

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SPOTLIGHT

New York State Department of Health

Medicaid Redesign Team Supportive Housing

The Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) Supportive Housing Initiative was developed to address the social determinants of health. Programs provide supportive housing to high-need Medicaid members through rental subsidies, supportive housing services and capital projects.

Olmstead Housing Subsidy Program

A program that works for both tenants and landlords!

Olmstead Housing Subsidy Program

The Olmstead Housing Subsidy (OHS) program provides a rental subsidy for high-need Medicaid members, in order to help them afford and locate safe, accessible housing. The program is designed for those individuals who are living in a nursing home and are looking to transition back into the community. Elderly adults, and those adults with a disability, who can safely live in the community setting are given the opportunity to transition from the nursing home with supports in place to help make that transition a success.

The OHS program is administered by the New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL). For more information on OHS, referrals, and eligibility criteria, please visit:



<https://ilny.us/programs/ohs>

“It Gave Me My Life and Independence Back”

Valerie from Erie County, NY was introduced to the Olmstead Housing Subsidy program on February 16th, 2017 when she moved into her independent apartment. She has been in and out of nursing homes since a car accident in July of 2014 that impacted her legs and left her to depend on a wheelchair to get around. After multiple surgeries, and several nursing homes and rehab stays, she felt stuck at the nursing home and she states, “I had nowhere to go, had no money, no nothing, that is how I got stuck there”.

After some involvement with another agency, Valerie was directed to the Western New York Independent Living Center. This is where she met her Housing Specialist that would assist her in locating a new home. Valerie stated the process of working with a Housing Specialist while she was in the nursing home feels like it, “takes forever, but looking back it was a total of three months, the Housing Specialist did everything. I wouldn’t be here without her. She gave me everything I needed and she was patient with me.”

Valerie states that “this is awesome, I had choices. Real choices. I was able to pick the area I wanted to live in, my quality of life is so much better!”. She states that she has a deck she can sit on and read a book, and that she can go to the store if she wants to and she can lock her doors at night. Valerie has stated that she wants to share her experience with others because this program can give you your life back.

When Valerie was asked what she would tell other individuals thinking about the program, she stated, “OMG the OHS program, it gave me my life back; literally gave me my life back. It gave me back my independence and self-worth. I don’t know how to describe it. I sleep better. I eat healthier. I see my friends and go places. I feel so much better.”



“It gave me back my self-worth and independence. I don’t know how to describe it.”