Housing Action Illinois Conference:
Advancing Criminal Justice Reforms
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Alexian Brothers Housing + Health
Chicago, Illinois
mission

Alexian Brothers Bonaventure House, The Harbor + Bettendorf Place carry out the healing mission of the Catholic Church as an Alexian Brothers ministry by identifying and developing effective responses to the health + housing needs of those we are called to serve.
learning objectives

✓ Current Challenges
✓ Strategies in working with landlords
✓ Housing Barriers: Working with ex-felons
Challenges in Re Entry Housing

- employment / income
- personal history
- communication skills
- NIMBY
- finances / funding
- types of housing
- activities of daily living
- supportive services
Working with Landlords

- Developing Partnerships
- Response to Issues
- Program Education
- Bottom Line
Barriers to Housing

✓ Housing Barriers: Working with ex offenders
Barriers to Housing
Every tenant brings a history, a culture, and a set of expectations and behaviors:
- Personality
- Mental health status
- Physical health status
- Social history
- Racial / ethnic identities
- Housing experience
- Others?
Successful engagement strategies

- Be there from the start
- Use the lease itself as an engagement tool
- Knock on the door
- Design engagement materials thoughtfully
- Check in often: prevent isolation
- Learn what tenants like/want/need
successful engagement strategies

- Provide needed resources, address basic needs
- Encourage community building
- Employment goals
- Lease or house rule violations as an excuse for engagement
Engagement: repeated and consistent interaction over time; sustained through formal and informal interactions that serve to build trust, develop comfort, and enhance and solidify relationships.
Remaining Questions?
for more information

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