St Francis Friends of the Poor

GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The St. Francis Residences offer permanent housing for people with history of chronic mental illness. Services to the tenants include: money management, medication management, advocacy, medical and psychiatric treatment, securing benefits and providing, when available, suitable clothing for the season. Through staff interaction with the tenants, the program seeks to develop and enhance the dignity, skills and appropriate behavior of the tenants, facilitating their integration and acceptance into the community.

REFERRAL AND ADMISSION GUIDELINES FOR THE ST. FRANCIS RESIDENCES

1. **A psychosocial summary**

   Please include family, social, educational, vocational, drug and alcohol use/treatment, criminal, psychiatric and housing histories. Provide an ADL assessment. List all current benefits (SSI, SSD, Medicaid, etc.) and provide a copy of Medicaid card and recent award letter or check.

2. **A psychiatric evaluation, including:**

   Diagnosis/decompensation symptoms/baseline

   Hospitalizations (including hospital names/dates/precipitants)

   Out-patient treatment history

   Medication history (including positive and negative results)

   History of destructive, assaultive or suicidal behavior

   History of substance abuse and treatment

   Current mental status exam

   Current medication regimen

   If studies such as EEG, CT, MRI or Neurological exam have been recently ordered and performed, please include these in the referral

3. **A recent physical exam, including: medical history/lab values/copies of any medical consults/PPD status**

ADMISSION GUIDELINE

The St. Francis Residences have been providing supportive housing for seriously mentally ill tenants since 1980. Each of our three hotels is staffed by a psychiatric nurse, a caseworker, two activities therapists and part-time psychiatrists. We provide supportive services to approximately 100 tenants per hotel Monday through Friday, 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Years of successes and failures have educated us regarding our target population.

We have the most success with chronic schizophrenics who have had multiple hospitalizations, some history of medication compliance and, because of the chronic nature of their illness, will not be able to work. Applicants requiring 24-hour supervision, more structure, intensive MICA services or who are higher functioning are better served by programs that address their special needs.
CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE

Adults over 30 years of age

Individuals with DSM IV Axis I diagnosis schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder

Individuals who have a long history of psychiatric hospitalizations

Individuals who are not a risk for suicide and do not have a history of dangerous or assaultive behavior

Individuals who do not have a significant criminal history

Individuals with low income

Individuals who are not current alcohol or drug abusers. If there is a history of a substance abuse disorder, the individual should evidence meaningful participation in an addiction focused self-help group, and understand the rudimentary principles of maintaining sobriety as an outpatient

Individuals who are compliant with treatment including prescribed medications

Individuals who the St. Francis staff feels could benefit from our program and will avail themselves of existing services in addition to housing

Long term New York City residents

Individuals known to be HIV-positive are not excluded from consideration

SEND REFERRALS TO:
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