

Good Evening, Sen. Osten, Rep. Walker and members of the appropriation committee. My name is Vicki Green and I'm a person in recovery since 2014.

I was in despair and facing homelessness as I was hospitalized at Yale, and introduced to the New Reach Integrated Care Program at the city of New Haven in December 2017.

After being released from the hospital, I went back to continue my education at Gateways DARC program. Ms Colleen Keyes, from the Integrated Care Program in collaboration with Martha's Place was able to help me receive housing at the local shelter. I was connected to Martha's Place, which is a women's shelter in New Haven and continued my recovery by attending my outpatient program at St. Raphael's as well.

Within 3 months I had secured an apartment and I didn't stop there. I continued working faithfully with Colleen Keyes and Yesenia Lebron and was connected with Rita at CCAR, where I am now training to be a Recovery Coach. Colleen and Yesenia and was connected to CCAR where she is now training to become a phone recovery specialist as she will apply for a scholarship to become a Recovery Coach. She said she wants to give back to the women so hopefully she can teach them from the hurt and pain she endured through Domestic Violence, raising her children and fighting her Mental Health Disorder as well as her Substance Use Disorder. She speaks highly of the work ICP has done but we are constantly reminding her that she did the legwork.

CCAR has given me the opportunity to expand my horizon with being able to support my recovery in many ways. I have begun to advocate for myself and others and become a role model in the eyes of my family and children. A stepping stone in my recovery.