

Madison Center receives grant to build 15 new apartments

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SOUTH BEND – Madison Center sees more patients each year.

And the more folks it works with to achieve mental health, the greater the need for transitional housing.

Enter HUD.

On Thursday, Madison Center received about \$1.4 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Jack Roberts, chief executive at Madison Center, received word from U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola this week of the grant, plus another \$220,000 for rental subsidies.

Construction will begin next summer on 15 apartments in a building, located at 801 Riverside Court, South Bend, adjacent to group home Metcalfe House. The two-story building should be completed by late next year and ready for occupancy soon thereafter, Roberts said.

Madison Center, a not-for-profit provider of mental health services in northern Indiana, today provides housing for upwards of 500 adults who reside in supervised group homes as well as apartment complexes and other rental locations in the community. Patients continue to be monitored by a Madison case worker while they live in semi-independent apartments.

Preliminary plans indicate the new building will comprise about 12,000 square feet on two floors. It will be one of the smaller apartment complexes owned by Madison Center. Some of its other buildings in the community offer as many as 28 or 32 units, Roberts said.

Patients are required to pay rent, dependent on the income they earn, and rental subsidies help make up the rest, Roberts said.

Madison Center used its last HUD grant of \$500,000 to construct the Turnock Street group home in the Northeast Neighborhood in South Bend.

"So many patients need this kind of facility" to advance the recovery process as they move out into the community, ride the bus, work a part-time job, and live by themselves "with a little sustaining help," Roberts said. "Every apartment complex, group home and housing resource we have is occupied. There's always a waiting list."