



Kresge Grant Will Help Vulnerable People Live With Dignity
Housing, Better Healthcare Stressed

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Detroit – CSH will earmark \$600,000 from a recent Kresge Foundation grant totaling \$750,000 to help local providers create cost-effective supportive housing for homeless individuals known as “frequent users” of expensive crisis or emergency health services. Tenants who reside in Supportive housing are able to leave the streets and gain housing stability by accessing units they can afford, and pursuing services designed to keep them housed and healthier for less money than if they remained homeless.

“CSH is testing groundbreaking models through our Social Innovation Fund that meet the health, housing, and service needs of homeless individuals who struggle with complex health challenges and are frequent, high-cost users of crisis health services,” said Deborah De Santis, CSH President and CEO. “Our aim is to demonstrate how supportive housing can break the expensive cycle that sees homeless people repeatedly encountering institutional systems – hospitals, jails, detox facilities, and crisis care services – without any marked improvement in their long-term health and stability,”

CSH is leading a five-year national initiative to create innovative solutions at the intersection of supportive housing and healthcare. The goal is to address the growing U.S. problem of rising health care costs by demonstrating a supportive housing solution that pulls people with the most complex issues out of the revolving door of costly crisis health services.

According to De Santis, frequent users are often referred to as the “5:50” population – the 5% of beneficiaries who represent 50% of the costs – and their disproportionate share is due to the fact that homelessness exacerbates health issues, limits access to care, and inhibits healthy behaviors

The CSH Social Innovation Fund has active pilots in four areas in the United States: Ann Arbor, Michigan; Los Angeles, California; San Francisco, California; and Connecticut, which is the only statewide model. Together, all pilots will provide housing linked to better healthcare coordination to a minimum of 549 individuals.

Backed by a prestigious [federal Social Innovation Fund award](#) from the Corporation for National and Community Service, the CSH initiative is developing a model of supportive housing linked to health services that saves public dollars and improves the lives of very vulnerable men and women.

“The Kresge Foundation is in the forefront of investing in ideas and practices that harness the power of innovation,” said De Santis. “Their gift will help every site engaged in our Social Innovation Fund deliver housing and healthcare that will lift vulnerable individuals out of the quagmire of ineffective and costly services and outcomes to ensure they are healthier in the long run.”

In addition to the \$600,000 directed for projects under the CSH Social Innovation Fund, the monies included in the total \$750,000 grant from The Kresge Foundation will be used to bolster other initiatives as follows:

- \$75,000 allotted to leverage "Pay for Success" (PFS) financing contracts CSH is developing with leaders in Colorado, Massachusetts and in communities around the country. PFS is another program under the auspices of the Corporation for National and Community Service Social Innovation Fund. A unique financing model, PFS meets public service needs with private, philanthropic help while lowering public costs. Investments are tied directly to successful results and PFS financing seems ideal for the creation of supportive housing, which is already a proven, results-driven solution.
- \$75,000 to help launch the CSH Strong Families Fund, which will finance the creation of supportive housing focused on serving families in need of stable housing and comprehensive services to holistically address the challenges faced by both caregivers and children.

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ABOUT THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

The Kresge Foundation is a \$3 billion private, national foundation headquartered in Metropolitan Detroit, in the suburb community of Troy, that works to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services, community development and place-based efforts in Detroit. In 2013, the Board of Trustees approved 316 awards totaling \$122 million; \$128 million was paid out to grantees over the course of the year. In addition, The Kresge Foundation Social Investment Practice made commitments totaling \$17.7 million in 2013.

ABOUT CSH

CSH has led the supportive housing movement for over 20 years, demonstrating its potential to improve the lives of very vulnerable individuals and families. CSH has earned a

sterling reputation as a highly effective, financially stable organization, with strong partnerships across government, community organizations, foundations, and financial institutions. CSH is advancing innovative solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve lives, maximize public resources, and build healthy communities. CSH is working to assure that housing solutions are accessible to more people in more places.