



Grant Lays Foundation for

More Affordable, Supportive Housing Units in Bay Area

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SAN FRANCISCO – The San Francisco Foundation has awarded CSH \$25,000 to expand organizational and community capabilities in the San Francisco Bay Area to create and operate an enhanced model of supportive housing targeted to the most vulnerable individuals and families. Supportive housing offers affordable, rent-subsidized housing with vital services designed to meet the needs of vulnerable people in order to keep them healthy and stably housed. For example, supportive housing has helped reduce the rate of chronic homelessness for individuals nearly 50% over the last decade.

“We envision working closely with our Bay Area partners in a series of housing-healthcare integration workshops for supportive housing providers,” said Beth Stokes, Managing Director of CSH Western Region based in California. “The number one goal is to get more supportive housing created sooner rather than later in a market facing a severe affordable housing crisis. We will focus on effective partnerships, make providers aware of the resources they can access, and share how best to fund housing-based services for the most vulnerable.”

With the grant, CSH will leverage lessons learned from its recent efforts to target supportive housing to high-cost, frequent users of crisis services. CSH will offer training, technical assistance and capacity building support to at least 10 supportive housing partners in the San Francisco Bay Area to help them increase access to mainstream health funding – now available through implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid expansion – for sustainable coverage of housing-based care coordination and case management services. This effort is

vitaly important to ensuring the long-term viability of the services component of supportive housing.

Stokes pointed out that a portion of the grant from The San Francisco Foundation will be used to ensure the preservation of 172 supportive housing units currently supported through the CSH Social Innovation Fund (SIF). CSH intends to do this by working with the San Francisco SIF Pilot to develop and implement a long-term sustainability plan for accessing health funding, via the ACA and Medicaid expansion, for coverage of housing-based supportive services.

In addition to San Francisco (CA), the other CSH SIF sites are: Ann Arbor, MI; Los Angeles, CA; and San Francisco, CA.

The CSH SIF Initiative is funding and developing the evidence that supportive housing (affordable apartments integrated with healthcare) can reduce homelessness and over-reliance on expensive crisis care often used by those not housed and desperate for medical services. The goals are simple:

- Increase health and housing stability for at least 549 high-need, high-cost individuals with chronic health challenges
- Develop a replicable, sustainable model for integrating housing with care management and health services
- Build evidence of the model's impact on housing, health, and public costs
- Design a policy blueprint for linking mainstream housing and health resources/payment systems (such as Medicaid)

To date, CSH SIF sites have secured resources, developed and launched integrated models, helping house over 450 people, getting them off the streets and into beds of their own. Over 90% of those formerly homeless have remained housed, and there has been a marked decrease in their emergency department use and crisis hospitalization.

SIF is just one of the innovative projects promoted by the federal Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS). CSH is a proud recipient of CNCS and private philanthropic support, propelling the initiative and sites forward.

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ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO FOUNDATION

The San Francisco Foundation is an incubator for community investment, original ideas, and passionate leadership. Since 1948, we have been bringing together networks of philanthropists and civic leaders to support and build on the strengths

of the community and make the Bay Area the best place it can be. We are a leading agent of Bay Area philanthropy. We rank among the nation's largest community foundations in grantmaking and assets. We cultivate a family of donors sharing a commitment to the Bay Area. Together, we give millions of dollars a year to foster strong communities, respond to local needs, and elevate public awareness. See more at: <http://sff.org>

ABOUT CSH

For over 20 years, CSH has been the national champion for supportive housing, demonstrating its potential to improve the lives of very vulnerable individuals and families. CSH has earned an award-winning reputation as a highly effective, financially stable organization, with strong partnerships across government, community organizations, foundations, and financial institutions. CSH is advancing innovative solutions, using housing as a platform for services to improve lives, maximize public resources, and build healthy communities. CSH is working to assure housing solutions are accessible to more people in more places. www.csh.org