

## **AUBURN HOUSE AND READ STREET PROGRAMS**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Community providers and the Portland Social Services Department have long recognized that a portion of the homeless shelter population was in need of an innovative approach to assist these long-term homeless individuals in establishing permanent housing. Auburn House and Read Street provide non-traditional housing and services. They offer the opportunity for low-barrier housing with individualized services provided to tenants in accordance with their individual needs and desires to receive such services. To qualify for this program, applicants must meet Federal homelessness and income guidelines, as well as, have a diagnosis of a major mental health disability.

The house located at 1103 Forest Avenue (Read Street) in Portland can house 6 women. The house at 15 Croquet Lane (Auburn House), also in Portland, can house 7 men. Auburn House also provides services to consumers in 5 apartments at Croquet Lane. Each has individual and shared living space.

Services provided in these facilities are not structured. Staff is available to work with tenants on areas they choose and when they want help. Initially, basic safety is ensured by the presence of staff 24 hours a day. As tenants become more comfortable with maintaining their apartments and establishing and accessing support services, they will be offered assistance in establishing their own independent housing or other supported housing options. Tenants may be receiving supports from the community, from visiting nurses, the ACT or ACCESS Teams, or other services that individuals might receive while living in any private housing.

Auburn House and Read Street offer a new option for individuals who have not been able to utilize traditional housing and mental health services. The goal of this program is to provide the assistance that this targeted population needs to establish and maintain their own housing in the community.

### **STAFFING:**

Staff for both programs is made up of 1 Program Coordinator, and 10 full time and 1 part time Residential Support Workers.

### **RENTS AND FEES:**

Tenants pay 51% of their gross income for rent not to exceed \$670. A security deposit of \$418 is required.

### **REFERRAL PROCESS:**

Referrals to these programs are made by community providers. Priority is given to homeless individuals.

### **FUNDING:**

Funding is provided through the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, MaineCare, and tenant rents.