living homes**.

- **Recovery residences** are structured, sober living environments providing varying levels of support and care, guided by standards established by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) and certified by state-level affiliates. There are four levels of recovery residences:
 - Level 1 (Peer Run Recovery Residence) – typically democratically run, without paid positions though there may be an overseeing officer. Self-help meetings are encouraged but not necessarily required.

- Level 2 (Monitored Recovery Residence) – minimal support and structure, with access to affordable services. Typically includes a house manager or senior resident and at least one paid position.
 - Level 3 (Supervised Recovery Residence) – greater support and structure, including a facility manager and certified staff or case managers, with both service hours in-house and clinical services in the community.
 - Level 4 (Service Provider Recovery Residence) – highest degree of support and structure, with clinical services and programming provided in house. Level IV facilities are the most commonly used by the criminal justice system.
- **Sober Living Homes** take a peer-run approach to provide an environment that promotes abstinence for people recovering from substance use disorders. Sober living homes are also generally financially self-sustaining, have no formal clinical treatment services required, and have no time limit on how long a resident can stay. Typical characteristics of sober living homes include:
 - Mandatory or strongly-encouraged participation in 12-step groups
 - Mandatory house rules
 - Resident responsibility for rent payments
 - Communally run but overseen by a manager/operator to support housing operations and monitor residents’ sobriety requirements
- **Community Options:** An increasing number of criminal justice system agencies are providing financial assistance and supportive services for people leaving prisons and jails to obtain housing in the community. These resources are most commonly time-limited in nature and can include:
 - Short-Term Financial Assistance – The most common form of community-based housing assistance provided by departments of corrections for people leaving incarceration, and typically in the form of rental assistance paid to private landlord partners, support for hotel stays, or help with moving costs.
 - Housing Case Management, Housing Search, Housing Navigation – Staff that support participants identify and connect with housing options and address barriers.
 - Permanent Supportive Housing and Long-term Rental Subsidies – Although less common, departments of correction may sometimes provide PSH or contract with PSH providers. More typically they instead provide referrals to local the homeless and housing system.

Limitations of the Common CJS Housing Options

While halfway houses, recovery housing and other CJS resources are important housing options within the criminal justice system, they face some key challenges:

- Housing is often temporary or time limited, and individuals may still need permanent housing when they exit the program.
- Restrictive rules such as abstinence requirements can result in program termination, which may result in homelessness or further criminal justice system involvement.
- These resources are typically not available to everyone reentering the community who needs them.

CoCs can play a critical part in creating a full continuum of options to help ensure housing stability for people in reentry in the following ways:

- Working with CJS partners to identify permanent housing for individuals who are likely to exit temporary housing into homelessness.
- Ensuring individuals reentering the community who are eligible for housing resources through coordinated entry receive an assessment as soon as possible.
- Expanding local permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing options for individuals who do not meet literal homeless definitions due to their incarceration.
- Working with CJS partners to ensure individuals do not inadvertently become ineligible for CoC programs by enrolling in a transitional program that is not mandatory.
- Establishing recovery housing programs grounded in Housing First principles where individuals are not terminated due to relapse or failure to participate in services.

Community Spotlight: State of Pennsylvania

Through Pennsylvania's Housing Assistance Program, the [Pennsylvania Department of Corrections](#) (PADOC) works with homeless services providers, state and local governments, landlords and housing providers, and people with lived experience of homelessness to develop and provide short-term rental assistance options. These are coupled with housing coordination services to support people to move more quickly into private market housing. The program prioritizes people with low incomes who are experiencing or are at-risk of homelessness when returning from state prisons.

In 2021, PADOC received a Second Chance Act Pay for Success grant to expand program eligibility to serve 250 people with very high barriers to housing (e.g., people with disabilities or no income). This expanded eligibility of HAP works to move people from temporary, community corrections settings to permanent housing.

Additional Resources

- [What you should know about halfway houses \(Prison Policy Initiative\)](#): A guide to understanding what halfway houses are and how they operate
- [Practice Profile: Halfway Houses \(National Institute of Justice\)](#): A practice profile of halfway houses for people reentering communities from incarceration
- [Recovery Housing Policy Brief \(HUD\)](#): This brief provides guidance on effective operation of Recovery Housing programs
- [Recovery Homes Help People in Early Recovery \(SAMHSA\)](#): This resource provides information on the recovery housing approach for people in recovery seeking a sober living environment
- [Recovery Housing: Evolving Models to Address Resident Needs \(HHS\)](#): This paper describes a type of recovery housing that bridges treatment and peer support
- [The CSG Justice Center Building Connections to Housing During Reentry \(The Council of State Governments\)](#): A report summarizing the key findings and policy implications of a national survey of state Department of Corrections reentry coordinators.

Leverage Resources to Expand Housing Opportunities

Individuals who have experienced incarceration can be some of our communities' most vulnerable community members with the highest barriers to housing. At the same time, CoC and ESG resources are often limited for people who have lost their homeless or chronic homeless status because of incarceration that lasted over 90 days.

This section provides an overview of the ways communities are leveraging strategic funding sources to address this gap and increase permanent housing opportunities in the CoC, including strategies to:

- Collaborate with Affordable Housing Partners to Increase Inventory of Affordable Housing
- Engage Cross-Sector Partners to Design Program and Proposals
- Identify Funding Opportunities and Strategies

Collaborate with Affordable Housing Partners to Increase Inventory of Affordable Housing

State and local governments can play a key role in increasing the supply of affordable housing dedicated to people reentering the community from incarceration. In its [Affordable Housing Toolkit: CPD programs](#), HUD outlines a series of strategies for leveraging Community Planning and Development (CPD funds) to add affordable housing units to a community's housing inventory. With a particular focus on equity considerations and housing as a public safety strategy, these approaches can be used to expand units for people impacted by the criminal justice system. Strategies include:

- Effective Use of Public Funds
- Effective Use of External Funds
- Land Use and Entitlement Policies
- Development of Public Property
- Build Support for Community Engagement
- Equitable Development

To ensure that affordable housing development is designed to meet the needs of people in reentry, it is essential that:

- people with lived experience of incarceration are fully integrated into all stages of the process, from project conceptualization to lease-up.
- trauma-informed design principles are incorporated into affordable housing design

Engage Cross-Sector Partners to Identify Target Population and Housing Goals

It is essential to engage and collaborate with cross-sector partners to identify the target population and housing goals. The specific partners will vary, but may include:

- People with lived experience of incarceration
- Criminal justice system partners
- Public Housing Authorities
- CoC leadership
- Community development organizations
- Community supervision agencies, such as probation and parole
- Local housing agency
- Service providers
- Local reentry organizations
- Community members

Together, cross-system partners can:

- Establish a target population, program structure and outcomes to optimize impact
- Identify existing housing opportunities and gaps
- Determine financing models that are already being used in the community
- Coordinate around funding sources that may be available to different recipient agencies
- Share data for a statement of need
- Work together to create a competitive funding application

- ❑ Enter into formal agreements to provide complementary supportive services for housing program participants

Identify Funding Opportunities and Strategies

A growing array of funding streams and resources are available to support housing and services for individuals with criminal records. Each source of funding is likely to have limitations on eligible costs and it may be necessary to braid diverse resources to cover capital investments and ongoing costs of operations and supportive services. Communities across the country have been successful in leveraging diverse funding streams to support innovative and impactful programs for this population.

Federal Funding

Several HUD funding streams can support new programs for individuals with criminal records. This includes homelessness-specific grants (e.g., CoC and ESG), other HUD funding streams (e.g., Community Development Block Grants and HOME Investment Partnership), and public housing authority vouchers (e.g., Emergency Housing Vouchers and Housing Choice Vouchers).

The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs also offers resources through the Second Chance Act grant that can be leveraged for housing and related services. This includes programs such as the Community-Based Reentry Program, Youth Reentry Program, and Pay for Success. Both the Community-Based Reentry Program and Youth Reentry program funds can be used for assistance in identifying and securing housing for people returning to their communities from incarceration.

The Department of the Treasury State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, which are allocated to state, local, and tribal governments through the American Rescue Plan, can be used for a variety of uses, including for people in reentry. There is wide discretion in uses of these funds, and Treasury guidance allows funds to be used for housing development, housing vouchers, housing navigation, and supportive services. These funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026. An [April 2023 survey of National Council of State Housing Agencies](#) members found that 31 Housing Finance Agencies expect their states to devote fiscal recovery dollars to affordable housing activities.

In its April 2023 [letter to State Medicaid Directors](#), the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) encourages states to apply for the Reentry Section 1115 Demonstration Opportunity to improve care transitions for Medicaid beneficiaries exiting carceral facilities. The letter encourages the implementation of innovative approaches to coverage and quality of care, starting pre-release, for individuals who are incarcerated, thereby facilitating improved continuity of care once the individual is released. As an additional source of strategic resources, some states have incorporated housing-related supports into their Medicaid plans. In these states, people enrolled in Medicaid can be connected to Medicaid-funded housing-related supports that are part of their state's plan. The specific supports vary by state but may include things like housing navigation, security deposits, or tenancy-sustaining services.

Examples in Practice:

- ✓ In 2015, the DOJ and HUD partnered to invest \$8.6 million in a [Pay for Success Permanent Supportive Housing Demonstration](#), leveraging philanthropic and private resources to fund permanent supportive housing in seven communities. The private and philanthropic funding was provided up front, with the government committed to funding programs after results were achieved.
- ✓ In Austin and Travis County, Texas, the County CoC leveraged long-standing partnerships with key CJS and housing partners to prioritize a significant portion of their HUD Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) to people in reentry. Recognizing a gap in permanent supportive housing for people diverted from incarceration or reentering the community from jail, the flexibility in eligibility requirements under the EHV program allows them to more nimbly meet service needs and to serve people that may not be as highly prioritized relative to other clients waiting for programs with more expansive target population criteria.
- ✓ San Joaquin County, California has a program to prevent homelessness among Medi-Cal recipients leaving the county jail. Funded through a Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver called Whole Person Care, the pilot leverages a county flexible housing pool to provide rental assistance vouchers and other housing supports to participants.
- ✓ The state of Virginia's [High Needs Support Benefit](#), funded through a 1115 waiver, will provide pre-tenancy, housing navigation and tenancy sustaining services to individuals demonstrating behavioral or physical health needs with additional specified risk factors, including criminal justice system involvement.
- ✓ The [California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal \(CalAIM\)](#) program launched the first of its kind section 1115 reentry demonstration to extend pre-release services to Medicaid-eligible individuals. The state's [Justice-Involved Initiative](#) enrolls people in Medi-Cal and provides them with a targeted set of services, including housing supports, up to 90 days prior to the individual's expected date of release from incarceration.

State and Local Funding

In many communities, state and local funding may be available to fund housing and related services for individuals impacted by the criminal justice system. This can include grants from state housing or behavioral health agencies, funding streams resourced by state and local tax revenue and housing bonds.

Examples in Practice:

- ✓ In Contra Costa County, California, Measure X, a 20-year voter-approved tax initiative, includes a dedicated [Housing Fund](#) that provides up to \$12 million annually to affordable housing, homeless prevention, and related capacity building activities. The 2023 Housing Fund Request for Proposals targets funding for specific subpopulations

experiencing and at risk of homelessness, including households with criminal justice system involvement.

- ✓ The Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC), which administers the state’s housing tax credits and other federal funding sources, has shifted its approach to hold itself accountable to include both tenants and developers. In a state where 49% of adults have a criminal record, the LHC developed policies that significantly expand access to tax credit-funded units for people with criminal records. These policies: prevent providers from considering arrests, charges that did not result in a conviction, and records from the juvenile justice system; apply specified lookback periods for certain types of convictions; consider reasonable accommodations if a person’s conviction was related to a disability; and must allow applicants to submit mitigating information for an individualized assessment.
- ✓ In Colorado, the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund has been used to establish a state affordable housing voucher program with less stringent criteria around criminal background screening. In 2017, the Fund was used to establish an affordable housing voucher program. The City of Denver increased its special sales tax for retail marijuana by 2% to fund affordable housing programs.
- ✓ A \$5.6 million Homekey grant received by Oakland, California funded the 34-unit [Kingdom Builders transitional housing program](#) for adults and youth who were formerly incarcerated and experiencing homelessness. [Homekey](#) builds on the success of Project Room Key, which converted hotels and motels to non-congregate shelters during the COVID-19 pandemic. This program, which is currently in its third round of funding, seeks to rapidly expand housing opportunities for people at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness.

Private Funding and Social Impact Bonds

Funding from individual, philanthropic, and corporate sources play an important role in a diversified funding approach, including initial funding for pilot projects, providing resource matches that may be required for state and federal grants, and general operating support. An important example is the Pay for Success model, a unique approach that leverages private funding to launch innovative programs, with public funding contingent on performance measures.

Examples in Practice:

- ✓ In 2022, Tulsa, Oklahoma was one of four communities selected to participate in the launch of the [Just Home Project](#), an initiative to break the link between housing instability and jail incarceration. With funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and technical assistance from the Urban Institute, the grant supports a community led planning process to develop housing investment action plans for Tulsa residents with criminal records. At the end of the planning process, each funded community will be eligible to receive an investment from a MacArthur \$15

million pool of impact investment funding to implement plans and acquire or develop housing for populations that are not being served by existing resources.

- ✓ In 2016, the City and County of Denver and eight private investors established a social impact bond to [invest \\$8.6 million in a supportive housing program](#) for people with frequent interactions with the CJS. Using the pay for success model, the City and County of Denver agreed to pay investors based on project outcomes – if the project met the goals of sustaining housing and reducing the number of days spent in jail, the city would repay the investors. The Denver SIB sought to quickly move people out of homelessness and into housing and decrease jail stays among people who were experiencing chronic homelessness who had frequent interactions with the criminal justice and emergency health systems. Through a permanent housing subsidy and intensive services, key outcomes include high housing retention, reductions in emergency shelter use, and reductions in criminal justice system impacts:
 - 77% stable housing retention after three years
 - 34% reduction in police contacts
 - 40% reduction in arrests
 - 30% reduction in unique jail stays
 - 27% reduction in total jail days

Additional Resources

- [SNAPS Competitions \(HUD\)](#): A website to sign up for HUD funding notifications
- [Office of Justice Programs \(DOJ\)](#): A website to sign up for DOJ funding notifications
- [Overview of Office of Justice Programs Grants and Funding \(DOJ\)](#): This website provides information on applying for Office of Justice Programs funding, including types of funding and timelines
- [Evaluation of the HUD-DOJ Pay for Success Permanent Supportive Housing Demonstration Year 3 Report \(HUD\)](#): A report on the second year of the Pay for Success PSH Demonstration project
- [Breaking the Homelessness-Jail Cycle with Housing First: Results from the Denver Supportive Housing Social Impact Bond Initiative \(Urban Institute\)](#): An evaluation of the Denver Social Impact Bond supportive housing program.
- [Using American Rescue Plan and CARES Act Housing Resource to Support Reentry: HUD and Community Perspectives \(CSG\)](#): A webinar highlighting the use of ARP Emergency Housing Vouchers for people in reentry
- [New Initiative to Break Links Between Housing Instability and Incarceration \(MacArthur Foundation and Urban Institute\)](#): A press release with information on the launch of the Just Home Project, which advances efforts to break the cycle between homelessness and jail incarceration

- [Policy Brief: Summary of State Actions on Medicaid & Housing Services \(CSG\)](#): This summary provides an overview of state actions to use Medicaid funding to support housing
- [Increasing the Supply of New Affordable Housing \(HUD\)](#): This primer provides a set of strategies for local and state governments to increase their supply of new affordable housing units with Community Planning and Development funds.
- [Affordable Housing Resource Portals \(HUD\)](#): This webpage provides links to affordable housing policies and practices for local communities.