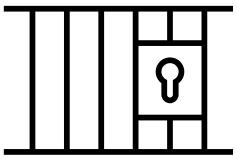
Corporation for Supportive Housing

Returning Home™
Program Model Overview

Returning Home™ is a state corrections-based program model to stabilize and prevent recidivism among individuals who exit prison with histories of significant behavioral health conditions and unstable housing. The targeted population faces high risk of recidivism and homelessness but succeed at high rates in this community-based reentry housing program with intensive services.



3-year recidivism rate: 32%

3-year recidivism rate in Returning Home™: 7%

98% of participants engaged in case management

65% engaged in clinical services, like mental health treatment



91% of all participants avoided homelessness

(People exiting prison are 10x more likely to become homeless.)



The Ohio program on which Returning Home™ is based:

The state of Ohio's Returning Home Ohio (RHO) and Community Linkage Program (CLP) are a set of interventions funded by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, Department of Behavioral Health and managed by CSH.

RHO was launched in 2007 with a pilot of 84 units serving nine correctional facilities. Today, there are 200+ units of housing in eighteen counties serving each of the state's correctional facilities. In total, the program has now served 1,200 individuals.

RHO provides affordable housing with intensive, tenant-directed services, to returning citizens (identified prior to or within 120 days of release from Ohio state prisons) who are homeless or imminently homeless with a serious mental illness, or are HIV+, in nine counties across the state.

The CLP program, funded by the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health commenced in 2017, and provides transitional recovery supports, including housing, to individuals exiting Ohio's prison system that have participated in recovery services or diagnosed with a severe mental illness while incarcerated. The CLP Housing program operates in 61 counties and has resulted in promising outcomes including low recidivism to prison high rates of participation in

behavioral health services, reunification with children, and employment. CSH receives an average of 300 referrals per month from state agency staff.

In an initial evaluation of the original pilot by The Urban Institute in 2012, RHO participants were 60% less likely to return to prison than a matched comparison group, and increased participation in services significantly.[1] Notre Dame's Lab for Economic Opportunity is currently conducting a randomized control trial of both programs.

Core program components

Returning Home™ is an evidence-informed supportive housing model specific to justice-involved populations. The essential elements are as follows:



Cost comparison

Supportive housing is a small share of overall corrections spending but fills a key service gap.

Prison Diversion (PD)	% of PD population	Number of participants	Annual budget*	Cost per day
Halfway House	35%	8145	$ 94,545,000	$ 139.85
Community Based Correctional Facilities	33%	7590	$ 94,545,000	$ 122.12
Supportive Housing	1%	200	$ 3,724,130	$ 35.47

* data reflects the State of Ohio's FY2024 budget

[1] Fontaine, J. et al Supportive Housing for Returning Prisoners: Outcomes and Impacts of the Returning Home-Ohio Pilot Project *The Urban Institute*, August 2012.