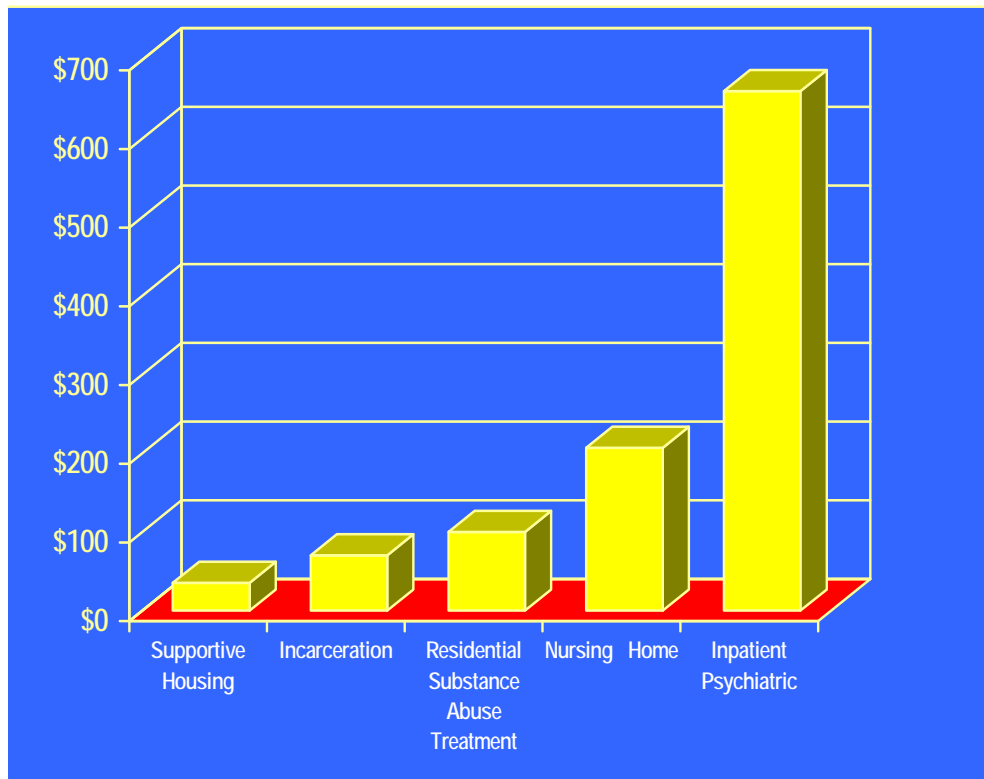


## Chart: Cost Per Day of Supportive Housing and Alternatives

### Supportive housing is less expensive than homelessness

Shelters, hospitals and residential treatment programs all provide important short-term care options for homeless people with mental illness. But only permanent supportive housing provides the foundation upon which vulnerable populations can rebuild their lives, live as independently as possible, and rejoin the working world. Without the option of permanent supportive housing, most individuals either cycle back into homelessness or stay too long in far more expensive programs that were never intended as housing. Below is a comparative chart that demonstrates the true costs of homelessness in Connecticut.

Cost per day of Connecticut supportive housing versus alternative settings for homeless behavioral health consumers



Emergency shelter is also a costly alternative to supportive housing. While it is sometimes necessary for short-term crises, it too often serves as long-term housing. **The cost of an emergency shelter bed funded by HUD's Emergency Shelter Grants program is approximately \$8,067, more than the average annual cost of a federal Section 8 housing subsidy.**

Per diem costs: Average daily rate for long-term inpatient psychiatric care: \$660; nursing home care: \$207; residential substance abuse treatment: \$100; incarceration: \$70.49; supportive housing: \$35.55. Source: Office of Policy and Management (1999), Connecticut Department of Corrections (1999), and October 1999 Program Evaluation Report for Connecticut Supportive Housing Demonstration Program.

