



## **Community Inclusion as a Goal in Transitions out of Institutions**

### ***Disability, Health and Housing Partnerships in North Carolina***

Alliance of Disability Advocates (ADANC) is a center for independent living in Raleigh, North Carolina. Alliance Health Partnership is a managed care organization that has been working to integrate health and housing for about a decade. (The organizations have “alliance” in their names but are separate organizations). These two agencies have worked collaboratively to develop community inclusion and integration in their **Transitions to Community Living Initiative (TCLI)**.

### ***Program***

The TCLI program began as a part of a settlement agreement, following an *Olmstead* investigation, in which the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) found that many individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) in North Carolina were living in adult care homes and state psychiatric facilities. Alliance Health and ADANC together recognized that individuals should have the right to choose where to live and how to be involved in their communities. The **Transition to Community Living Voucher (TCLV)** provides an ongoing rental subsidy so Alliance Health members can access affordable apartments and live full and equitable lives in communities of their choosing. Alliance Health is the administrator of the program, working with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the NC Housing Finance Agency.

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## *Partnership Best Practices*

- Partners must be organizations that understand that meeting complex community needs requires creative solutions and blending and braiding of various resources.
- An ongoing Transition to Community Living Local Barriers Committee identifies areas of need for individuals moving back to the community and solutions to address barriers.
- One early goal was to address any waiting list and figure out sustainability.
- A team of community inclusion specialists work to incorporate community inclusion goals into the framework of future funding.
- The partners seek to utilize the funding source that allows the freedom and flexibility to serve individuals and promote community inclusion.

## *Lessons Learned*

- Focus on not only connecting wraparound services, but inclusion for all persons with institutional-care histories.
- Be creative in how you use one-time funds, from grants, private investments, CARES/COVID-relief funds, etc. You will need to find a way to sustain services with other funding sources in the long term.
- Find the opportunities, and then pace your agencies so you can get it done.

## *Additional Vital Partners*

In the goal of community inclusion as an effort to increase housing stability, people with lived experience are vital partners during development and throughout the program.

## *For More Information*

Working Together to Empower Community Inclusion with Health/Housing/Independent-Living Partnerships (webinar),

<https://acl.gov/HousingAndServices/HealthHousingILPartnerships>

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