



Dream Catcher Homes

Dream Catcher Homes (DCH) provides 20 units of permanent supportive housing for families.

Owner:

White Earth Band of Ojibwe

Tenant Profile:

Single head-of-household families who are currently homeless, residing in shelters, facing eviction, leaving institutional settings, living in substandard housing without running water or electricity, or living doubled or tripled up.

Service Approach:

DCH's services address tenants' barriers and create a support system around the families to prevent homelessness from happening again in culturally sensitive and appropriate environment for families who are experiencing homelessness.

Key Features and Innovations

- The motto of Dream Catcher Homes is "No child should be without a home."
- The White Earth Band of Ojibwe is the first Indian Nation in the United States to offer a supportive housing project on a reservation, Dream Catcher Homes (DCH). The unique quality of these townhomes is the supportive services offered to the residents and the community service building located on the property.
- The Dream Catcher Homes Program helps individuals with counseling, case management services, advocacy, support services and follow-up services. This program also works with Tribal government and local government agencies and programs to help promote service delivery that meets the needs of families.

Financing Information

Capital Financing Sources

White Earth Reservation Tribal Council	\$230,000
Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program	\$170,000
Greater Minnesota Housing Fund	\$440,000
Minnesota Housing Long-term Homelessness Initiative Fund	\$1,014,264
Private Equity (Syndicator: Enterprise Community Investment)	\$3,208,464
General Partner Equity	\$400,000
Total	\$5,462,728

Operating Financing Sources

Tenant Rents	\$55,188 per year
Minnesota Housing Operating Subsidy	\$20,000 per year
Service Programs Rental Payment	\$3,600 per year
Operating Reserve	\$18,500 per year
Total	\$97,288 per year

Services Financing Sources

HUD Rural Housing Assistance and Stabilization Program	\$12,900 per year
Minnesota Department of Human Services	\$140,967 per year
HUD Supportive Housing Program	\$17,503 per year
Minnesota Child Welfare Targeted Case Management Services	\$33,137 per year
Total	\$214,507 per year

About White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

The White Earth Reservation Tribal Council (WERTC) is a federally recognized tribal government organized under Section 16 of the Wheeler-Howard Act of June 18, 1934 (the Indian Reorganization Act), as amended and pursuant to the revised constitution and by-laws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

The WERTC has been providing its members with a variety of health and human services. Often these services are a combination of those traditionally offered at County agencies and those typically provided by non-profit agencies. In 1996, the White Earth Health and Human Service Division was split into two different divisions: the White Earth Health Division and the White Earth Human Service Division. Both Divisions continue to grow and add new programs and departments to meet the needs of the people on White Earth, and the combined efforts of these Divisions strive to bring needed services to the White Earth people most in need.

The Native American population of the White Earth Reservation is affected by significantly high numbers of people living in poverty. The White Earth Reservation ranks among the highest in Minnesota for homeless persons, victims of crime, and unemployed workers. Mahnomen County - which resides completely within the White Earth Reservation - is among the highest ranked counties in Minnesota for: children placed in out-of-home care, school drop-out rates, people receiving public assistance, chemically dependent persons, and households affected by poverty. The White Earth Human Services Division estimates that 10 percent of the population of White Earth Reservation is experiencing long-term homelessness and an additional 28 percent is living in condemned housing or doubled-up, tripled-up, or quadrupled-up in housing. The majority of the tenants of Dream Catcher Homes have experienced episodic homelessness, with histories of failed housing.

CSH and White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

In 2002, CSH Minnesota Program began working with White Earth Reservation Tribal Council and the White Earth Human Services Division to develop the project concept and provide opportunities for tribal staff to learn about supportive housing development and the delivery of services in supportive housing. CSH and White Earth Reservation are currently examining locations and partners to develop supportive housing off-reservation for tribal members.

CSH's Technical Assistance

CSH staff assisted with the creation of the development team that turned the vision into a supportive housing resource for the White Earth Reservation. CSH provided predevelopment funding, technical assistance, trainings, and assistance with securing equity. CSH also served as an advocate for this project by working with non-native funders to better understand the needs of the people of the White Earth Reservation, and the solution to address those needs.

About CSH

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) is a national non-profit organization and Community Development Financial Institution that helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. Founded in 1991, CSH advances its mission by providing advocacy, expertise, leadership, and financial resources to make it easier to create and operate supportive housing. CSH seeks to help create an expanded supply of supportive housing for people, including single adults, families with children, and young adults, who have extremely low-incomes, who have disabling conditions, and/or face other significant challenges that place them at on-going risk of homelessness. For information regarding CSH's current office locations, please see www.csh.org/contactus.



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