
Defining and Funding the Support in Permanent Supportive Housing: Recommendations of Health Care Centers Serving Homeless People

Prepared by

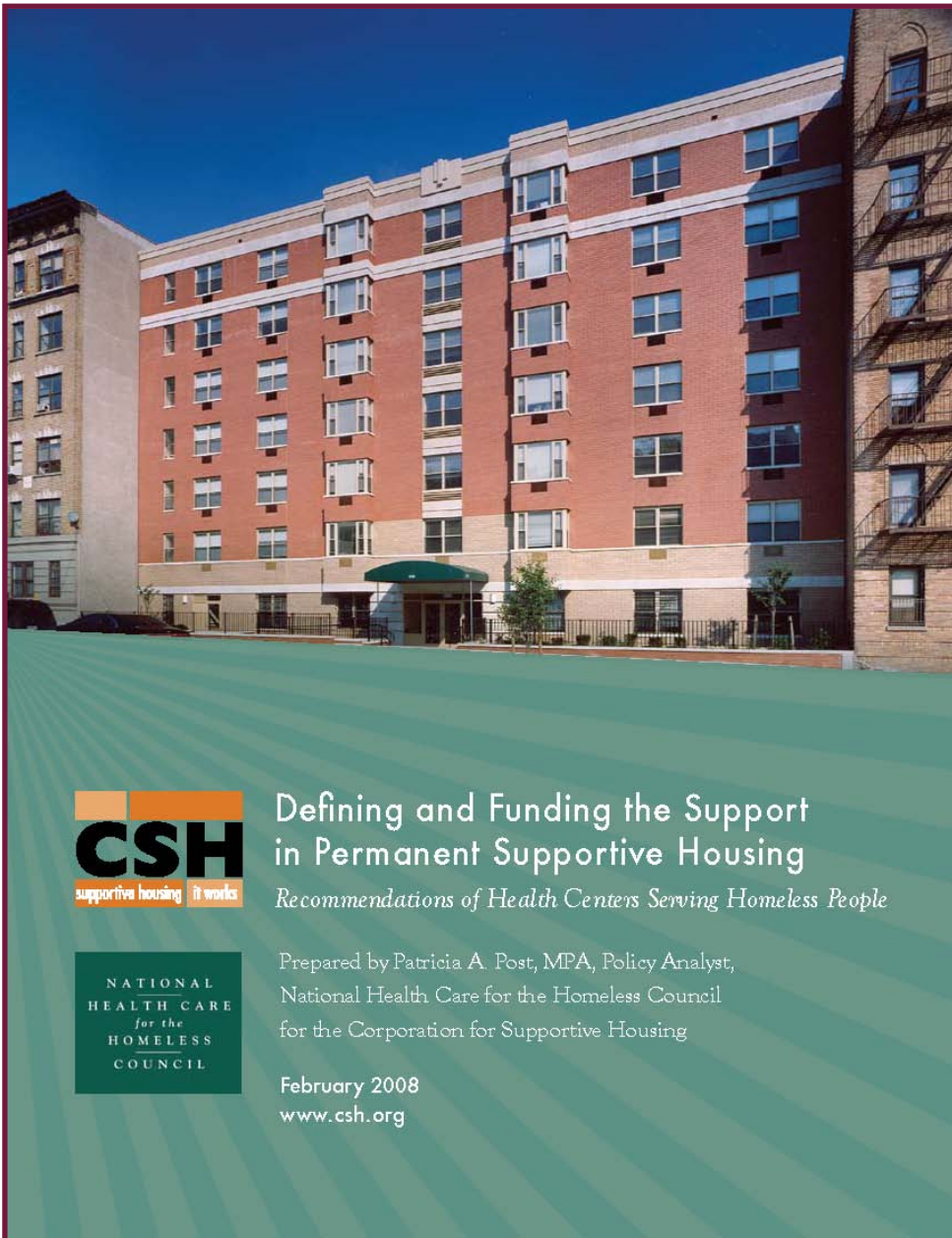
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This report is the result of a collaborative partnership between the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (National Council) and the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). The goals of this project were: to identify and document how Health Care for the Homeless providers and Community Health Centers have linked to supportive housing; to identify policy opportunities and obstacles encountered in financing and delivering health care in supportive housing; to document and share promising practices in permanent supportive housing; and to recommend strategies for increasing the capacity of Federally Qualified Health Centers to participate in supportive housing.

To accomplish these goals, the National Council convened a working group comprised of staff from Health Care for the Homeless providers, Community Health Centers, and supportive housing experts whose charge was to identify program models and health service delivery and financing approaches in permanent supportive housing.

The recommendations contained in this report were derived from discussions involving members of this working group which occurred over a ten-month period, November 2006 through August 2007.

Copies of this report can be downloaded for free at
www.csh.org/publications.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is the product of a collaborative partnership between the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and the Corporation for Supportive Housing to learn more about the involvement of Federally Qualified Health Centers in permanent supportive housing (PSH), identify policy opportunities and obstacles they encounter in financing and delivering services to supportive housing residents, document and share promising practices, and recommend strategies for increasing the capacity of Health Centers to participate in supportive housing. The working group convened to accomplish these goals included Health Center administrators and direct service providers, representing 11 states and 14 communities. The report summarizes their recommendations, derived from discussions conducted between November 2006 and August 2007.

The report is divided into the following sections:

Introduction: the rationale for permanent supportive housing and involvement of Health Centers

Defining Supportive Housing Services that are needed to enable persons with a history of long-term homelessness to remain stably housed and live as independently as possible: outreach, engagement, medical care, behavioral health care, case management, and life skills training

Service Delivery and Staffing: roles of Health Centers, on-site versus off-site services, roving versus on-site case management, use of paraprofessionals, obstacles for Health Centers, and recommendations for supportive housing providers

Recommended Models of Care in providing medical, behavioral health, and case management services to supportive housing residents

Financing Permanent Supportive Housing Services: federal funding options (Medicaid, HRSA Health Center grants, HUD grants); promising practices in combining different funding streams; and recommendations for federal agencies, state and local governments, permanent supporting housing providers, and PSH service providers

References: an extensive list of publications consulted in writing this report and other resources of interest to permanent supportive housing and service providers

Appendix: profiles of selected Health Centers involved in permanent supportive housing management and service provision:

- Central City Concern, Portland, OR
- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Denver, CO
- LifeLong Medical Care, Berkeley and Oakland, CA
- San Francisco Public Health Department's Direct Access to Housing program, San Francisco, CA
- Project Renewal, New York, NY

Our intent is to use these recommendations to improve permanent supportive housing programs and as a basis for policy advocacy to create better funding mechanisms to assure their sustainability.