

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SPOTLIGHT

New York State Department of Health

Medicaid Redesign Team Supportive Housing

The Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) Supportive Housing Initiative was developed to address the social determinants of health. Programs provide supportive housing to high-need Medicaid participants through rental subsidies, supportive housing services and capital projects.

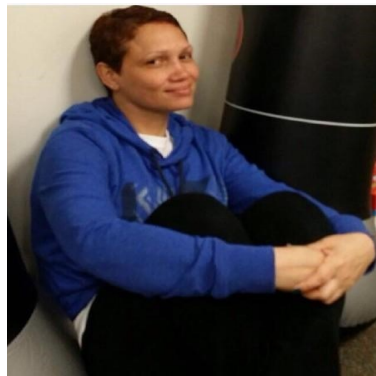
MRT Stable Homes to Health Housing Program



The Medicaid Redesign Team, Health Home Supportive Housing Program (HHSHP) partners housing providers with Health Homes to provide rental subsidies and support to homeless or unstably housed high-need Medicaid members. The goal of the program is to have housing providers collaborate with Health Homes to locate homeless or unstably housed high-need Medicaid users and coordinate efforts of the Health Home Care Manager and Housing Specialist for implementing the Health Home Member's Plan of Care.

Homeless to Hopeful Thanks to Health Homes

Ms. Angelica Rivera became a participant in the BronxWorks MRT Stable Homes to Health housing program in March 2015, and was placed in a permanent apartment in June 2015. Prior to her placement, she was in and out of a shelter for two years while living with a rare heart condition, fibromyalgia pain, severe anxiety, and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). She had resigned from work due to her health issues. During this time, her major barriers to finding housing included limited income, a lack of documented shelter history, and social service programs being cut. Ms. Rivera endured her frustrating struggle to remain consistently engaged in BronxWorks services, which



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she says was "the best decision she ever made because it led her to housing. Having been in her own apartment now for over a year, Ms. Rivera feels so blessed and so GRATEFUL to have a home, and for all the services provided by staff- she thanks God for the social workers in her life who show that they actually want to help people. Ms. Rivera explained "having clothes hanging in a closet, not to be living out of bags or storage facilities- I used to cry every day when I had to go to the storage place to get dressed. I also used to spend all my cash on food; but now I can cook, make healthy meals, I can BATHE in my own bathroom!" Living with OCD, Ms. Rivera used to clean the shelter bathroom before using it, but even then taking a shower was so difficult for her, she often stopped bathing. Since Ms. Rivera's cardiac ailment is greatly affected by stress, having stable housing has removed several major stressors in her life and enabled her to focus on coping with her conditions and family stress in healthier ways. "Without this housing," Ms. Rivera reports, "I would have been buried by now." Even on her most challenging days when her pain is very severe, Ms. Rivera remains "so very grateful for the great people in my life, for the ability to have my own space." She talks about how "this experience has really made me want to be a peer advocate, because now I want to give back and share my experience with others." Ms. Rivera is inspired to use her voice to talk to others about recovery, and hopes that MRT housing can expand to serve "the many people like me who need it."