Assembling Permanent Housing Resources

Housing is the foundation from which people and families can live healthy, stable lives. Sustainable, stable housing for families involved in multiple systems of care requires communities to identify long-term, non-time limited subsidies and supports.

This resource provides solutions to step three of our Child Welfare and Supportive Housing Roadmap: Assembling Permanent Housing Resources.

Strategies for Funding Housing Subsidies
• A foundation partner can take the lead and bring government partners to the table to collaborate and private dollars can sometimes spur public investment.
• Pay for Success strategies can help creating funding for housing subsidies, but are more likely to get off the ground when there is a public partner lead.
• Child welfare agencies can invest in supportive housing by funding existing contracted providers who already provide care coordination. The housing component can be learned or subcontracted out. Some communities have had success paying for subsidies through their housing authority using state funding to reduce foster care boarding homes. The investment resulted in savings in foster care residential costs that can be reallocated and reinvested in supportive housing.
• Start small by agreeing to serve a small number of families. Share success stories and cost savings to help bring program to scale.

Building Support for Case Manager Collaboration
• Housing and child welfare case managers working in tandem to support families results in better outcomes because each has a different perspective, skills and tools.
• Case managers on both sides must buy-in to the vision of what it means to work together. Changes and new processes, coupled with overburdened case loads can lead to resistance. All must understand that tensions may exist, but healthy tension can ultimately benefit the families.

Reference Documents

CSH Resources
• CSH One Roof Family Supportive Housing Initiative
• 8 Steps Roadmap to Supportive Housing & Child Welfare Partnerships
• CSH Family Resources
• Ensuring Family Voice While Navigating Multiple Systems: The Family Team Meeting Strategy in Supportive Housing
• Welcome Home: Design and Practice Guidance for Supportive Housing for Families with Children
• Interagency Collaboration: Moving the Needle on Supportive Housing & Child Welfare
• A Practice Framework for Delivering Services to Families in Supportive Housing

Additional Resources
• USICH Case Studies Demonstrating the Effectiveness of Supportive Housing for Families in the Child Welfare System

For more info, contact us!  www.csh.org  |  www.1rooffamilies.org  |  1roof@csh.org

This document is a product of CSH’s Solutions for Vulnerable Families Learning Community and contains strategies that were shared by Learning Community members including, child welfare professionals, housing specialists, supportive housing providers and clinicians.