



# Directing Services for Substance Use and Mental Health to Hard-to-Reach Populations

Kelli Kemna, Housing Director

# Code of Conduct

The Alliance has a zero-tolerance policy for any form of discrimination or abusive behavior, and we strive to maintain an environment that is respectful and free from harm or harassment. If you encounter anything that makes you feel unsafe please notify an Alliance staff member.



**1. Why is the Housing Liaison program necessary?**

**2. What do Housing Liaisons do?**

**3. What are the outcomes from this program?**



# Why Housing Liaisons?



Social Determinants  
of Health account for  
between 30-55% of  
health outcomes



# Housing Affordability in Missouri

Missouri Area Median Income  
\$81,700

\$24,510 (Extremely Low Income) Housing  
Need - **122,075 units**

\$40,850 (Very Low Income)

Housing Need – **72,937 units**



# Homelessness in Missouri

Point In Time Count 2024

7,538 persons  
experiencing homelessness

2,241 unsheltered



# Homelessness and Subpopulations

- 29% have a severe mental illness (HUD PITC, 2024)
- 18% have chronic substance use disorder (HUD PITC, 2024)
- 31.6% co-occurring Severe Mental Illness (SMI) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) (McNiel & Binder, 2005).
- 15% of the jail population (Greenberg & Rosenheck, 2008)
- 30-40% cognitive impairment (Fagan, 2020)



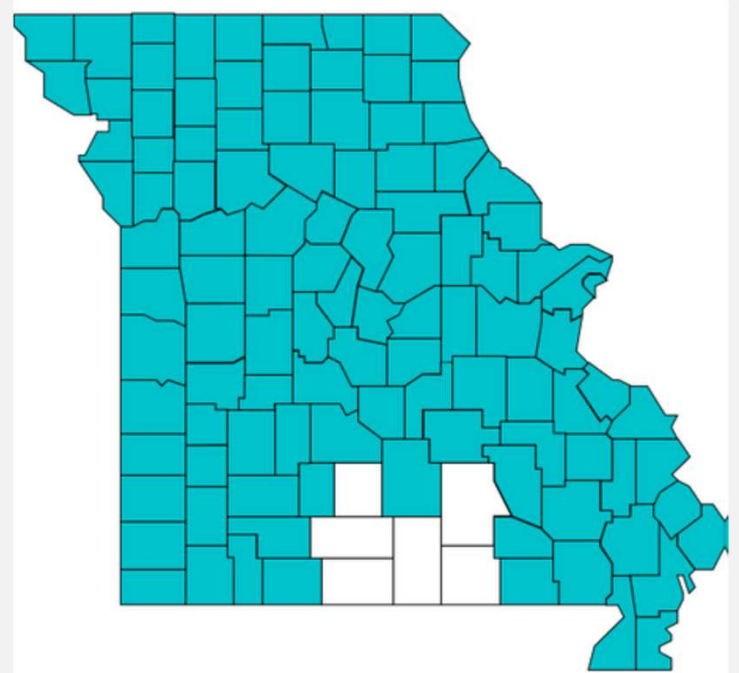


# **What Housing Liaisons Do**

HLs assist Missourians with disabilities experiencing homelessness

Referrals from coordinated entry systems

HLs reduce more costly state services, shifting to less costly, more appropriate services





1. Increase number of landlords
2. Provide support to other direct service staff
3. Develop local resource guides
4. Outreach persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness
5. Assist clients with obtaining permanent housing
6. Assist clients with enrolling in ongoing services
7. Assist clients with increasing cash income

# Success Stories



## MATT

"I finally feel like I'm on a path again and not just traveling aimlessly through this whole situation, thank you."



## ERICA

"You saved my life. You were the only one willing to help me."

# Housing Liaison Outcomes

HLs are AMAZING!

- 3,200 INDIVIDUALS SERVED
- 1,020 INDIVIDUALS HOUSED
- 51% INDIVIDUALS OBTAINED/MAINTAINED INCOME
- 75% INDIVIDUALS OBTAINED/MAINTAINED HEALTH INSURANCE
- APPROXIMATE PUBLIC SERVICE COST SAVINGS \$7,800,000 ANNUALLY
- 38% REDUCTION IN TIME EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS FOR PERSONS REFERRED TO HLS
- 540 RESOURCE ITEMS
- 86 NEW LANDLORDS IDENTIFIED



### 1. Why is the Housing Liaison program necessary?

The HL program provides a critical resource to Community Behavioral Health Organizations so intensive outreach and housing services can be provided to persons experiencing homelessness. Having dedicated funding for the HLs allows CBHOs to have the position focus on the needs of target population without having productivity requirements for HLs.

### 2. What do Housing Liaisons do?


The HLs provide intensive outreach and case management to persons experiencing homelessness with behavioral health needs. The HLs coordinate with their local Continuums of Care to receive referrals and conduct street outreach activities.

### 3. What are the outcomes from this program?

HLs have successfully housed over 1,000 persons and have connected them to ongoing community behavioral health and other resources.



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# THANK YOU

# References

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