



For Immediate Release  
CSH  
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### **CSH RESOURCES HELP HOMELESS PEOPLE IN GEORGIA, FLORIDA AND NORTH CAROLINA**

CSH, a national nonprofit committed to solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve the lives of vulnerable people, has tapped Regina Cannon as its Senior Program Manager working in the States of Georgia, Florida and North Carolina, and the rest of the Southeastern United States.

CSH is partnering with local communities in these states to foster the development of supportive housing, a proven affordable housing model that reduces longer-term, recurring (chronic) homelessness. Supportive housing links affordable housing access to sustained services that address the complex needs of individuals and families in crisis.

Cannon, who knows the region and recently served in the Office of the Mayor of Atlanta as head of the Innovation Delivery Team, believes the Southeast is ripe for supportive housing and other ground-breaking ideas that will effectively combat homelessness and help other vulnerable populations.

“CSH is active in Georgia, Florida and North Carolina because there exists a craving for innovation when it comes to programs that make a difference and actually move the needle in the campaign to reduce the number of homeless people,” said Cannon. “We understand the strategies that are necessary to see success on the local level.”

According to Cannon, CSH has already invested significant time and effort in the three states, and is helping local partners advance community-based initiatives to prevent and end homelessness.

## GEORGIA

CSH provides strategic advice to the City of Atlanta and helps support the Continuum of Care as the Mayor's Office pursues an ambitious agenda on addressing homelessness.

Kristin Wilson, Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the City of Atlanta, said, "We are very excited to have CSH's support as Atlanta continues its focus on ending homelessness."

CSH approved predevelopment and acquisition loans to Columbia and National Church Residences in Atlanta to bridge the tax credit and other financing for that project, which preserves 90 units of supportive housing while rehabilitating a historic property and improving the building's interior to create updated, larger apartments to better serve residents.

CSH also approved a \$1,690,000 supportive housing development loan to Greystone Partners, L.P., a partnership through affiliates of In-Fill Housing, Inc. and Tapestry Development Group. The principals of both nonprofits have decades of experience in affordable housing, specializing in preservation and supportive housing.

CSH's assistance is being used to fund acquisition and predevelopment costs related to the rehabilitation of a 71-units housing project in Rome, Georgia, which includes 15 supportive housing units and 56 affordable elderly units.

In this instance, the supportive housing will be targeted for homeless households living with chronic health challenges including mental health issues, substance abuse disorders, HIV/AIDS, and/or debilitating primary health conditions.

## FLORIDA

CSH co-convened a Florida State Supportive Housing Summit with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation attended by five State agencies; representatives from the Governor's office; twenty leading stakeholders from Florida's supportive housing, advocacy, philanthropic, and related service sectors; and eight national supportive housing experts from organizations from six states.

The summit led to an RFP from the state for a pilot program to develop supportive housing projects in Jacksonville, Miami, and St. Petersburg.

In addition to the state-wide Summit, CSH has:

- Provided a \$317,506 mini-permanent loan to the Meridian Apartments in Miami Beach, which will house 34 formerly homeless individuals
- Provided extensive technical assistance in Tampa/Hillsborough County by updating their 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, including a one-week charrette to gather and incorporate community input on the Plan focused on the 100,000 Homes campaign to identify street homeless individuals at greatest risk of mortality and prioritize them for housing
- Led 10-Year Planning process in Fort Lauderdale where 120 people representing 12 non-profit and government agencies as well as advocates and consumers participated in a week-long charrette that resulted in 78 concrete recommendations regarding supportive housing, systems coordination, and reducing the number of people who are homeless and living on the street
- Offered 15 trainings and presentations on supportive housing that reached over 100 Florida organizations
- Provided technical assistance to the City of Ft. Lauderdale to develop a proposal to launch a Housing First program for homeless individuals who are high-utilizers of public systems and programs
- Worked with Miami Coalition for the Homeless to develop the concept for a loan fund to incentivize the development of supportive housing and housing for extremely low income households

“These efforts have built CSH’s reputation in Florida,” noted Cannon. “We are increasingly recognized as a partner and resource in creating supportive housing, and are positioned to make significant impacts that will reduce homelessness across the board.”

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

Cannon cited the Mecklenburg County FUSE (Frequent Users of Systems Engagement for frequent users of public services) initiative – MeckFUSE – an interagency effort providing 45 new units of supportive housing to individuals that regularly cycle between the criminal justice and homeless shelter systems in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, home of the City of Charlotte.

In 2012, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services (CSS) leadership decided to research effective jail diversion models that would reduce recidivism and save public dollars, and discovered CSH’s FUSE, model. Two years later, the county has become a model of effective use of the Fuse Blueprint as a framework for program planning and implementation.

CSH was engaged as a consultant by the County to provide technical assistance during the FUSE planning process. CSH provided support in such areas as determining the approach and methodology of the data match; guiding the County through determining a housing application process based on examples from other communities; peer to peer learning from other communities with FUSE programs; assistance with development of an RFP for an experienced service provider; program implementation support; assistance with the evaluation plan; and service provider training support.

All housing and services costs associated with MeckFUSE are covered by diversion funds, not taxpayer dollars. Diversion funds come from fees collected in court cases where a diversion agreement is offered.