

ESKENAZI
HEALTH



PENN PLACE

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

PENN PLACE is a 38-unit apartment building in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana that provides permanent housing to individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

Penn Place follows a Housing First approach, an evidence-based, low-demand service model that does not require residents to demonstrate housing readiness through sobriety or service engagement. Penn Place is a supportive housing program in Indianapolis implementing a strong Housing First model because it fully embraces harm reduction as a service philosophy.

Penn Place engaged in six months of training and technical assistance to ensure faithful Housing First implementation. The program also underwent an evaluation of its first year of operation to determine the impact of its services on residents' lives.

For more information about this evaluation, contact Dr. Dennis Watson by email: dpwatson@iu.edu or by phone: (317) 274-3245.

BENEFITS

“TO ME THE STRONGEST POINTS OF THE PROGRAM ARE THE STAFF’S OPENNESS, THEIR WILLINGNESS TO HELP YOU WITH ALL OF YOUR NEEDS, NO MATTER IF IT’S PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL, THEY HELP YOU.”

Male resident, age 53

Researchers from the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the Indiana University Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health collected resident-level data at three time points.

Baseline interviews with newly placed Penn Place residents were conducted in January and February 2016, 6-month interviews in July and August 2016, and 12-month interviews in December 2016 and January 2017.

THE QUALITY OF SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS WITH FAMILY **IMPROVED**



USE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES **DECREASED**

↓ 18%

AN EARLY INDICATOR OF IMPROVEMENT IN OVERALL HEALTH

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT IN JAIL OR PRISON **DECREASED**

↓ 60%

AVERAGE INCOME **IMPROVED**

↑ 154%