



\$825,000 Investment from Houston Endowment Bolsters Work to End Homelessness

HOUSTON, TX, November 7, 2016 –

Committed to building on the impressive strides Houston is making to end chronic, youth and family homelessness, the Houston Endowment has awarded \$825,000 to CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing) to leverage local efforts to ensure Houston's most vulnerable residents can quickly access affordable units and the services that will help keep them housed and healthy.

"Houston Endowment is a proud partner of The Way Home, an initiative to end homeless in the greater Houston area," said Ann Stern, President, Houston Endowment. "CSH has been absolutely crucial to advancing the goals of this initiative and we are excited to support their great work."

The Houston Endowment grant is earmarked to assist CSH as it works with the City of Houston, The Way Home, the Coalition for the Homeless, and other stakeholders to implement fully a seamless homeless response system that ensures individuals and families in need of stable, affordable housing and supports connect with the right services to address their needs efficiently and effectively. Houston has been lauded nationally for its dramatic reduction in homelessness over the past 5 years, centering the local response on housing the most vulnerable people as quickly as possible.

"Our CSH team in Houston is based here and very involved with City leaders and local providers, sharing our expertise to complement the work on the ground that's producing such meaningful results," said Kelly Opot, Associate Director, CSH. "The generosity of the Houston Endowment will go a long way toward providing technical assistance to providers creating supportive housing, which is affordable housing with services, as well as expanding our efforts to build partnerships between housing providers and other important agencies such as those focused on healthcare, criminal justice and child welfare."

In addition to bolstering the homeless response infrastructure and processes, the Houston Endowment investment will help provide valuable expertise to developers requesting and structuring financing to create affordable housing. CSH will also work with the Coalition for the Homeless to create a certification process for service

and supportive housing providers to ensure the highest quality of housing and services for residents.

“Every homeless situation needs to be evaluated for the best response and solution, but it is important that the people on our streets who need quality supportive housing get it and so we need to create more units,” said Opot. “And it’s just as critical that once they are part of supportive housing, the network of professionals around them help the individual or family move forward to a better life that significantly reduces their chances of entering homelessness again.”

Opot said Houston is on the right track and has a lot to be proud of when it comes to results.

“The federal government has declared Houston a city that has effectively ended homelessness among veterans and we are on track to end chronic homelessness in 2017,” she said. “We began our work here determined to see the creation of a total of 2500 units of supportive housing and have about 250 more to go in order to meet the remaining needs. The Houston Endowment grant will get us that much closer.”

ABOUT THE HOUSTON ENDOWMENT

Houston Endowment—a philanthropic foundation established by Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones in 1937—improves life for the people of greater Houston through its grants to nonprofit organizations and educational institutions. The foundation donates approximately \$75 million each year to organizations that support and promote arts and culture, education, the environment, health and human services. Houston Endowment advances equity of opportunity for the people of greater Houston and enhances the vibrancy of our city. Visit us at houstonendowment.org

ABOUT CSH

CSH has been the leader in supportive housing for 25 years, demonstrating its potential to improve the lives of very vulnerable individuals and families. A nonprofit Community Development Financial Institute, CSH has earned a reputation as a highly effective, financially stable organization, with strong partnerships across government, community organizations, foundations, and financial institutions. A nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), CSH is advancing innovative solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve lives, maximize public resources, and build healthy communities. We are working to assure that housing solutions are accessible to more people in more places. Visit us at csh.org