Determine if Supportive Housing is Right for Your Organization

Deciding to become involved in a supportive housing project represents a significant commitment for any organization. Before beginning the planning process and determining your organization’s role, it is important to think through the key features of supportive housing and ensure that they fit your organization’s goals and mission. The questions below are designed to help your organization examine its potential involvement in supportive housing.

Is your organization committed to:

1. Targeting vulnerable populations, including those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, inappropriately residing in institutional care, and with multiple barriers to employment and housing stability? (These may include mental illness, substance use, disabling or chronic health conditions, and/or histories of criminal justice involvement).
   □ Yes □ No

2. Ensuring that the housing is affordable to very low-income tenants for the life of the project, so that tenant households ideally pay no more than 30% of their household income toward rent?
   □ Yes □ No

3. Facilitating the ability of tenants to quickly and easily access housing without barriers or preconditions, so that they can use it as a platform for health, recovery and personal growth?
   □ Yes □ No

4. Providing all supportive housing tenants with a lease or sublease identical to that of a non-supportive housing tenant — with no limits on length of tenancy, as long as the terms and conditions of the lease are met?
   □ Yes □ No

5. Ensuring that service providers will actively engage households in a wide array of supportive services without requiring participation as a condition of the lease?
   □ Yes □ No

6. Collaborating with partners, both during the planning phase and for the life of the project, to ensure the stability of tenants and the project? (These include designing and implementing eviction prevention policies and procedures to ensure the project helps tenants meet their goals).
   □ Yes □ No

7. Ensuring that the project and its tenants are integrated in the community, participating in community dialogue and activities, and supporting tenants in building strong social support networks?
   □ Yes □ No

If you answered “No” to any of the items above, your organization should discuss how to achieve “Yes” answers before beginning.