

With the knowledge of housing being a social determinant of health, SHIP developed and introduced the Seven Principles of Healthy Housing..

SHIPs Seven Principles of Healthy Housing address the fact that bricks and mortar are not the only elements which need to be addressed when acquiring and maintaining Healthy Housing conditions for specialized populations.

1. INCLUSIVE:

Tenants must be members of the Board of Directors and other SHIP committees providing the opportunity for tenant members to take an active role in determining the direction of the organization.

2. ACCESSIBLE:

An intake process that begins to build a relationship with the prospective tenant – in advance of the move-in – allows the organization to inform residents about their rights and obligations as a tenant and facilitates the implementation of a realistic Tenancy Plan.

3. SUSTAINABLE:

Quality, affordable supportive housing that is sustainable over the long run requires the development of strategic public and/or private partnerships and alliances.

4. SAFETY:

A core element of supportive housing is that it provides a safe, secure environment for tenants - by reducing threats to their well-being.

5. EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Tenant Relations and Supportive Housing staff are positioned to use housing issues as a means to provide education to clients and assist them in retaining their housing.

6. EMPOWERMENT:

Supportive Housing Providers must use their knowledge and experience in housing to assisting residents to understand and take control of their new environment, help them to make good choices and to become increasingly more independent.

7. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

Supportive housing reduces isolation by linking the person living with serious mental illness to the community and to an array of professional community-based support services essential to their well-being.