

What is Fountain House United?

Fountain House United (FHU) is a national network of clubhouses dedicated to strengthening the clubhouse community and advancing supports that promote the recovery and thriving of people with serious mental illnesses (SMI). We achieve this through technical assistance, research, innovation, and advocacy.

FHU connects individual clubhouses into a cohesive entity that:

- Gathers and shares data to demonstrate the model's impact.
- Raises awareness about clubhouse best practices.
- Advocates for local, state, and federal policy changes that improve access to clubhouses.
- Tests innovations that broaden our reach and impact.
- Supports FHU partner efforts to apply for funding that can be difficult to obtain alone.

Together, we are creating the community, innovations, and conditions necessary to ensure that people living with mental illness can recover through our evidence-based holistic model of psychosocial rehabilitation.

Some of Our Early Successes

Started as a pilot program in 2021, FHU has rapidly grown its membership base and achieved encouraging early success, such as:

- **Fundraising:** In 2023, FHU partners leveraged their network affiliation to raise more than **\$1.3 Million in grants**. These grants supported various initiatives in the individual clubhouses, including expanding their diversity, equity, and inclusion work, creating housing, conducting research, and increasing access to employment opportunities.
- **Policy:** All FHU partners actively participated in national campaigns to increase access to care and eliminate stigma for people with SMI. Efforts include the [Healing Minds and Powering Communities Campaign](#) and the [Care Responders Campaign \(CRC\)](#) which advocates for public health alternatives to law enforcement responses to people in mental health crises. Through CRC, FHU has earned multiple policy wins. For example, Fresh Start Clubhouse, alongside the [country's largest Clubhouse coalition](#), advocated toward the passage of a [State Senate Bill](#) requiring the Dept. of Health & Human Services to create and administer a community-based mobile crisis response grant program.

FHU partners worked with congressional officials to draft [federal appropriations language](#) that, if passed, will increase funding for psychosocial rehabilitation services, including clubhouses.

- **Advocacy:** The majority of FHU actively engage in local and state policy advocacy to strengthen clubhouses. For example, the Academy at Glengary led the Florida Clubhouse Coalition in advocating for increased supported employment funding, resulting in **\$1.8 million in recurring supported employment services** for 14 existing Florida Clubhouses and **\$500,000 towards new clubhouse development**.
- **Data:** To enhance our data capture processes, we have invested over **\$100,000 in updates, upgrades, and maintenance** across our network. Additionally, we have consulted with content management system providers to ensure consistent data fields across various platforms. These initiatives establish us as a proactive entity, identifying and utilizing the most relevant metrics for our community.
- **Innovation and Best Practices:** FHU partners are featured as examples in publications that describe best practices in the clubhouse field to a wider audience.

Benefits of Partnership

1. Help Create Data for Research to Support Clubhouse Growth: Through the FHU Data Sharing Network, partners collect and pool data on outcomes in housing, education, employment, wellness, and more. The network will share and store data according to agreed-upon privacy guidelines, with all partners maintaining ownership over their original data entry. Together, we will use this information to demonstrate clubhouses' positive impact on their members' lives to the clubhouse community, mental health field leadership, elected officials, and more.

2. Advocacy and Awareness Raising: FHU partners collaborate to push for national, local, and state policy reforms that improve outcomes for people living with SMI and strengthen clubhouses. We work together on initiatives that raise awareness about clubhouses and best practices, such as participating in [national campaigns](#) or providing training for clubhouses.

3. Learn from One Another: Staff and members from FHU clubhouses share insights on the strategies they use to manage high-quality clubhouses. They also work together to pilot and test clubhouse innovations. Examples of learning opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Participating in round-table discussions with other FHU clubhouses on topics such as staff retention, member engagement, and culture building.
- Taking part in a one-week intensive Network Partner Exchange to visit and learn from one of the FHU partners.
- Benefiting from annual program assessments to identify key strengths, areas of growth, and areas of need.
- Attending training and workshops on topics such as fundraising, staff development, and policy and advocacy.
- Sharing clubhouse operations resources (e.g., job descriptions, strategic planning templates, business planning models).

PARTNERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Attend monthly Fountain House United meetings.
2. Raise awareness of Fountain House United within the clubhouse community and among other partners.
3. Participate in the Fountain House United Data Sharing Network.
4. Contribute to the development and execution of initiatives that raise awareness about clubhouses and advocate for positive policy and practice reforms in line with Fountain House United's mission.

FOUNTAIN HOUSE UNITED IS...

7 organizations strong, with 11 clubhouses across 7 states:

- **Academy at Glengary** in Bradenton and Sarasota, Florida
- **Community 43** in Phoenix, Arizona
- **Fountain House** in Bronx and Manhattan, New York
- **Fresh Start Clubhouse** in Ypsilanti, Michigan
- **HERO House NW** in Bellevue, Everett, and Seattle, Washington
- **Magnolia Clubhouse** in Cleveland, Ohio
- **Mental Health Connections** in Concord, California