

Living in Place: Assisting Aging in Place for Older Adults with Serious Mental Illness

The Living in Place program provides comprehensive and flexible Critical Time Intervention (CTI) case management and other support services to older adults. The primary goal of the program is to enable older adults, ages 55 and above, with serious mental illness (SMI) to age in place in their residences. Challenges such as economic instability, disengagement from social activities, lack of access to or use of medical care, and lack of access to nutritional foods can accelerate the aging process and jeopardize the ability to age in place, in the community. Services are primarily provided in the home by an array of skilled staff including mental health professionals, occupational therapists, and peers.

Services may include:

- Assessments of living skills, fall risk, social and economic needs, nutritional needs, residential environment challenges
- Memory rehabilitation
- Assistance adjusting to vision and hearing loss etc.
- Care coordination/case management services
- Occupational therapy services– needs assessments focused on the participant’s activities of daily living, determining needed fall prevention aids, mediation of residential environmental concerns and identification of specific referrals necessary to maintain safety in the home
- Referrals and connection to various resources, services and supports, for example, meal delivery, home attendant services, Older Adult Centers)
- Peer support services – a Peer Specialist will provide support and mentoring, including assisting individuals in creating and following a plan for their continued recovery, escorting to appointments, sharing resources that may be helpful to the participant to maintain independence in their home including mitigating social isolation.
- Collaboration with family, service providers and other collaterals

Eligibility:

- 55 years or older.
- Have a documented diagnosis of a serious mental illness (SMI), for which the individual is engaged in established psychiatric care and who is demonstrating mental health stability/individual is at their baseline
- Have a demonstrated need for additional support for the individual to remain in their current residential setting

Exclusionary Criteria

- Individuals currently living in shelter, including transitional shelters
- Individuals residing in Adult Care Facilities, as defined and licensed by the NYS Department of Health (note: individuals residing in Adult Homes, as defined and licensed by the NYS Department of Health are eligible)
- Individuals currently enrolled with an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), including specialty ACT program, or Intensive Mobile Treatment (IMT) programs

Referral and enrollment process:

- Call Program Contact for the borough individual resides in
- Submit supporting documentation (3 options): Attestation form (Provided by the Living in Place Provider), Psychiatric Assessment completed by the individual's treatment provider within the last 12 months or, if a Psychiatric Assessment is more than 12 months old, the latest two psychiatric notes
- Program staff will meet with participant in their home and conduct an Activities of Daily Living (ADL) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) assessment to establish individual's eligibility for the program and preliminary functional needs
- Referral source will be informed of eligibility determination, with individual enrolled immediately if they are eligible

Henry Street Settlement Area Served – Manhattan Primary Contact Person: Edrei Conton-Pelaez Ph#: (347) 573-2179 Email: EPelaez@henrystreet.org	Jewish Association for the Aged (JASA) Area served – Bronx Primary Contact Person: Irene Tsikitas Ph#: 646-373-0145 Email: itsikitas@jasa.org
OHEL Areas served – Brooklyn and Staten Island Primary Contact Person: Gjylasfije (Julie) Lula Ph#: 929-475-1672 Email: Gjylasfije_Ljulja@ohelfamily.org	Breaking Ground Areas served – Queens Primary Contact Person: Kristina Stuart Ph#: 347-205-4321 Email: Kstuart@breakingground.org