



## Housing and Services Resource Center

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### Creating Responsive Partnerships within Continuums of Care with Centers for Independent Living and State Assistive Technology Programs to Improve Housing Stability and Reduce Homelessness

In 2017, **AIM**, a Center for Independent Living (CIL) in New York, began to explore how to create increased housing opportunities for people with disabilities experiencing or at risk of homelessness. AIM engaged with its local Continuum of Care (CoC) program to provide the services and supports individuals need to live healthy, successful, engaged lives in the community. At the time, the CoC did not have representation from disability-specific stakeholders. AIM became a partner of the CoC, of which **CARES of NY, Inc.** is the collaborative applicant. As a partner, AIM is working to increase the supply of affordable, accessible housing in the state. In addition, AIM is a regional **Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID)** Center. The Center has facilitated assistive technology and accessibility solutions for individuals experiencing housing instability due to inaccessible home environment concerns.

#### *Programs and Services*

AIM currently provides two sites in its **Supportive Housing Program** for people with disabilities and young adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. While both are independent, AIM has staff on-site who advocate with and for residents and connect them to services. Placement in AIM's supportive housing sites is through Coordinated Entry through **Southern Tier Entry to Programs and Services (STEPS)**, the CoC working to address homelessness in the region in partnership with CARES of NY.

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AIM is currently working to expand with the addition of a supportive housing project for individuals with substance use disorder, set to open in 2023, and two additional projects slated for 2025. AIM and its partners are working diligently to highlight what a robust, responsive network looks like.

### *Best Practices and Lessons Learned*

- Learn how to step outside of your comfort zone and use your voice to enhance and expand the partnership network to more effectively address the needs of people with disabilities.
- Know how to identify partners with the necessary expertise to make the partnership work within the confines of program regulations.
- Identify the strengths and benefits of adding a disability-led program, like a CIL, to a CoC.

### *Funding Sources*

Funding Source	Federal	State/Local	Other
Supportive Housing for Older Adults and People with Disabilities		X	
Supportive Housing for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder		X	
Supportive Housing for Youth Experiencing Homelessness		X	
TRAID Program	X		
Southern Tier Entry to Programs and Services (STEPS)	X		

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