

Frequently asked questions

Permanent supportive housing

What is Permanent Supportive Housing?

Permanent Supportive Housing offers voluntary, flexible supports to help people with psychiatric disabilities choose, get, and keep housing that's decent, safe, affordable, and integrated into the community.

Central to the approach is a belief that people with psychiatric disabilities should have the right to live in a home of their own, without any special rules or service requirements.

How does Permanent Supportive Housing help tenants?

With flexible supports, people with psychiatric disabilities can live in housing of their choice, just like any other member of the community.

Programs take different approaches to housing. In some, people live in units reserved for the program's tenants, among those with and without special needs. In others, people receive the program's help finding, qualifying for, and keeping housing on the open market.

All tenants have access to an array of services that help them keep their housing, such as case management, assistance with daily activities, conflict resolution, and crisis response. Tenants also receive help in becoming fully participating members of the community, through assistance with socialization and seeking employment.

How does Permanent Supportive Housing work?

Permanent Supportive Housing staff offers flexible, voluntary services designed to help people choose housing that meets their needs, obtain and pay for that housing, and keep the housing for as long as they choose.

- **Quality housing**

Housing meets standards for safety and quality established by local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Housing is similar to what's available to others at similar income levels in the community.

- **Rental assistance and standard lease**

Tenants typically pay 30 percent of their income toward rent, plus basic utilities. The remainder is paid either by tenant-based rental assistance, which tenants can use in housing of their choice, or project-based rental assistance, which is linked to a specific location.

- **Functional separation of housing and supports**

Tenants sign a standard lease, just like any other member of the community. That gives tenants the same legal rights. Continued tenancy isn't subject to any special rules or participation in any particular services.

- **Integration**

Tenants' homes are located throughout the community or in buildings in which a majority of units aren't reserved for people with disabilities. Tenants have opportunities for interactions with the community.

Information retrieved from <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA10-4510/SMA10-4510-08-Brochure-PSH.pdf>

Has Permanent Supportive Housing expanded?

Yes. The expansion of Permanent Supportive Housing includes housing subsidies paired with supportive services. The units are scattered site housing vouchers subsidized by Mercy Maricopa. The tenant pays 30 percent of his/her income towards rent. The Supportive Housing Services are in place to help the member maintain permanent housing in the community of his/her choice.

When will the units and/or services be ready?

Now! Mercy Maricopa is accepting applications for the additional scattered site vouchers. Permanent Supportive Housing service providers are also ready to provide supports to members.

Who is eligible to apply?

Permanent Supportive Housing is available for adults who are Title 19 and Non-Title 19, enrolled with Mercy Maricopa and have a serious mental illness (SMI) determination.

How does a member apply?

You can find the Mercy Maricopa Scattered Site Housing Application at www.mercymaricopa.org. Case managers work with members to complete

the application. Scan and email the completed form to housing@mercymaricopa.org.

What if a member already has housing, but wants Supportive Housing Services?

The clinical team can reach out to one of the five Permanent Supportive Housing service providers to request services for a member. Services are available for members currently living independently.

What type of services will the member receive in Permanent Supportive Housing?

The services are person-centered and focused on helping the member to live independently and maintain housing. Services may include education around tenant orientation and rights, case management, financial management and budgeting, communication skills, safety and hazard recognition, health and wellness, accessing community resources, and others.

How long will services last?

Services are individualized and can last as long as the member requires support to maintain housing.

Effective April 1, 2014, Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care began operations as the Regional Behavioral Health Authority for Maricopa County. Funds for services are provided through a contract with the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services (ADHS/DBHS) and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).

