



CONTACT US!

631-361-9020
info@optionscl.org



optionscl.org

FOLLOW US!



@Options4CL



OUR LOCATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

25 Howard Place
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
631-361-9020

SATELLITE OFFICES

600 Albany Avenue, Suite 16
Amityville, NY 11701
631-361-9020 Ext. 3151

OPTIONS THRIFT SHOP

392 Hawkins Avenue
Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
631-676-4579

1 Helen Keller Way, Suite 402

Hempstead, NY 11550
516-481-6300



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WELCOME!

Dear Friends,

Human services only works at its finest when the word “human” is the focus. For 43 years, Options for Community Living, Inc. (Options) has done just that. Always motivated by **our mission to “assist all individuals and families in need to develop their fullest potential for independent living,”** our dedicated staff work tirelessly to offer support while allowing those we serve the dignity of achieving that goal independently. And once that goal is achieved, we celebrate with them, counting the achievement, no matter how big or how small, as our own.

Our long-term client, Jim, called me recently, as he does every month, and told me, **“I needed a chance at life, and I wouldn’t be here without Options.”**

Sentiments like this propel us forward to new initiatives that allow us to further serve Long Island.

In 2024, we were honored with several new awards, including funding for an **innovative 30-bed, bi-county program designed to help young adults** ages 18-25 transition from children's programs to independent living. Additionally, we were awarded **six new scattered-site supportive housing beds in Nassau County** and a **50-unit Community Residence/Single Room Occupancy (CR/SRO) Program** that will empower individuals to live independently in their own apartments with dedicated staff support. **With each new award, comes a new opportunity.** The opportunity to house an unhoused family, the opportunity to ensure that individuals living with HIV and AIDS on Long Island are doing just that...living, and the opportunity to ensure that **an individual has the supports needed to maintain their physical and mental health to their optimal level, as we all do.**

I am proud and humbled by the work done at Options each day, and grateful for the opportunity to share our impact with you. On behalf of the **over 2,000 adults and children served each year**, the Board of Directors, our staff, and myself, I thank you for your kindness and support.

As Jim told me, **“I appreciate the amazing feeling of waking up in the morning, and it’s all possible because of Options.”** There are no better words than those.



With gratitude,

Yolanda Robano-Gross, LMSW, MHA
Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Yolanda Robano-Gross, LMSW, MHA
Chief Executive Officer

Karen Schwartz, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Robin Sayles, LMHC
Chief Program Officer

Lauren Cable, MA
Director of Supportive Housing

Barbara Costanzo
Director of Mental Health Residential Services

Allison Covino, MA
Director of Access to Care Programs

Beth Keagins, SHRM-CP
Director of Human Resources

Melissa Pulsinelli
Director of Philanthropy and Development

Andrea Toto, MsEd
Director of Corporate Compliance, Quality Improvement, and Data Management

MANAGEMENT TEAM

ACCESS TO CARE CARE COORDINATION

Nicole Benjamin, LMHC – Program Manager, Suffolk

Erik Rios, MA – Program Manager, Nassau

ACCESS TO CARE HOUSING

Michelle Axinn – Program Manager

ACCESS TO CARE RYAN WHITE

Darlene Claus – Program Manager, Grant Administration

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE

Alexandra Navarro – Accounting Manager

COMPLIANCE, QUALITY & DATA

Celia Acosta-Levine, MA – Manager, Compliance & Quality

Angela Otchere-Riley, MHA – Data Manager

CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT

Andrienne Williams – Culture & Engagement Manager

DEVELOPMENT & PHILANTHROPY

Victoria Perks – Development Manager

MENTAL HEALTH LICENSED PROGRAM

Erin Basham, LMSW – Program Manager, Licensed Professional

Kimberly Hodder, MBA – Senior Program Manager

Vanessa Smith – Program Manager

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Nicole Nelson – Assistant Director

Melissa Amodeo, MsEd – Program Manager

Sabrina Mosquera, LMSW – Program Manager

WHO WE SERVE

Options strives to provide Long Islanders struggling with mental illness, HIV/AIDS, substance use and other chronic health conditions with access to exemplary, culturally sensitive health and wellness services.

46%

Clients from underrepresented ethnic/racial backgrounds

8%

Clients identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community

14%

Program participants are under the age of 30

50%

Clients are women

Support for everyone is at our core



CLIENT EVENTS



Art Social Club

Our Art Social Club brings clients together to express themselves, connect with others, and experience the healing power of creativity. Thanks to community support, this transformative program continues to thrive—offering meaningful experiences that inspire and uplift.



Mets Game Outing

It was a home run of a day at Citi Field with our incredible supportive housing staff and clients! With sunshine, peanuts, and crackerjacks, we enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon cheering on the New York Mets and building community together.

Gone Fishing

Our Mental Health program's annual fishing trip aboard Captain Eddie's boat was a wonderful day filled with fun and fresh air. Residents enjoyed fishing, delicious catered food, and a signature cake.

Client Trip to Broadway

Every year, we eagerly anticipate bringing our supportive housing clients to experience a Broadway show, a deeply cherished tradition that brings immense joy and creates lasting memories. This year we enjoyed seeing Hell's Kitchen.

Client Holiday Party

Our Annual Client Holiday Party at Villa Lombardi's was a joyful celebration filled with great food, music, and dancing. Clients enjoyed a festive evening surrounded by community and cheer. A heartfelt thank you to everyone that helped make this event possible.

THE NUMBERS 2024 Impact Statement

2,000+ Adults and Children Served Annually Through Our Programs.
160+ Residential Homes Across 102 Towns on Long Island.



Care Coordination and Support Services

1098 Adults received Options Medicaid-funded Care Coordination Services.

157 Children received Options Medicaid-funded Care Coordination Services.

130 Adults were assisted through Ryan White-funded programs for those living with HIV/AIDS or at serious risk. Services include case management, insurance enrollment, health education, outreach and engagement.

If it weren't for this organization, I really don't know where I would be in my life. I owe a lifetime of thanks to all the staff for enabling me to live the best life I've ever known.
- Options Client

Housing Stability and Homelessness Prevention

193 Individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS or who had a history of homelessness were housed in Options' ATC Permanent Housing Program.

47 Formerly homeless individuals/families were housed with the assistance of long-term rent subsidies.

21 Adults were provided Financial Assistance to secure housing or prevent eviction.

14 Formerly homeless individuals and families received temporary rent subsidies through the Rapid Rehousing program to secure stable housing.

Residential Services for Adults with Mental Illness

380 Adults resided in our affordable Supportive Housing for adults recovering from mental illness.

155 Adults recovering from serious mental illness were served through Options' NYS Office of Mental Health Licensed Community Residence program.

127 Adults with serious mental illness or substance use disorder received individualized Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and Community Oriented Recovery and Empowerment (CORE) in their home or community empowering them to achieve personal goals.

52 Adults residing in mental health supportive housing in Suffolk County received enhanced services through the Options Mobile Residential Support Team.

“ More people need this kind of help. I see neighbors getting evicted who struggle with thinking and memory. Their quality of life is crumbling. I'm so thankful for my staff at Options and my doctors. - Options Client ”

“ My Case Manager and their team helps me a lot. I feel like I am a person that matters in life—not just a diseased person. They make my life better. - Options Client ”

92%

Tenants in supportive housing retained their housing or were discharged to a situation of equal or greater independence.

99%

Adults receiving Options Ryan White funded services achieved viral suppression. This means the amount of HIV in the blood has been reduced to an incredibly low level.

95%

Children with active enrollment in care coordination at the end of 2024 had visited their doctor at least once within the year.

91%

Program participants would recommend Options to others as a good place to live or receive services.

96%

Program participants believe that staff treat them with respect and kindness.

“ They make sure I have my doctor's appointments set up. They provide me with referrals to other services. Care coordinators follow up with me. I really appreciate the help. - Options Client ”



88 cents of every dollar goes directly to supporting our evidence-based, cost-effective programs.

When you donate to Options, you can be confident your gift is used efficiently to deliver impactful outcomes for the people we serve. **Learn more** about how you can support our mission and explore the services we offer, **scan the QR code or visit: www.optionscl.org/giving**

“ I'm very grateful to have a home at this trying time in my life. I'm not sure I would be here without it. Thank you. - Options Client ”

BOARD PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Thank you for taking the time to review our Annual Report. This past year has been one of growth, impact, and renewed commitment at Options!

We proudly provided housing and supportive services to **over 2,000 individuals and families living with disabilities, mental illness, and chronic health conditions**. Key highlights from the year include:

- The addition of 12 new supportive housing units, expanding access to affordable housing in underserved communities.
- Strengthened partnerships with health and social service agencies, enhancing care coordination and wraparound support.
- Exceeding program outcome goals, reinforcing the success of our integrated care and housing model.
- Securing critical funding, including the CR-SRO Housing Grant, to support new construction of modern, high-quality housing.
- Continued emphasis on staff development, equitable hiring, and culturally responsive services as core organizational values.

Looking ahead, we are focused on:

- **Expanding our Young Adults Program** and behavioral health services, with a focus on trauma-informed care and telehealth.
- Launching a Data Platform to improve client tracking and outcomes.
- **Deepening staff recruitment and retention efforts** through training opportunities, wellness initiatives, and competitive rates and benefits.
- Strengthening community engagement to grow volunteer and donor support.

As an outcome of our strategic planning process, we established two new standing committees:

- **The Partnership Committee**—which will explore collaborations across housing, health, and social services, including potential agency acquisitions that align with our mission.
- **The Advocacy Committee**—focused on advancing affordable housing and mental health policy at the state and local levels.

It is an honor to serve as President of this dedicated Board. I extend my sincere gratitude to Yolanda Robano-Gross and the incredible team she leads. Their commitment and expertise are the driving force behind all that we accomplish.



Sincerely,

John F. DeBaise
Board of Director President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

JOHN F. DEBIASE
DEACON

VICE PRESIDENT

ALAN TILLINGHAST
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CANTATA HEALTH

TREASURER

FRANK TUMBARELLO
MANAGING DIRECTOR
WEBSTER BANK

SECRETARY

LAURA POLLAK
SUPERVISOR NASTECH & DPS
SERVICES, NASSAU BOCES

DIRECTORS

BEVERLY-JANE ANIANO
CRISIS PREVENTION
FACILITATOR, STONY BROOK
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

BALVINDAR S. SAREEN, MD
VP, SR. MEDICAL DIRECTOR
HEALTHCARE PARTNERS

TONY GRAFFEO
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
PENN-PLAX, HAUPPAUGE

TARA N. LABRIOLA
VICE PRESIDENT, RETAIL
BANKING
FOURLEAF FEDERAL CREDIT
UNION

JUDY L. SIMONCIC, ESQ.
PARTNER, FORCHELLI, DEEGAN,
TERRANA, LLP

LOURDES SOTO
RETIRIED DEPUTY CHIEF, NYPD

STEPHEN ZAPPALLA
LICENSED SALESPERSON,
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY ELITE

WHERE WE ARE GOING!

OUR MISSION:

Options for Community Living, Inc. is committed to assisting all individuals and families in need to develop their fullest potential for independent living.

OUR VISION:

An inclusive and sustainable community where access to high-quality healthcare and safe affordable housing is available to all.

STRATEGIC VISION FOR A STRONGER FUTURE:

Options' continued growth and sustainability are anchored in our unwavering commitment to our mission. Our strategic plan serves as a roadmap for advancing that mission—strengthening our programs, empowering our team, and deepening our impact across the communities we serve.

The following priorities were identified to guide our work and ensure long-term success:

- Expand client participation and revenue while maintaining high-quality services
- Increase employee engagement and satisfaction through consistent, transparent communication
- Promote cultural and community best practices to increase engagement
- Strengthen strategic partnerships
- Strengthen engagement with the Board of Directors by fostering meaningful collaboration and shared leadership in advancing our mission
- Formalize a strategy for growth and broaden funding sources

DEVELOPMENT EVENTS



80s Murder Mystery

Guests stepped back into the '80s for our "I Love the 80s to Death" event at Mulcahy's in Wantagh. With over 130 attendees and thrilling entertainment by The Murder Mystery Company, the night raised more than \$56,000.



Kendra Scott

Grateful for our ongoing partnership with Kendra Scott at Roosevelt Field Mall! Our recurring "Shop, Sip, & Snack" events with them have been a fantastic way to support our cause, with 20% of every purchase going directly to our mission.



Gifting

We're deeply grateful to our generous supporter, whose incredible gift has helped us purchase homes and expand our impact in the community. Thank you for turning compassion into action!



Volunteer Project

Our amazing corporate volunteers spend the day giving back, tackling everything from building lovely vegetable and memorial gardens to organizing food drives and executing beautification projects. We love and appreciate such dedicated teamwork!



The Smith

The Smith at Freeport is a supportive housing initiative that's making a real difference for individuals facing mental health and chronic health challenges.



Back to School

Each year we receive backpack donations thanks to our generous donors. Over 100 backpacks are filled with school supplies and given to students in our community. A solid start to the school year!



Radio Bingo™ Spooktacular

Costumes, music, and community spirit lit up our Halloween-themed Radio Bingo™ Spooktacular! Guests enjoyed musical bingo, dancing, and prizes—raising over \$26,000 to support vulnerable Long Islanders through Options.



Adopt-A-Family

Every year during the holiday season, over 100 of our client's families receive holiday gift assistance through our Adopt A Family program thanks to the incredible generosity of our community!

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

44 Years of Empowerment and Impact

Amid the deinstitutionalization movement, individuals with serious mental illness are discharged from state hospitals with few community-based services to support them. In response, Dr. Diana Antos Arens and Diane Mendolia, LCSW, incorporate Options for Community Living to address the urgent need for safe, affordable housing and accessible treatment.

With the HIV/AIDS epidemic affecting Long Island, Options receives its first contract from the NYS Department of Health

AIDS Institute to provide comprehensive case management through the Community Follow-Up Program. That same year, Options opens its first permanent supportive housing site and secures the first of what will become 16 HUD Section 811 grants.

Options completes its first supportive housing development for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Over the next decade and a half, the agency completes numerous similar projects across Nassau and Suffolk Counties with the support of local, state, and federal partners.

After decades of dedicated leadership, Dr. Arens retires. The Board of Directors appoints Yolanda Robano-Gross as the new Chief Executive Officer, ushering in a new era of leadership.

Options is awarded funding for a new OMH initiative: Enhanced Housing for Young Adults with Serious Mental Illness, expanding its services to meet the unique needs of this population.

1982

1986

1994

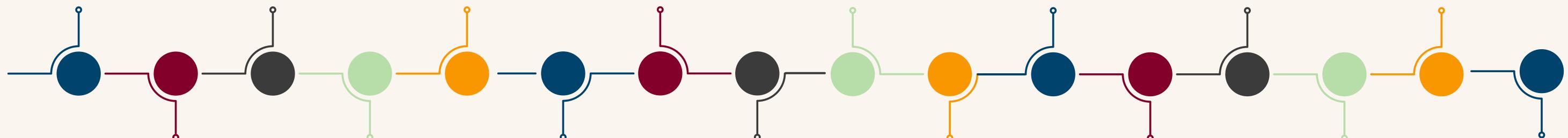
1997

2010

2014

2019

2024



1984

1991

1996

2000

2012

2017

2023

2025

Options opens its first two community residences, certified by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), laying the foundation for its residential mental health programs.

The Options Thrift Shop opens in Lake Ronkonkoma, providing meaningful prevocational opportunities for individuals in residential programs and becoming a valued community fixture.

To better serve its growing client base in Nassau County, Options opens a satellite office in Hempstead.

Options earns accreditation with commendation from CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), a designation it has proudly maintained for over two decades, reflecting its commitment to quality and continuous improvement.

New York State's Medicaid redesign brings about a significant shift: Options' case management services expand to include individuals with serious mental illness, HIV/AIDS, or multiple chronic health conditions. The agency becomes a Health Home care coordination provider in partnership with Northwell Health and Sun River Health.

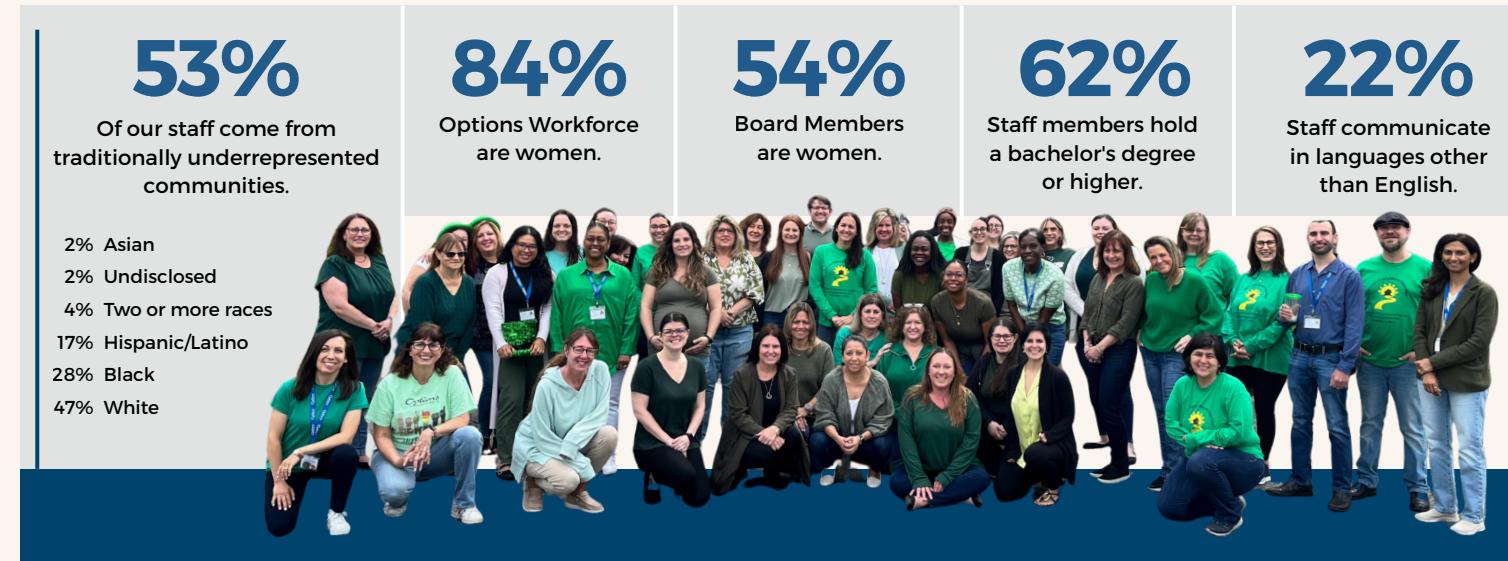
Two new NYS OMH contracts add 85 supportive housing beds and enable program expansion into Nassau County. Options also launches care coordination services for children and opens a new satellite office in Amityville.

Through the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI), Options launches 10 new supportive housing units as part of the Smith Street development in Freeport, continuing its commitment to housing as a foundation for recovery and stability.

Awarded NYS OMH funding to open 15 units of housing in Queens County, marking Options' first expansion beyond Long Island.

OUR AMAZING TEAM

At Options, we value diversity and applaud the contributions of all people. We strive to continue to build an inclusive culture that encourages, supports, and celebrates the diverse voices of our employees, our program participants, and our community.



EVENTS THROUGH THE YEAR



Staff Development Day

"The Power of Winning Together" came to life during our annual Staff Development Day! Team members gained valuable insights from engaging speakers and had fun with Compliance Bingo, CARF Jeopardy, and games at Dave & Buster's. A big thank you to all who made the day a success—here's to continuing our winning streak together!



Community Engagement Walks

Options proudly participated in key community events this year, including the Brodsky 5K AIDS & Cancer Walk, the Marcum (CBIZ) Workplace Challenge, and the Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk.



Employee Picnic

Our Third Annual Employee Picnic brought everyone together for a fun afternoon filled with games, arts and crafts, and plenty of time to relax and connect. Held at the Ronkonkoma Office, the event featured delicious BBQ, great company, and a chance to celebrate and appreciate our dedicated staff.



Health & Wellness Day

Team members gathered in the Ronkonkoma office for Health & Wellness Day, enjoying chair back massages, healthy smoothies, and wellness tips. Staff also connected with vendors to learn more about benefits ahead of open enrollment, and attendees were entered to win MANY raffles. A great day of relaxation, learning, and self-care!



Board Retreat

Options' leadership team and board members gathered for our first annual board retreat to deepen their roles as ambassadors, relationship builders, and fundraisers. Held at The Bristol Assisted Living in East Northport, the retreat focused on board responsibilities and renewing member shared commitment.

CHEERS TO OUR ACHIEVEMENTS!

- ★ Long Island Business News: 2024 Best Places to Work on Long Island
- ★ Power Woman of Long Island Honoree: Yolanda Robano-Gross, LMSW, MHA
- ★ Semi-Finalist Long Island Choice Awards: Best Non-Profit on Long Island
- ★ Semi-Finalist Long Island Imagine Awards: Leadership Excellence



OPTIONS THRIFT SHOP



Serving the Long Island Community since 1991, Options Thrift Shop has served as a valuable hands-on training opportunity for individuals in our Mental Health Residential Programs. Participants gain real-world experience in retail and customer service, working alongside an Options staff member, and community volunteers, who provides ongoing support and guidance. We're deeply grateful for the generous donations we receive and for the incredible volunteers who contribute their time and energy to the shop's success.

In 2024:

- 1,664 resident volunteer hours
- 2,095 community volunteer hours
- \$3,469 average monthly sales

Each hour, item, and dollar helps empower lives and strengthen community connections!

VISIT US!

392 Hawkins Avenue
Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
(631) 676-4579

Open Tuesday- Saturday
10am-4pm

CHECK OUT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA!



@OCLThriftShop



@OCLThriftShop

OUR SPONSORS

Funders

Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS
EverBank
FourLeaf Federal Credit Union
Frank Antun Foundation
Island Outreach Foundation
Knapp-Swezey Foundation Inc.

The New York Community Trust (Long Island)
Marilyn Lichtman Foundation
New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute
New York State Office of Mental Health
TD Charitable Foundation
United Way of Long Island

Corporate Sponsors

Ansen Home Improvement Services
Apricot Solar
Atlantic IT, Tomorrow's Office
Baker Tilly
BOCA Pharmacy
Bright Side Restoration
Christmas Magic
Corporate Synergies
Emerson Amusements
FourLeaf Federal Credit Union
Flooring and Carpet Warehouse
Frank Brother
Imperial Cleaning
Indra Public Relations
Island Federal Credit Union
Jake's 50 Casino and Hotel
Lamb Insurance Services
Liardi Landscaping
Lux Development Corp.
Mangan Electric
Medford Chemists
Mutual of America Financial Group
R. Lenny Plumbing and Heating
Smithtown Toyota
Suffolk County Cleaning
Webster Bank



OPTIONS PROGRAM AND SERVICES

HOUSING & RELATED SERVICES

For Adults Recovering from Mental Illness

- Supportive Housing
- Apartment Treatment Residences
- Community Residences
- Enhanced housing for Young Adults (ages 18 – 25)
- Mobile Residential Support Team (MRST)

For Individuals with a chronic disability or those Living with HIV/AIDS

- Homeless Housing Assistance Programs
- Permanent Supportive Housing - Broad Spectrum Disabilities
- Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) - permanent housing
- Rapid Rehousing Program – for individuals who are chronically unhoused
- Health Home MRT Rent Subsidy program
- AIDS Institute MRT Rent Subsidy program

HEALTH, WELLNESS & RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES

- Health Home Care Coordination - Adults and Children
- Supportive Services for People Living with HIV/AIDS – Ryan White Grants - case management, health education, and financial assistance services

OPTIONS THRIFT SHOP

- The Options Thrift Shop has been delivering affordable, gently used clothing and household items to the Long Island Community since 1991. The Thrift Shop allows Options clients to partner with community volunteers to develop pre-vocational skills such as communication, customer service, sales, problem solving, adaptability, and organization. These skills are transferrable to positions into the community which allow our clients to achieve their maximum level of independence.

GIVING



SCAN THE QR CODE TO BRING YOU TO OUR GIVING PAGE

- Give via Credit or Debit Card
- Give by Mail
- Give through Venmo
- Give Stock
- Give through Donor Advised Funds
- Give through your employer's matching gift campaign
- Donate your vehicle - Miles ahead network
- New York State Employees Federated Appeal (NYSEFA)
- Sponsor a fundraising event to support our programs

PLANNED GIVING: CREATE A LASTING IMPACT

Support a brighter future for the individuals and families served by Options for Community Living, Inc. Through Planned Giving, you can make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and adults in need –now and for generations to come.

There are many ways to give: from charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts to gifts of real estate or retirement funds. We also offer naming opportunities to honor your legacy.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN MAKE A LASTING IMPACT, CONTACT
MELISSA PULSINELLI AT MPULSINELLI@OPTIONSCL.ORG OR (631) 361-9020 EXT. 1119



OUR FINANCIALS

OPTIONS FOR COMMUNITY LIVING, INC. AND AFFILIATES

For the year ended December 31, 2024

Sources of Operating Revenue

Medicaid/Managed Care	\$10,080,891
U.S. HUD	\$3,613,649
Other Federal	\$630,352
State/Local Contracts	\$9,317,574
Client Fees	\$4,190,958
Other	\$1,454,748
Total Operating Revenue	\$29,288,172

Program Expenses

Mental Health Residential Services	\$14,866,686
ATC - Care Coordination	\$3,551,138
ATC - Residential Services	\$2,993,794
HUD Section 811 Housing	\$1,806,655
Main Stream Rent Vouchers	\$1,478,113
Other Programs	\$40,612
Total Program Expenses	\$24,736,998

(Excluding Depreciation)

Supporting Services

Management & General Services	\$3,323,556
Total Expenses	\$ 28,060,554
Total Net Assets	\$ 40,228,170

This report is derived from the Options for Community Living, Inc. Consolidated Audited Financial Statement for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, as audited by Baker Tilly US LLP.

“ Everything is going really well. Thank you for everything you do! - Options Client ”



In 2025, Options Mental Health Supportive Housing, Case Management, and Care Coordination Programs were accredited for a three-year period by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, CARF International.

CARF accreditation signals a commitment to continuous quality improvement, focusing on the satisfaction of persons served. This is Options ninth consecutive three-year accreditation.



HOW TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION

When you donate to Options, you can be sure that your gift supports efficient and effective programming, producing impactful outcomes for persons served.

88 cents out of every dollar spent goes directly to supporting our evidence-based, cost-effective programs. According to Charity Navigator, you can give with confidence.

Your donation helps us provide help and hope to Long Island's most vulnerable adults, children, and families.

To donate, visit www.optionscl.org/giving

Platinum Transparency 2025

Candid.