

Joseph's House was founded in 1990 to serve "the poorest of the sickest of the most vulnerable individuals" living in the District of Columbia: homeless men who are terminally ill because of AIDS or other diseases. Located in a private home that has been converted to an 11-bed nursing facility, Joseph's House provides a continuum of services that includes nursing care, comprehensive case

management, addiction recovery support, spiritual nourishment, and transitional support. Over the past few years, changes in the demography of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and increasing service gaps in the District of Columbia have suggested a need to increase service capacity at Joseph's House—both the number of slots available and the types of clients served.

In early 2003, Joseph's House received a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to conduct a needs assessment. The report would help to answer the following questions:

- 1) Is there a **need for more treatment beds** for homeless men and women with HIV/AIDS?
- 2) Are there **sub-populations** within the HIV/AIDS population—the poor and near poor, the mentally ill, substance abusers, former prisoners—who lack access to housing and other services?
- 3) Are there homeless individuals with **other terminal illnesses** who lack access to housing and other services?

The KellidgE Group answered these questions through careful review of information from multiple sources. In some cases, there was no direct information about a given subject, and the "answer" had to be imputed based on an interpretation of available data. For example, in order to capture information on people who are not yet homeless but are clearly at risk, The KellidgE Group used data on the "near poor" or those on Medicaid as a proxy measure.



**Serving Homeless People with HIV/AIDS or Terminal Illnesses:**

**A Needs Assessment for Joseph's House**

**March 31, 2004**

Chapter 2 of the report summarizes information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other sources about who is suffering from HIV/AIDS in the United States, and how the profile of HIV/AIDS clients has changed in recent years. Chapter 3 provides similar information on HIV/AIDS demographics in the District of Columbia—in some cases using local government data that may be less current and less comprehensive.

Chapter 4 provides background information on the relationship between HIV/AIDS and homelessness, and the factors that contribute to homelessness among people with HIV/AIDS. Chapter 5 focuses on the challenges involved in serving sub-groups of the homeless HIV/AIDS population: substance abusers, the mentally ill, and recent parolees.

Chapter 6 describes the current service capacity in the United States, beginning with hospital and nursing home data on admissions, days of care, and cost of treating homeless, poor and near-poor individuals with HIV/AIDS, cancer or other terminal illnesses. Corollary data for the D.C. metropolitan area also are presented.

Chapter 7 is a detailed review of hospitalization data for the groups that would be targeted if Joseph's House expands services and capacity: poor and near-poor individuals with HIV/AIDS or cancer. Chapter 8 provides information on the number of housing and treatment beds for HIV/AIDS clients served by community-based organizations in the District of Columbia.

Chapter 9 contains preliminary unit cost data on Joseph's House services, based on analysis of financial data by The Kellidge Group. Chapter 10 discusses organizations that have successfully modified their programs to serve groups other than terminally ill AIDS patients. Such agencies may serve as models for Joseph's House's transformation. Finally, Chapter 11 offers conclusions about service needs and capacity based on the results of the assessment.

The following attachments also are part of the report:

- ✚ **Attachment A:** Bibliography and Selected Articles;
- ✚ **Attachment B:** Raw Data on HIV/AIDS and Cancer Discharges from the D.C. Hospital Association; and
- ✚ **Attachment C:** Contact Information for Prospective Model Programs.

© March 2004  
The Kellidge Group, Inc.  
All rights reserved.

---

Washington, DC  
1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 1012  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-857-9733 (phone)  
202-857-9799 (fax)

Baltimore, MD  
1612 N. Calvert Street  
Suite 100  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
410-727-3462 (phone)  
410-727-3463 (fax)

Corporate Address  
Washington Square  
Box 65553  
Washington, DC 20035  
1-866-341-3462 (toll-free)