

**MICJS Housing Subcommittee Update  
Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting  
June 23, 2016**

**Problem:** There is a shortage supportive housing for individuals with mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system. Many of these individuals reenter the community homeless making behavioral health and supportive services difficult to arrange during a critical point of community adjustment contributing to destabilization and higher recidivism rates.

**Subcommittee Goal:** To research and recommend options to increase supportive housing options for justice involved individuals with mental illness. The subcommittee will develop a white paper with the benefits of supportive housing and alternatives for funding and establishing programs across all areas of the state.

**Current Activities:**

Two University of Denver Law School Interns will support the subcommittee by gathering the following information:

- Empirical data on housing needs related to justice involved individuals with mental illness including:
- Building an exhaustive list of previous bills and legislation dealing with zoning issues, housing vouchers, insurance incentives, housing investment trust funds, and grant programs to reduce recidivism
- Conducting a Multi-State Survey to describe model supportive housing and treatment programs for justice involved individuals with mental illness which are cost effective.
- Researching available federal grants such as the USDA which has many grant programs for rural areas.
- Researching other means for establishing supportive housing such as redirecting existing funding or repurposing existing facilities to provide supportive housing.

The subcommittee members will:

- Map current supportive housing options and gaps, with the support of the two interns, to identify the most critical needs.
- Produce a white paper on options to address the problem with potential areas for future legislation