

## Supports for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness Experiencing Housing Instability

A stable and safe place to live is a critical element to recovery for individuals diagnosed with serious mental illness (SMI). In fact, “Home” is one of the [four major dimensions](#) of recovery. In addition, safe and affordable housing is a critical component of recovery. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) [Healthy People 2020 program](#).

As such, providers want to pay as much attention to the housing situations of the people they serve as they pay to health, community supports, and other holistic factors. This issue of Practicing Recovery explores the clinical importance of safe and secure housing for individuals with mental health conditions and how you can understand, screen for, and assist those experiencing housing instability or homelessness. The following resources are a great starting point to help you learn more about how housing affects the people you serve and what you can do about it.

### HUD Exchange

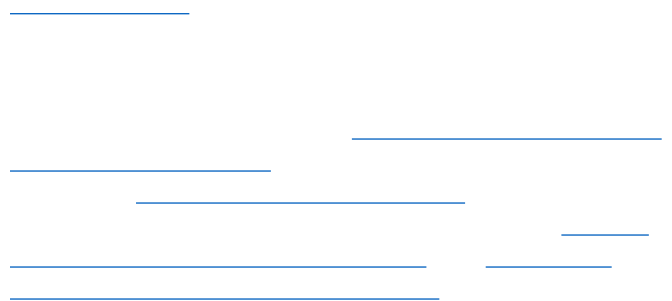
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) [HUD Exchange](#) is an interactive website with resources and tools for understanding and applying for the many federal housing assistance programs, including [public housing and voucher programs](#). In addition, the site offers information on housing [grants](#) and education and [training](#) to learn more about HUD’s services.

### HUD Continuum of Care Program

The [Continuum of Care \(CoC\)](#) program funds local organizations in their efforts to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness in a timely way. The CoC does this by helping to effectively coordinate services and programs at the local level, helping local organizations work together, and promoting access to other programs within the community. The CoC is often used to help the people they serve access housing.

### United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

The USICH is a partnership between 19 federal agencies



## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### Mental Health America of Los Angeles (MHA) Village Homeless Assistance Program (HAP)

#### MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

MHA Village's HAP team is focused on connecting with people with mental health conditions who are experiencing homelessness and helping them address their immediate and long-term goals. Assisting someone with feeling productive and recognizing that they have potential can be a starting point for

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