

Supportive Housing Is Critical for Low-Income Persons with Mental Illness & Disabilities

Almost 40% of single adults and nearly 20% of adults of families experiencing homelessness reported a history of mental health hospitalizations.¹

And for many, housing remains too costly.

Supportive housing is **permanent, independent and affordable** rental housing combined with available support and employment services.

People with psychiatric disabilities living on fixed incomes cannot afford housing:



HIV positive and suffering from depression, Pam was homeless and living on the street for two years. A supportive housing apartment in the community provided by Leeway in New Haven helped her regain her hope for the future.

Now Pam is reunited with her family and works helping others with HIV/AIDS who experience homelessness.

About supportive housing, she says, "I am allowed to make choices. I love it here."

- The monthly federal **Social Security** payment in 2009 was **\$805/month**.²
- But the fair market **rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in Connecticut** was **\$927/month**.²
- Therefore Connecticut residents receiving Social Security as their only income need to use **116% of their monthly income toward rent**.²
- **Minimum wage in Connecticut is \$8.00/hour**.
- The fair market rent price for a 1-bedroom apartment in Connecticut is **\$927/month**.³
- In order to afford this 1-bedroom apartment, a household in Connecticut **must earn \$17.83/hour or \$37,086/year**.³
- Someone employed in a minimum wage job must work **89 hours/week** and **52 weeks/year** to afford a 1-bedroom apartment.³

1. January 2009 Connecticut Statewide Point-in-Time Count

2. "Priced Out in 2008." Technical Assistance Collaborative.

3. "Out of Reach 2009." National Low Income Housing Coalition.