



Program & Project Quick Look

Nebraska Judicial Branch

Transitional Living

Transitional Living grew from an immediate need to secure housing for individuals on Post-Release Supervision and has expanded to create housing and increase success for probation, post-release and problem solving court individuals while also reducing recidivism. Post-Release Supervision (PRS) individuals experience significant obstacles upon their reentry, specifically a lack of housing or sober living options.

Origin & Authorization

Legislative Bill (LB) 605 & 1094 (Expands the use of probation in lieu of incarceration.)

Nebraska Revised Statute 28-105 (New felony offense classification requiring post-release supervision.)

Nebraska Revised Statute 29-2260 (Cases requiring a determinate sentence of post-release supervision.)

Nebraska Supreme Court Rule § 6-1904 (Rules of post-release supervision.)

Since the passage of LB 605 in August 2015, Nebraska Probation has been entrusted with the responsibility of supervising individuals within the community who have been released from the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services or local county jails under a term of Post-Release Supervision. Presently, Nebraska Probation has identified a lack of access to transitional housing and funding for appropriate residential reentry options.

Program Overview

Transitional Living was created to provide short-term, stable housing for individuals at high-risk to reoffend while improving community safety. The program places individuals in a supportive environment, enabling them to concentrate on treatment and/or employment, reintegrating into the community, and ultimately becoming self-sufficient. Simultaneously, this provides a greater ability to know the whereabouts of individuals under court ordered supervision.

Target Population

1. Felony, offenses and limited Class 1 misdemeanor offenses, including domestic violence offense, sex offenses, and 3rd Offense DUIs or higher.

AND

2. With a court order or as part of a sanction and:
 - Discharging from jail or prison to Post-Release Supervision (PRS).
 - Currently on PRS.
 - Currently on probation or under problem-solving court supervision.

AND

3. At high risk to reoffend.
 - Based on assessment, classification, or evaluation.

AND

4. Have "housing instability" upon release from jail or prison, while on PRS, probation, or problem-solving court supervision

AND

5. In need housing for support:

AND

6. Cannot immediately afford to pay for services on their own

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Housing Options

Halfway House

- A 24-hour structured supportive/treatment/recovery facility generally used following short-term residential treatment. Licensed by the Division of Behavioral Health.
 - Requires one awake staff during waking and sleeping hours with on-call availability for emergencies to meet the needs of the individuals served 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Transitional Living Level 2 (which offers in-house programming)

- Supportive, temporary housing which includes services (i.e. employment, financial management) to facilitate transition to independent living.
 - Requires one awake staff during waking and sleeping hours (10pm-6am) with on-call availability for emergencies to meet the needs of the individuals served 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Transitional Living Level 1 (which offers only safe, sober living)

- Temporary housing for individuals requiring more stability than an emergency shelter with the goal of achieving independent living.
 - Requires one awake staff during sleeping hours (10pm-6am) with on-call availability for emergencies to meet the needs of the individuals served 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Recent Accomplishments

- New service definitions were created and implemented to increase provider accountability. These definitions include requirements for:
 - Municipal Zoning
 - Staffing and
 - Case Management
- An Electronic Reporting System was developed to:
 - Provide a public listing of all Probation approved transitional living providers and
 - Increase collaboration between the officer and provider.

Looking Forward

- Add additional Transitional Living service providers to increase referral options both in metropolitan and outstate areas.
- Continue to identify opportunities to provide Transitional Living through new and creative housing options.
- Continuous Quality Improvement in the area of Transitional Living.

Contacts

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References

Nebraska Supreme Court Rules: <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/supreme-court-rules/chapter-6-trial-courts/article-19-nebraska-court-rules-probation-practices>



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