



## Meadows Foundation Awards CSH \$150,000 to Strengthen Housing-Healthcare Connections in Texas

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**DALLAS TX** - The Meadows Foundation, which assists people and institutions in Texas by improving the quality and circumstances of life, has awarded \$150,000 to CSH to support communities across the state in efforts to stabilize vulnerable individuals through access to permanent, supportive housing and connections to primary, preventive and behavioral health services. The grant also will be leveraged by CSH to increase access to Medicaid as a sustainable funding stream for the primary and behavioral health services necessary for many supportive housing residents to move forward with their lives.

“Supportive housing is gaining traction in Texas, especially as a way to effectively address the dilemma of how to help vulnerable people who are frequent users of public systems and services such as healthcare,” said Kelly Sowards Opot, CSH Acting Associate Director, Texas Program. “We are focused on working with local communities on groundbreaking projects that maximize housing-healthcare integration by providing enhanced services for supportive housing residents, not only to improve their care but also as a cost-saving strategy for those on Medicaid.”

According to Opot, CSH plans to work with selected communities, housing and healthcare providers throughout Texas to expand partnerships committed to creating stability and better access to healthcare for vulnerable individuals, including those experiencing homelessness.

As part of its deliverables under the grant, CSH will:

- Work in several communities - Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi - to design collaborative models in which Medicaid-funded care management services are paired with federal/local housing resources

- Deliver training in Fort Worth, Austin and Houston on developing local capabilities to access Medicaid funding to pay for services provided when housing and healthcare are integrated.
- Assist in planning new supportive housing opportunities for frequent users of high-cost services in Ft. Worth (Tarrant County) and to identify services that can comprehensively meet the needs of vulnerable populations
- Offer training and technical assistance to stakeholders in the Dallas area, including members of the public, private, housing and healthcare sectors to support systemic change opportunities in the community.

“The confidence displayed by The Meadows Foundation is a testament to the fine work being done in Texas by our very committed staff there and many local communities and organizations,” said Katrina Van Valkenburgh, CSH Managing Director, Central Region. “We are grateful for the recognition and are certain we can continue to build partnerships in Texas that will improve the quality of housing and healthcare while efficiently lowering Medicaid costs for the formerly homeless who are residents of supportive housing.”

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