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## HOUSING

Family Enrichment Network's Housing Department is responsible for tackling the escalating housing and homeless crises in Broome County with three specific targeted supports: Housing Connections is designed to provide housing to various homeless demographics; ESG grants are to assist qualified clients with security deposits to prevent homelessness; and lastly, FEN has purchased various properties throughout the triple cities to provide low income affordable housing.

Housing Connections is a subsidized housing program designed to provide supportive care services under the guidelines of the Housing First model. Since the programs opening in the spring of 2021, Housing Connections has provided a home to 32 homeless families. The 19 unit housing complex located at 29 Virgil Street in Binghamton has become a flagship concept in Broome County. Within the housing complex six demographics of high risk homeless populations are housed; these include, OPWDD, domestic abuse, chronically homeless, 18-25, re-entry, and a veteran with a disability.

What makes the Housing Connections program unique from other Housing Care models discussed on a national, state, and local level are the supportive care services each tenant receives once housed. These services include a Life Skills Instructor, providing networking trainings, classes, and other day to day assistance, as well as a Case Manager who facilitates and documents stabilization goals including hood security, health and hygiene, employment, education (vocational training), financial stability (setting up checking/savings accounts, leaning to build credit), and community/family supports. The primary goal of our Housing First Model is to provide safe housing while fostering self-sufficiency through consistency in approach, focused tenant goals, and utilizing a best practices model.

This summer Housing Connections will be offering to our tenants and the community various programs, classes, and activities. Tenants can participate in a community "Spring Clean-up" where we pickup up the streets, help with garden beds, and plant trees; Baby Book Buddies will be here weekly providing necessary instruction and activities for parents and their children; Cornell Cooperative will be hosting a four week cooking class for our tenants and community members focused on quick and nutritious low cost meals to feed families on SNAP; and lastly, an eight week parenting and anger management classes will begin the last week of April and will be hosted in the community room of Housing Connections.

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For more information about Family Enrichment Network Programs, please visit us at [www.familyenrichment.org](http://www.familyenrichment.org) or call (607) 723-8313.

