



2020 Legislative Action Agenda

Housing With Wraparound Support Services for People With Mental Illness

A stable environment is vital and fundamental to the recovery from psychiatric disorders.

Housing programs which incorporate recovery oriented support services are the cornerstone of successful recovery from serious mental illness (SMI) within the community setting; yet accessing these essential programs remains a tremendous challenge.

Community based mental health housing providers have received flat-funding from New York State since the early 1990's. **Since the funding has not kept up with the rates of inflation and the increases in the cost of living since 1990, these programs are operating at 43% below where they should be today.** It will take \$185 million to simply close that gap and allow mental health housing providers to operate with a budget that is reflective of today's economic structure.

NAMI-NYS is part of the Bring it Home NYS campaign which is calling for \$37 million a year, for the next five years to close this gap. The \$20 million contained in the Governor's budget proposal falls short of what is needed to deliver the type of mental health housing needed to best drive recovery.

In recent years, the Office of Mental Health (OMH) has focused on reducing the number of people in the most expensive housing environments such as in-patient beds at state psychiatric hospitals, state operated supervised community residences, and other state funded residential settings. To achieve this, OMH has given priority status in access to housing to individuals residing in these settings. While we acknowledge the necessity to reduce costs, we must ensure that housing opportunities are made equally available to individuals who do not come from these priority populations but are still in need of the housing supports and services.

Additionally, we need to ensure that individuals who are being transitioned from these highly supervised settings are being moved to residential settings that adequately meet their high level of need for supports and services in order to maximize their recovery, avoid future hospitalizations, and ensure the best possible quality of life. This is why **NAMI-NYS is glad to see investments in Governor Cuomo's budget proposal that are aimed to support high-need individuals in the community.**