



Successful Re-entry Aim of \$250,000 Langeloth Foundation Grant

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New York, NY – In a bid to avert homelessness and recidivism, the Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation – which supports innovation in physical and emotional healing for underserved populations – has awarded a \$250,000, two-year grant to CSH to increase housing options and services, specifically supportive housing, for eligible individuals re-entering communities from jails and prisons.

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.

According to Deborah De Santis, President and CEO of CSH, providers in New York City have been using supportive housing to ensure those returning to communities from jails and prisons who qualify for supportive housing are able to access the housing and services they need to embrace stable lives, keeping them housed and away from reoffending.

“The strong link between housing and support services for those released from jails and prisons and post-release success is not readily apparent, even in the

minds of policymakers in the criminal justice field,” said De Santis. “But as more research is done, it is clear supportive housing reduces recidivism and the data is showing us the dramatic overlap among the risk of homelessness, demands for housing, mental health services and addiction treatments, and also the chances for readmissions to jails and prisons.”

De Santis pointed out that historically criminal justice system officials believed providing released persons with access to treatment for addiction to alcohol and other drugs, and maybe a job, were all they needed to do. But as the relationship between homelessness and post-release failure became obvious, ensuring access to more stability through housing increasingly became the priority.

“Supportive housing geared to the re-entry population is structured to ensure there is, first and foremost, homes made available and that the appropriate services for those leaving jails and prisons are tied to the housing and accessible in the community,” noted De Santis. “By identifying as quickly as possible those in jails and prisons most likely to face readmission in the future without the help of supportive housing, we can get them on the right path as soon as they are released, reducing the use of temporary shelters and at the same time producing better public safety outcomes for the community at large.”

De Santis highlighted the Frequent User Services Enhancement (FUSE) initiative, a supportive housing program developed by CSH, that provides housing and support services to individuals who are frequently cycling in and out of jails and prisons, homeless shelters, and hospital emergency rooms. A two-year follow up evaluation by Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health found that FUSE participants spent significantly fewer days in jails and shelters and engaged in less cycling between public systems. These service use reductions resulted in significant cost savings to the government and taxpayers.

In line with the promising FUSE effort, De Santis pledged the generous award from Langeloth Foundation will be used to:

- Create better systems and greater capacity in New York to target available supportive housing to the highest-cost, highest-need individuals with criminal justice involvement
- Increase overall investment in re-entry supportive housing and access to existing housing for those leaving jails and prisons

“New York Mayor Bill de Blasio has made re-entry improvements a focus of his administration and Langeloth Foundation is providing CSH the tools we need to work closely with our City partners to ensure successful re-entry for those starting over, and also a safer community for all of us,” concluded De Santis.

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