

HopeSpace Inc Executive Summary: Coordinated Support for Housing Insecurity

HopeSpace was founded to address housing insecurity, a major public health concern affecting millions in the US. Our **mission** is to increase housing stability and raise hope by providing coordinated, holistic supportive services and expanding access to safe, affordable housing, leading to lasting positive outcomes for individuals facing mental or physical health challenges, substance use issues, or financial hardship. We provide the backbone or civic systems infrastructure for a coalition of nonprofit partners to execute on service innovations.

The Crisis and the Overlooked Gap

The affordable housing crisis, driven by shortages, gentrification, and inadequate subsidies, is fueling housing insecurity and costs the US economy \$2 trillion annually. Homelessness reached a record high in 2024, with 771,480 people experiencing it on a single winter night. Housing homeless saves taxpayers money, dropping the annual cost per person from a range of \$35,000–\$96,000 down to \$18,000–\$34,000.

HopeSpace's initial focus is the extended-stay motel population, identified as the most overlooked gap. Extended-stay motels are reluctantly being used as a low-barrier housing solution of last resort for families denied traditional rentals due to low income, prior evictions, criminal history, or inadequate credit. Despite motel flexibility, though, most motel residents remain on the verge of unsheltered homelessness.

Data confirming High Need and Vulnerability

A 2025 quality-of-life survey by HopeSpace revealed that residents of extended-stay motels in Indianapolis are staying long-term, on average 16 months, and one-quarter of them for three years. Nearly all (94%) prefer permanent housing over motels, citing barriers such as lack of income, health issues, criminal records, eviction history, and unaffordability of housing and security deposits. Under financial strain, 91% of respondents are spending 50% to 100% of their monthly income on motels (typical rates were \$70–\$80 nightly and \$275–\$375 weekly) and 40% have no regular income source. Food insecurity was severe; 67% sometimes or always go hungry due to lack of money or transportation for food. Children were living with 27% of adult respondents, a rate similar to homeless households. Health was impaired; residents scored worse than the general US adult population on anxiety, depression, and pain interference. Importantly, most residents are open to help; 79% responded “yes” and 18% said “maybe” they would use social services if available at the motel.

HopeSpace Innovation: Service Coordination at Low-Barrier Motels

HopeSpace will add to the transitional housing toolbox by developing infrastructure to innovatively coordinate support services directly at extended-stay motels. Motels are effective transitional housing venues because they offer the lowest bureaucracy among housing options, avoiding application fees, deposits, or background checks. While motels improve outcomes for persons previously homeless, **transitioning to permanent housing is necessary to further improve well-being**. Support service coordination at hotels has been proven to be effective at *Hotel Louisville*, Kentucky, and *Studios at 2800 Brentwood*, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Implementation and Service Delivery

HopeSpace implements a comprehensive, research-recommended response to housing insecurity. The core of our service model is the **Resource Coordinator (RC)**, who serves as a **hub** connecting clients to community resources. We practice Housing First principles, meaning participation is invited, not required. The RC addresses complex needs, including financial, educational, and employment barriers, coordinating entry into mental health/addiction treatment, helping with paperwork for housing and job applications, and assisting stable housing transitions. HopeSpace prioritizes vulnerable populations, including domestic violence survivors, youth aging out of foster care, and the elderly. Services are coordinated via mobile visits, although motel owners are encouraged to set aside a room for on-site services. We integrate academic missions, including clinical teaching rotations for social workers and research collaborations with *Indiana University School of Medicine's Street Medicine* team. Motel owners are welcoming our service outreach activities because services improve emotional, physical, and financial stability of residents.