



April 9, 2026

The Honorable Sen. Louis P. DiPalma
Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance
82 Smith Street, Senate Lounge
Providence, RI, 02903

Dear Chairman DiPalma,

As a provider and on behalf **House of Hope CDC**, I am writing to express our support for the Pay for Success Program as written in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

House of Hope CDC supports the continued investment in Rhode Island's Pay for Success Permanent Supportive Housing Program - a fiscally responsible, outcome-driven approach that protects taxpayers, improves public health and safety, reduces long-term system costs, delivers measurable housing stability, and aligns compassion with accountability.

Even in its early implementation, the program is demonstrating meaningful results by supporting high-risk Rhode Islanders who would otherwise cycle through emergency rooms, shelters, and other costly crisis systems have been successfully housed and connected to supportive services. Stable housing reduces reliance on emergency care, improves health outcomes, and creates a pathway toward long-term stability and self-sufficiency.

Since the program's design nearly a decade ago, Rhode Island's housing market has evolved significantly. While rising rents and post-pandemic economic pressures have increased the need for stable housing, they also underscore the importance of strengthening and investing in proven solutions like Pay for Success. With renewed support, the program is well positioned to expand its reach and deliver even greater stability and impact for Rhode Islanders.

The fiscal case is clear. Preventable emergency room use in Rhode Island costs tens of thousands of dollars per person each year. Supportive housing is significantly less expensive and produces measurable long-term savings.

We are grateful for the Governor's one-year, no-cost extension of operations through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. We respectfully urge the General Assembly to provide the resources needed to sustain and scale this proven model beyond the pilot phase, protecting prior investment, preserving program infrastructure, reducing reliance on crisis systems, and positioning Rhode Island as a national leader in accountable solutions to homelessness.

Stable housing is not only more humane - it is more effective and more fiscally responsible. For these reasons, we urge your support for continued funding of Rhode Island's Pay for Success Housing Program.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenna Rafferty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Brenna Rafferty
Interim Executive Director
House of Hope CDC