

Date: Tuesday March 15, 2011

The Mental Health & Addictions Supportive Housing Network and the Supportive Housing for People with Problematic Substance Use Health Service Providers working group is pleased to announce that **referrals for supportive housing units for people with problematic substance use are now being accepted.**

#### Background

In 2008, 1,000 units of supportive housing for people with problematic substance use in Ontario were announced in the Provincial Budget. This program focuses on people with complex substance use challenges who may have a concurrent disorder. 272 of these units were designated for the Toronto Central LHIN. 200 of these units have been funded and are moving towards a phased implementation in 2011.

The goal of this initiative is to increase the health and social outcomes of people with problematic substance use who are frequent users of the addiction treatment system and emergency services by providing stable housing and appropriate support services. The program is based on the Housing First model, which provides supportive housing to people without requirements for engagement in addiction treatment or abstinence.

Currently, nine organizations form the Supportive Housing for People with Problematic Substance Use Health Service Providers partnership:

- Breakaway Addiction Services
- Fife House
- Fred Victor Centre
- Good Shepherd Non-Profit Homes
- Jean Tweed Centre
- LOFT Community Services
- Mainstay Housing
- Regeneration Community Services
- St. Stephen's Community House

#### Application Process:

Coordinated Access works under a 'no wrong door' policy. This means that consumers can go to any of the nine partner agencies to fill in the screener and application form and be reviewed for eligibility without being turned away.

Individuals may also apply by completing the eligibility screener, which is available to be downloaded on the Toronto Mental Health Housing and Support Network website: <http://www.tosupportivehousing.ca/>

Simply print out the screener application, fill it in and either fax the application to: **416-916-1689**

or mail the screener to the Network office at:

**205 Richmond St. West  
Suite 301 Toronto, ON M5V 1V3**

You will be contacted within five business days of receiving the application to confirm its arrival. The Network Office will determine your eligibility for this program and if you are eligible, your form will be forwarded to the appropriate housing provider for review and completion of the full housing application (also available on the Network website) once a unit is available.

Eligibility Criteria:

In order to qualify, an individual must meet each of the following four criteria:

Item	Criteria	Description
1	Severity of Substance Use	The individual must have a severe and active substance use challenge.*  <i>*Nicotine dependence, gambling and other forms of addiction are not sufficient for qualification for this program.*</i>
2	Current Housing	The individual must be homeless or marginally housed.*  <i>*marginally housed is defined as overcrowding (including Rooming Houses), or persons paying significantly more than their housing portion of social assistance.</i>
3	Income and Status in Canada/ Ontario	The individual must qualify for a housing subsidy under the criteria set by the Ministry of Health. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Over 16 years of age</li> <li>o Be a resident of Ontario and not have a principal residence elsewhere.</li> <li>o Permanent resident or refugee claimant in Canada</li> <li>o Not own a home or agree to sell it within 6 months of moving in.</li> <li>o Qualify for subsidy (total household income must not exceed a certain limit)</li> </ul>
4	High Intensity Service Use	Individuals may qualify for service as a result of their use of <b><u>one or more</u></b> * of the following systems: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <u>Emergency Department (ED) Visits</u>: Individuals reporting, or reported to have had 20 or more visits to the ED in the previous year OR 5 or more visits to ED in the previous two months. The individual's ED visits may all be in ONE Hospital ED or across MULTIPLE hospitals.</li> <li>2) <u>Withdrawal Management System (WMS) Admissions</u>: Individuals reporting, or reported to have had 10 or more admissions to residential WMS in the previous year. Admission to Community Withdrawal and Day Withdrawal programs will count as admissions to WMS for those populations that are less likely to access residential programs.</li> <li>3) <u>Hospitalizations</u>: Individuals reporting, or reported to have had 20 or more hospital in-patient bed days in the past year (includes acute, rehabilitation and complex continuing care).</li> <li>4) <u>Contacts with Justice System</u>: Individuals reporting, or reported to have had 5 or more separate/unrelated contacts with the justice system (includes arrests, court appearances, incarceration and/or family court).</li> </ol>

*\* Units for women at Jean Tweed/Mainstay partnership: the priority for supportive housing units through this partnership will be for those that meet the targets as outlined above under high service use. However, women may experience lower use of these systems and may qualify for service with Jean Tweed/Mainstay if they meet 100% of the first 3 criteria (substance use, housing and income) and at least 50% of the targets for ED Visits and WMS under high intensity service use.*

Target Group: Several programs have specific target populations of the overall service population. Thus, the criteria for the following programs include:

Partnership	Target Group
Jean Tweed Centre / Mainstay Housing	Women and women with children
Fred Victor Centre	Homeless MDOT clients
LOFT Community Services / Fife House	People living with HIV/AIDS
Good Shepherd Non-Profit Homes Inc.	No Additional Criteria
Toronto Community Addictions Team (TCAT)	Frequent ED and/or WMS users
Breakaway/ Regeneration Community Services	No Additional Criteria