

Future medical respite providers and partners

This FAQ is designed for organizations that may be interested in supporting, partnering with, or developing medical respite care in their community. It is intended to help future partners understand the medical respite model and identify potential next steps for collaboration or program development.

1. What is medical respite care?

- Medical respite care, sometimes called recuperative care, is acute and post-acute care for people experiencing homelessness who are not ill enough to remain in a hospital but still need a safe, supportive place to recover after discharge. Medical respite care helps people continue healing while receiving medical oversight, care coordination, and connections to ongoing support.

2. Why is medical respite care needed?

- People experiencing homelessness often face serious barriers to recovery after a hospital stay. Without stable housing, it can be difficult to rest, manage medications, and attend follow-up appointments. Medical respite care helps fill that gap by offering short-term recovery support and connecting people to ongoing care and community resources.

3. What does a medical respite program do?

- A medical respite program provides a safe place for people to recover after hospitalization or acute care. Programs typically support both medical and social needs, including care coordination, follow-up care, and connections to housing, behavioral health, and other community resources.

4. What types of organizations can support medical respite care?

- Medical respite care depends on strong partnerships across healthcare, housing, behavioral health, social services, and community-based organizations.

Organizations may support medical respite by:

- Operating a medical respite program
- Partnering with an existing program
- Providing referrals
- Helping connect participants to housing or community services

5. What partnerships are typically needed for a respite program?

- Medical respite programs are strongest when they are built through collaboration across healthcare, housing, behavioral health, social services, and community partners. These partnerships help support referrals, care coordination, housing connections, and long-term stability for people participating in medical respite care.
- Possible medical respite partners might include:
 - People with lived experience
 - Local hospitals, including social workers and discharge planners
 - Homeless service organizations and shelters
 - Continuum of Care representatives
 - Local, state and federal government partners
 - Federally Qualified Health Centers and clinics
 - Outreach workers supporting people who are unsheltered
 - Substance use treatment facilities
 - VA (Veterans Affairs) services
 - Medicaid managed care organizations
 - Mental health providers
 - Housing providers

6. What are the benefits of medical respite care?

- Medical respite care can help:
 - Support safer recovery after hospitalization
 - Reduce readmissions and complications
 - Connect people to long-term support
 - Strengthen discharge options for hospitals and care teams
 - Build stronger healthcare and community

7. Who should I contact to learn more?

- For questions about future partnerships or program development, contact:
 - **ADD YOUR PROGRAM'S CONTACT INFO HERE**
- You can also visit www.illinoismedicalrespite.org for a directory and contact information for operating medical respite programs across Illinois.