

TASC's Supportive Release Center (SRC) helps men who are leaving the Cook County Jail who don't have an immediate place to go, and who have substance use disorders, mental health conditions, and/or physical health disorders.

Located just east of the Cook County Jail, the SRC offers a brief overnight stay and linkage to community-based services. Connections to needed services are vital for individuals to become stabilized in the community, improve their health, and lessen their likelihood of returning to jail.

The program was launched in 2017 as a collaboration among TASC (which owns and operates the SRC), the Cook County Sheriff's Office, Heartland Alliance Health (HAH), and the University of Chicago Health Lab. The Health Lab is conducting a formal evaluation of the initiative, which will help lay the groundwork for expansion and replication of the SRC.

The SRC has served nearly 1,000 men since opening in the summer of 2017 (through January 2019).

Investors in Innovation: SRC Funders

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
- Capital Group
- The Chicago Community Trust
- The Crown Family
- Laura and John Arnold Foundation
- Margot & Thomas Pritzker Family Foundation
- Michael Reese Health Trust
- Reynolds Family Foundation
- Robert R. McCormick Foundation
- The Siragusa Family Foundation
- University of Chicago Urban Labs
- VNA Foundation

Plus several anonymous and individual donors

Foundation and corporate support has been vital to the success of the SRC. We seek additional partners to help sustain, expand, and replicate the SRC, and improve outcomes for people leaving jail in Cook County and beyond.

For more information, please contact the office of TASC President Pam Rodriguez at 312-573-8238.



The Wall Street Journal August 19-20, 2017, weekend edition featured a story on the new Supportive Release Center.



The Supportive Release Center creates a comfortable atmosphere where clients can safely rest and receive light food, clothing, and access to showers and laundry facilities as they work with care coordinators to plan for services or next steps.

Why the SRC? A Caring Solution at a Critical Time

SRC clients are in urgent need of treatment, healthcare, and supportive services:

- 84.6% reported that they have mental health, substance use, or co-occurring conditions
- 50% reported an urgent need for healthcare in the immediate future
- 78% expressed a desire for a place to stay upon discharge from jail

Without access to care, hospitalizations and costs soar, and people struggle to build stability in the community and stay out of jail. The SRC helps break this cycle.

Offering a “soft landing” for voluntary participants, the program offers:

- Transportation by TASC from the jail to the nearby SRC
- A brief overnight stay, where participants receive light food, clothing, and access to showers
- Assistance from on-site TASC care coordinators in accessing healthcare services, health insurance, identification, and other supports such as housing, food, job training, and legal aid resources
- Continuity of existing prescribed medications and other treatment
- Attention to basic survival and safety needs
- Engagement in pro-social activities, such as work and positive peer support

Alongside TASC’s program administration and care coordination services, HAH provides intensive case management for individuals who require longer-term support, such as housing or treatment for serious mental illness.

TASC, Inc. (*Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities*) is a nonprofit organization in its fifth decade of promoting health and justice. We help to increase health, reduce recidivism, and support recovery by providing case management, outpatient substance use disorder treatment, and other direct services across Illinois, as well as consulting and training nationally and internationally.



TASC Supportive Release Center staff (pictured above) conduct needs assessments and facilitate linkage to services in the community for participants recently released from Cook County Jail.

Helping People Reclaim Their Lives

Since opening the SRC, TASC has received many phone calls from clients and family members expressing their thanks.

One such call came from a former SRC client who had experienced a death in the family. In the past, he said, he certainly would have relapsed into drug use. But because of the SRC, he knew he could get through this difficult time without using drugs. The SRC had connected him to drug treatment, where he was able to begin rebuilding his well-being and stability.

Although he had experienced a deep personal loss, he now had the support and treatment he needed to manage his grief in a healthy way and maintain his recovery.

The SRC is located at 2755 S. Rockwell Ave. in Chicago.

For further information, please contact:

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