



May 21, 2025

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Adam,

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the successful Albany County Rental Subsidy program and why it is important to continue funding the Program.

To date we have provided subsidies to 18 Albany County residential treatment individuals: 11 males and 7 females. The majority continue to maintain their employment and housing with subsidy assistance. Some of these individuals in recovery from opioid addiction have been able to progress and sustain their housing without further subsidies beyond the initial 3-month subsidy commitment. Others have been able to maintain their recovery and level of employment, however, have been provided rental subsidy extensions. The goal in recovery is always self-sufficiency and long-term recovery. The fact is that every individual is different and progresses in their own unique way. This is one reason why it is important to continue funding this new, and creative program.

Most available apartments in Albany are in excess of \$1000 per month. Add to that the typical security deposit and a month's rent in advance is very difficult, in some cases impossible, for individuals in early recovery and just returning to the workforce to meet this expectation. The Rental Subsidy Program successfully helps individuals to overcome this obstacle. The Program has made the housing search easier. Landlords and property owners are confident renting to individuals because a degree of risk has been removed.

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There are two main reasons why the expenditure of funds has not occurred within the first year. First, it took several months to create the program's structure and orient the staff person coordinating the Program. Then the staff person engaged in community outreach explaining the programs' purpose and application process.

Secondly, we have found that because individuals' complete treatment at different times the requests for a subsidies from Albany County treatment providers on behalf of their successful clients occur over an extended period of time, well before the subsidy is actually needed. Discharge planning and readiness for treatment recipients occurs over time. The initial application for a rental subsidy often occurs months before the client is expected to be discharged. The treatment program Case Manager works with the client to secure a variety of services months before discharge. These include a connection with primary health care and perhaps specialty physical health and behavioral needs. There are frequently legal engagements that must be resolved prior to discharge. Stable employment must be in place prior to successful discharge. Because of the housing shortage, actually finding and committing to housing takes longer than expected. We have found that the process from the initial rental subsidy application takes longer than initially anticipated. Also, during the discharge planning process other housing options may present themselves. The rental subsidy initially requested may no longer be needed. As a result, anticipated rental subsidy expenditure has not occurred as rapidly as originally thought. This is not a bad outcome. It does underscore the need to extend the program so that we can help more individuals in early recovery from Opioid addiction achieve long term recovery.

The subsidies, in the words of most who received them, have been a blessing! Hopefully we can continue to provide more clients with the benefits of the Albany County Rental Subsidy Program that is truly needed at this time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you have. My direct number is 518-465-5470, ext. 214. Email: [kstack@theacca.net](mailto:kstack@theacca.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Stack', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Keith Stack, CEO