



## **Bank of America NJ Award Focus on Youth Leaving Foster Care**

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**Trenton NJ – [Bank of America Charitable Foundation](#)** has presented a \$17,500 grant to [CSH](#) that will be used to improve housing and healthcare outcomes for youth (ages 18-25) who are exiting the child welfare and foster care systems, and generally promote the creation of supportive housing throughout New Jersey.

CSH, a national nonprofit, advances solutions that use housing as a platform for services to better the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society, maximizing public resources and building healthier communities in the process.

“New Jersey’s youth are the future of our state,” said Bob Doherty, Bank of America New Jersey president. “CSH provides those at-risk with the tools to transition out of foster care into safe and supportive homes, putting them on a solid path to economic stability.”

According to Deborah De Santis, President and CEO of CSH, supportive housing is often the solution that saves youth leaving foster care from a life of chronic homelessness.

“We know that an alarmingly high number – 40 percent – of children who age-out of foster care become homeless and there is other disturbing data that shows these youth experience high rates of substance use, domestic violence and unemployment,” said De Santis. “Supportive housing combines the stability of a home with the services these young people need to successfully transition to adulthood, significantly reducing their chances of ending up on the streets.”

De Santis further elaborated by noting CSH will use the Bank of America award to:

- help build local capacity in New Jersey for communities and providers through trainings so they can offer high-quality, tailored services in supportive housing and address the root causes of long-term homelessness,
- focus trainings on housing and health integration, aging tenants, and improving housing outcomes for youth exiting the child welfare system,
- prioritize the use of supportive housing as a platform for youth to access medical and mental health services, and
- convene and lead stakeholder discussions that develop creative, collaborative solutions to close gaps that exist in the systems that serve youth aging out of foster care.

“Thanks to the caring and generosity of Bank of America, we have already begun to convene the leaders who will help build a better transition for our youth aging out of foster care,” concluded De Santis. “We just recently held a very productive [working session](#) that brought New Jersey State and local leaders, advocates and providers together to share ideas that will improve housing and service delivery.”

See: <http://youtu.be/tGFBsm1qWB0>

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