

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING: COST-EFFECTIVE & FLEXIBLE

While the lack of affordable housing impacts the entire Bay Area, for some populations the crisis is even more acute. Many people need more than just housing in order to lead

.....
Supportive housing is permanent housing linked to a range of support services designed to enable people to maintain stable housing and improve the quality of their lives.
.....

independent lives; they need access to services such as health care and vocational training. Supportive housing, also known as service-enriched housing, is permanent rental housing linked to a range of support services designed to enable residents to maintain stable housing and improve the quality of their lives.

Supportive housing serves a broad range of people. It helps people with disabilities, seniors, low income families,

formerly homeless people, and people living with HIV and AIDS access the services they need. Supportive housing is a cost-effective alternative to expensive institutions such as skilled nursing facilities or hospitals.

A supportive housing residence may provide a social worker in a senior building or an array of services in a building designed for formerly homeless

persons. The services offered vary depending on the needs of the residents and may include:

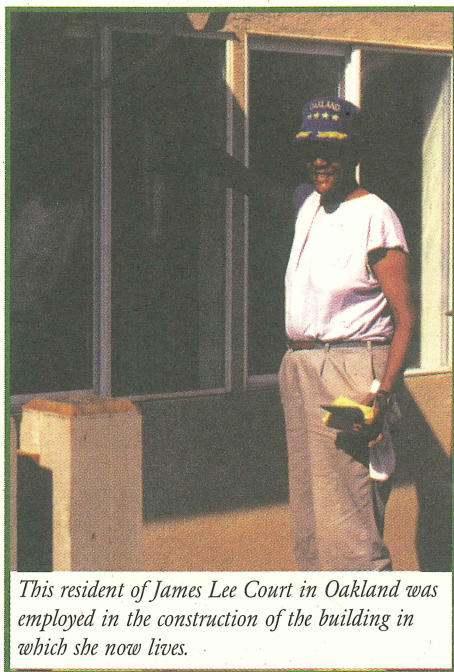
- medical care;
- vocational services, training and placement in jobs;
- substance abuse treatment and support groups;
- child care; and,
- independent living skills training (i.e. money management).



Doris Melendez, a caregiver at Glen Brook Terrace in Oakland, with resident Helen Dicks.

Services may be offered on-site or off-site.

Supportive housing fills the gap for those who lack extended family relationships and the assistance that comes with them. Experience with a broad variety of supportive housing types in the Bay Area has shown it to be a successful and flexible approach to serving the housing needs of numerous groups.



This resident of James Lee Court in Oakland was employed in the construction of the building in which she now lives.

Supportive Housing provides community-wide benefits –

In addition to helping residents, supportive housing benefits the wider community in significant ways. Typically supportive housing:

- Offers a permanent solution to special housing needs of seniors, persons with disabilities, homeless families and children.
- Provides a cost-effective response to these needs.
- Promotes employment.
- Leverages substantial private sector and philanthropic resources.

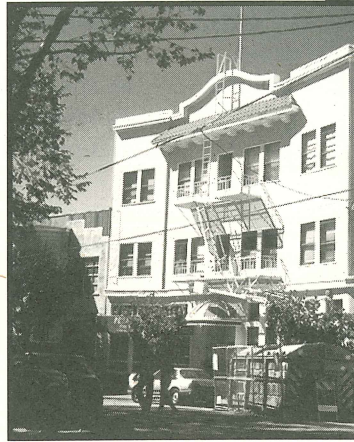
Supportive housing...

Part of a community

Supportive housing already exists in almost every American city. You probably haven't noticed because it looks and operates like every other type of housing: tenants have their own apartments, hold their own leases and are responsible for upholding the terms of those leases. In San Francisco, it may be a rehabilitated Single Room Occupancy hotel, or in the city of Richmond, connected duplexes. It varies in size and dimension according to the character of the neighborhood and the needs of its residents. What's important — both for neighbors and tenants — is that supportive housing “fits” the neighborhood and has professional property management. In fact, Bay Area affordable housing developers who produce most of the region's supportive housing are regularly recognized for the quality and variety of their designs and operations.

Affordable housing

Many of the people who most need supportive housing are individuals from extremely low income households. According to the federal government, housing is considered “affordable” if rent and utility expense cost no more than 30% of the monthly household income. The challenge in developing this kind of housing is identifying funding which makes the rents affordable to residents while ensuring that sufficient money is available to provided needed services. Typically, financing is a mix of federal, state and local resources, and private sector investment including philanthropic contributions.



Left: The Madrid, a supportive housing development in San Francisco. Above: Pacific Grove Apartments in Fremont.

.....

“Before I moved into Leland House, I was constantly ill due to HIV. I lost my housing and was living in a temporary place. Since living at Leland House, my life has improved so much! It is much more than medical care and a roof over my head. This place has given me spiritual, as well as physical strength. I walk with more confidence. I still depend on the staff for medical care, but their caring frees me to do other things - to enjoy life! Their wonderful support is a curative element. The sense of love I get from them keeps me healthy and helps me to help other residents in their healing. Leland House helps me to shine a light on others, especially those who are dying.”

— Richard, a resident of Leland Housing, a residential care facility for the chronically ill, serving low-income adults with disabling HIV/AIDS in San Francisco.

.....

“Supportive housing is the door through which homeless and disabled people can reconnect to home and community.”

— The Corporation for Supportive Housing

Children achieve stability in supportive housing.

