

Supportive and Transitional Housing

Supportive Housing: Supportive housing is a combination of housing and services intended as a cost-effective way to help people live more stable, and productive lives. Supportive housing often includes ongoing support for residents due to mental illness, drug addiction, or other underlying health conditions.

Transitional Housing: Transitional housing is temporary housing for certain segments of the homeless population, including working homeless people who are earning too little money to afford long-term housing.

The numbers show that there is a need for supported and transitional housing in Ulster County:

- In 2020, there were approximately 388 homeless people in Ulster County.
- Of those 388 homeless, 132 of them were children under the age of 18.ⁱ

Despite the need for supportive and transitional housing, finding a location is often difficult as stigma and fear associated with these residents lead nearby neighbors to rally against siting supportive or transitional housing in their community.

When residents seek emergency shelter through the Ulster County Department of Social Services, a motel or hotel is often one of the few viable options available. Although this provides much-needed temporary shelter, it is an expensive and temporary solution that does not address the roots of the problem. The development and operation of a permanent supportive and transitional housing program represents a long-term solution that is more cost effective than utilizing hotels and motels.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Ulster County Continuum of Care – 2020 Point-In-Time Count

ⁱⁱ “Ending Chronic Homelessness Saves Taxpayer Money” National Alliance to End Homelessness. November 2015. [Ending Chronic Homelessness Saves Taxpayers Money - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)