

Exodus Transitional Community

Presented by: Kandra Clark, VP
of Policy & Strategy



History & Mission



History: Founded in 1999 by Executive Director, Julio Medina. Mr. Medina spent 12 years in Sing Sing Correctional Facility.

Mission: With a firm belief in human resilience, Exodus delivers innovative programming tailored to adults and youth affected by the justice system, and advocates for a society in which all can achieve social, economic, and spiritual well-being.

What Sets Us Apart: Lived experience - 80% of staff are justice-impacted; we see people through a strengths-based approach. We are a trauma-responsive agency.

Hotel Operations



Overview: Exodus began providing emergency housing at hotels on April 3, 2020. To date, we operate 6 hotels with a census of over 800 people. Folks were released from Rikers Island or upstate prisons.

Services: Staff are on-site 24/7. We conduct a full assessment of everyone arriving at the hotels, and provide 3 daily meals, clothing, hygiene kits, face masks, assistance getting medication, medical, mental health and substance use treatment, help enrolling in Medicaid, Cash/SNAP Assistance, cell phones, employment training and placement, cognitive behavioral groups to help make a smooth transition back to society, placement into stable, transitional or permanent housing, and family reunification.



Cumulative outcomes of hotel work from April 2020 through March 2022:

- 2,128 Individuals assigned a Case Manager and assessed for immediate and long-term needs
- 586 Individuals successfully completed the Exodus Job Training Program
- 468 Individuals currently employed
- 239 Individuals obtained transitional or permanent stable housing
- 241 Individuals referred for transitional or permanent stable housing (i.e. in the pipeline)
- 413 Individuals reconnected with family
- 434 Individuals successfully linked to Mental Health and/or Substance Use Treatment in the community
- Lower re-arrest rate than DHS!

Challenges

- It took about 4 months of advocacy, but we were able to become CAPS users and are now able to process supportive housing applications; however, there are NO units!
- The challenges with vouchers persist! Landlords often discriminate. Getting a voucher takes a VERY LONG TIME and City bureaucracy is a nightmare!
- Overall, landlords discriminate based on criminal justice history; Fair Chance for Housing MUST be PASSED!



- [CSH's Supportive Housing Report](#): Housing the estimated 2,589 people incarcerated on Rikers Island in a given year that need supportive housing would cost NYC \$1.2B less than incarcerating the same number of people in one year.
 - Improve JISH to align with current FMR rates.
 - Sustain MOCJ Hotels
 - Dedicate 500 of NYC 15/15 apartments to those who do not meet HUD homeless chronicity criteria
- [Reinvestment Commission Report](#): Permanent supportive housing is far more cost-effective than custodial or institutional care.
 - Fundamental Issues with CityFHEPS vouchers: CityFHEPS is targeted to address the DHS census, not people living in private or faith-based shelters and transitional housing

Contact Info:

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Website: www.etcny.org. You can donate through our home page.

We also have an Amazon Wish List of clothing items and accept all donations (gently used or new).

Please call your local officials and demand that Fair Chance for Housing is passed TODAY!

SHERO

Supporting women and gender expansive people through
Housing, Economic mobility, Recovery & Opportunities

- Supportive transitional housing for women and gender expansive people coming from Rikers or being diverted who have a history of homelessness/housing instability
- Consortium of four housing providers (soon to be five plus a healthcare provider)
 - HousingPlus (also admin lead)
 - Providence House
 - Greenhope Services for Women
 - Hour Children
- 49 single units, 10 family units (soon to be 122 single and 18 family)
- Locations: Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens
- Supports include on-site social workers, case management, peer support, 24-hour staff, and other site specific programming (i.e., employment, therapeutic groups)
- Work closely with ATI, supervised release, public defenders, and other supports to work towards stability
- All participants connect with SHERO housing specialists to identify safe, permanent, affordable housing placement

Snapshot of who we serve –

- 40% domestic violence survivors (see criminalized survivor fact sheet)
- 100% trauma survivors
- 53% primary caregivers prior to jail
- 60% experience serious mental illness
- 32% in substance recovery
- 23% actively using

Current Challenges –

- Lack of permanent housing access
- Lack of funding to appropriately staff and set up transitional units
- Balancing flexible programming with judge/DA and others' expectations of “a program”