

Moving On is an IL program that supports people with severe mental illness, allowing them to live in independent, subsidized apartments of their choosing.

Here is an overview:

Moving On is a lifeline for adults with mental illness who can live independently with some supports—it has had the effect of emptying nursing homes of all but the most chronically ill individuals. I am also attaching an assessment form given to my daughter, and a 2012 Moving On Implementation Plan and a NAMI press release about the program.

Here is background:

Moving on is the result of an ACLU lawsuit that challenged the state's practice of warehousing adults with MI who have the ability to live independently with supports. The resulting Williams Consent Decree resulted in a Federal Court Consent Decree which requires IL to fund the cost, despite out state's financial problems.

There are a few requirements:

- 1) Entry into Moving On is through an Intermediate Care Facility—essentially a nursing home for adults with mental illness. These facilities are also called Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD). Individuals must live in a nursing home/intermediate care facility for 60 days. Then they can be assessed to determine if they qualify for the program on the basis of diagnosis, stability, and life skills.
- 2) They must have or apply for Medicaid, which helps to pay for the program and for nursing home/or other facility costs. Social Security qualifications also may be required, since this provides a monthly benefit.

It takes roughly 6-9 months to actually get an apartment and move in. My daughter moved to an intermediate care facility in June 2015; she was assessed in Sept.; and met with a team from Thresholds to start their process in Oct. The Threshold team took her to view apartments in Dec., and she chose the 2nd unit she saw--a large 1 bedroom in a nice section of Edgewater in Chicago. It's an ordinary building, not Section 8 or disabled housing. She moved in March 1, 2016.

Moving On members pay 30% of their income for an apartment, and the state pays the rest. The upper limit for a one bedroom in Chicago was about \$990 in

2015. My daughter receives SSI and works a part-time job. Her share of the rent cost is \$330/month.

Each person in the program receives \$2,700 to buy furniture and other things they need for an apartment. The Thresholds team took my daughter to a furniture store and she selected the pieces she wanted. The Threshold team visits 5x a week during the first few weeks in the apartment, and helps clients find jobs, budget, shop for groceries, etc., whatever they need, and then visits drop based on need. The Thresholds team consists of 5 people whom my daughter can call at anytime. Thresholds is a large Moving On contractor, but other social service agencies, like Metropolitan Family Services and Catholic Charities also serve in this support role. There is great dignity in choosing one's own apartment and furnishings.

The intermediate care facility/nursing home that helped my daughter get into Moving On is Clayton Residential Home, at 2026 N. Clark Street, Chicago. It is a very safe neighborhood, literally across the street from the Lincoln Park Zoo. Clayton is the only facility for people with mental illness in Chicago and nearby suburbs that has single rooms for every resident. Clayton provides 3 meals a day, medication oversight, and art and social programming. No drugs or alcohol are allowed. Clayton is funded through Social Security and Medicaid, but will take private pay while residents apply for these benefits.

People generally come to Clayton directly from a hospitalization, but not always.

The admissions director at Clayton is Dan Gordon, phone 773-549-1840.