



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant Helps Children & Families Find Stability in Safe, Permanent Homes

August 10, Princeton, NJ . The [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) (RWJF) has awarded a \$375,000 grant to [CSH](#) to expand its work helping families involved in the child welfare system get safe, affordable housing with customized case management services so that children can live together with their parents or guardians in stable, permanent homes.

CSH and RWJF are partners in a national demonstration with the federal government and other foundations exploring whether [supportive housing](#) can prevent children from being placed in foster care when family homelessness and other problems trigger child welfare engagement. The RWJF grant continues promising work under the demonstration and allows CSH to provide training and support to 12 additional counties in California participating in a new state-funded [Bringing Families Home+](#) initiative that will use supportive housing as a platform to prevent foster care placement and increase family reunification.

“Children removed from their families are at risk for a range of poor outcomes,” said Deborah De Santis, CEO and President of CSH. “However, many of these families have hidden strengths and just need to be supported. With the new RWJF grant, we are helping communities establish [Keeping Families Together](#) Supportive Housing so that families can build better futures for their children.”

With funding from RWJF, CSH piloted Keeping Families Together from 2007 to 2010, providing permanent supportive housing for 29 families who had been homeless for at least a year, and had at least one case of child abuse or neglect open with child welfare.

Results of the [evaluation](#) were highly promising and showed the potential to use supportive housing as a platform for helping families achieve housing stability while resolving their child welfare cases and keeping children safe.

The success of Keeping Families Together led to the federal government, through the [Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth & Families](#), to partner with CSH, [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#), [Casey Family Programs](#) and the [Edna McConnell Clark Foundation](#) in launching the national demonstration known as the [Partnerships to Demonstrate the Effectiveness of Supportive Housing for Families in the Child Welfare System](#). The demonstration has provided five-year, \$5 million grants to five sites across the country:

- Housing, Empowerment, Achievement, Recovery, and Triumph Alliance for Sustainable Families (HEART)- Broward County, Florida
- Partners United for Supportive Housing in Cedar Rapids (PUSH-CR)- Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Intensive Supportive Housing for Families (ISHF)- Connecticut
- Memphis Strong Families Initiative (MSFI)- Memphis, Tennessee
- Families Moving Forward (FMF)- San Francisco, California

Each site offers supportive housing with the aims of reducing child welfare involvement and improving child well-being through housing stability, family stability, and improved parenting. Nearly 400 families are enrolled in the demonstration, which is exploring outcomes related to housing stability and homelessness, child welfare involvement, and child well-being.

Building on early positive results and the interest of child welfare agencies, we hope to spread this new approach to helping families to as many more communities across the country,+said De Santis. This award from the RWJF will help us achieve that goal.+

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ABOUT CSH

CSH has been the national champion for supportive housing for over 25 years, promoting this person-centered model as a solution that improves the lives of the most vulnerable individuals and families, maximizes public resources and builds healthy communities. CSH leads the [One Roof](#) initiative elevating the needs of families at the intersection of child welfare involvement and homelessness and manages the [Child Welfare and Supportive Housing Resource Center](#), which offers expertise and technical support to communities pursuing Keeping Families Together Supportive Housing and those participating directly in Partnerships to Demonstrate the Effectiveness of Supportive Housing for Families in the Child Welfare System. For more information, visit www.csh.org.

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