



Mental health
advocacy, education
and support.

Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facilities

A **SMHRF** (Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility), previously known as **IMD** (Institute for Mental Disease), is a freestanding residential treatment facility – similar to a nursing home – for individuals living with mental illness. Facilities provide long-term mental health care including individual therapy, group therapy, skills-building, and medication management under 24-hour supervision to build skills for independent living.

Eligibility: Eligible residents must be diagnosed with serious mental illness. Most facilities require an individual to have Social Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI – often referred to as “disability benefits”) and Medicaid coverage. Some facilities permit some flexibility if applications are pending.

For entry into a SMHRF, the facility must review the individual’s full medical record and a Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) must be administered. The PAS is conducted by a third party and ensures the individual is appropriate for placement in the SMHRF. The PAS screening is usually administered in the hospital but can be arranged in the community.

Resources for current SMHRF Residents:

The Illinois Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Ombudsmen are available in every region of the state to advocate for the rights of residents in all long-term care settings (nursing homes, intermediate care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, SMHRFs, etc). Ombudsmen offer education and information to residents, their family and friends, facility staff, and the community at large. Ombudsmen also provide mediation and assistance in resolving disputes, monitor conditions, and accept and investigate complaints.

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The Williams Moving On Project

Moving into a SMHRF/IMD does not have to be permanent. Because individuals living with disabilities have the right to receive services in the least restrictive environment, a 2010 consent decree with the state of Illinois ensures that all SMHRF residents with serious mental illness can be assessed for transition to a community-based setting. The Williams Moving On Project at NAMI Chicago offers outreach to SMHRF/IMD residents across the state of Illinois to explain their rights to such an assessment and the services available within the community. To learn more about such services, view our factsheet; A Guide to Community-Based Treatment & Recovery Supports.

Questions about the Moving On Project?

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