

Creating Homes Initiative

A two-decade history of housing Tennesseans living with behavioral health challenges



The Tennessee Creating Homes Initiative (CHI) seeks to assertively and strategically partner with local communities to expand quality, safe, affordable, and permanent housing opportunities for people living with mental illness, substance use disorder, and co-occurring disorders. The program was created in August 2000 by Marie Williams, current TDMHSAS commissioner, in response to the need for housing options for people living with mental illness. The model leverages seed funding from the state to draw on other sources for a multiplier effect, and the result has been tremendous.

Since the year **2000** → More than **37,000** More than **\$1.4B**
New or Improved Housing Opportunities Leveraged from Federal, State, Local, Foundational, and other funding sources

How it Works

- The state provides framework, incentives, and Regional Housing Facilitators.
- Broad-based local/regional task forces identify needs and prioritize projects.
- Development of permanent housing opportunities such as independent rental and home ownership is emphasized.
- Regional Housing Facilitators work with any appropriate agency.
- Housing is owned and operated by local agencies.

Expanding Our Scope

FY20: Added CHI 2.0 to expand housing options for people recovering from addiction.

FY22: Added CHI 3.0 to expand housing options for people getting out of jail or prison.

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CHI & CHI 2.0
Regional Housing
Facilitators

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Consumer
Housing
Specialists

1

Regional Housing
Facilitator Director

1

Consumer
Housing
Specialist
Director