

# INSTITUTIONAL RELEASE HOUSING PROGRAM

Community Action of Northwest Montana

Region 8 • Kalispell, Montana  
capnm.net



Homeless • Housing • Returning Citizens

## INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Community Action of Northwest Montana (CAPNM)'s Institutional Release Housing Program assists individuals who are exiting an institutional setting into homelessness and who have a recent history of homelessness. Participants meet regularly with Housing Navigators to help stabilize housing and work on income-building activities.

## LOCAL NEED ADDRESSED

When individuals are released from prison, a mental health inpatient facility, or a substance abuse treatment facility, their ability to access safe and secure housing within the community is crucial for successful re-entry. Studies have shown that the first month is a vulnerable period during which the risk of being homeless can lead to a return to an institution. The obstacles to securing housing for those re-entering the community are significant, and although many individuals leaving an institution would like to live with family or friends, that is not always possible.

Affordable housing is scarce within CAPNM's four counties, and exiting an institution without secure, stable income creates additional challenges. The Montana Statewide Re-Entry Task Force completes a regular report to the U.S. Justice Department that includes findings and recommendations based upon qualitative and quantitative research done in the State of Montana regarding reentry. The May 2018 report indicates that housing remains a top barrier for those who are re-entering their community following incarceration. The need for assistance with housing



extends to those leaving mental health facilities as well, and homelessness can lead to reentry into the mental health system and continued instability.

Providing a program participant with intense case management and a one-year graduated housing subsidy would allow them to move into housing first and then acclimate into their community and secure steady income.

## TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

According to the 2010 "Re-Entry Housing Options: The Policymaker's Guide" produced jointly by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Justice Center of the Council of State Governments, community-based release programs have multiple, positive community benefits, such as

allowing supervision and services to be concentrated and made available where the re-entering citizen lives, reducing recidivism and producing other positive results, such as improved efficiency. It may also promote peer support and mentorship among re-entering citizens.

## EVIDENCE-BASED OUTCOMES

All activities will be monitored by a CAPNM Case Manager using CDS, HMIS and Coordinated Entry systems. Success is determined on the Hearth Act objectives (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing act, 2009). Desired outcomes include:

- Obtaining and keeping housing over a 12-month period,
- Avoiding homelessness over a 12-month period,
- Securing and maintaining paid employment,
- Actively participating in the governance and upkeep of CAPNM-owned or “master lease” property, and
- Avoiding re-entry into another institution over a 12-month period.

National Performance Indicators include:

- 1.2.h Obtained safe and affordable housing (individuals),
- 2.1.d Affordable housing units preserved or improved (if housing is purchased for the project),

- 3.1.a Volunteer hours (if occupants are required to help upkeep house, etc.),
- 3.2.d Volunteers serving on Boards (if occupants form a governing Board and help self-manage the house), and
- 4.1. Project partners (# of any agencies strategically partnered with).

## CUSTOMER VOICE

CAPNM uses client satisfaction surveys and collects that data on a yearly basis. Surveys are confidential. Staff review the success of the programs on a yearly basis.

## Contact

Community Action of  
Northwest Montana

214 S Main St.  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Website: [www.capnm.net](http://www.capnm.net)  
Phone: (406) 752-6565

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