



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Successful program that helps end homelessness for most vulnerable wins grant to continue key work**

*Melville Charitable Trusts provides \$300,000 to extend housing and healthcare access*

**(New Haven - CT)** The Melville Charitable Trust, a foundation devoted to preventing and ending homelessness, has strengthened its commitment to expanding housing and healthcare access for the most vulnerable people in need of primary care services. Through its most recent \$300,000 two-year award to CSH, Melville is supporting efforts to sustain the CSH Social Innovation Fund (SIF) beyond its pilot phase as a national demonstration integrating housing and healthcare to leverage a supportive housing model that improves patient outcomes and lower costs. The Social Innovation Fund is a private-public partnership created by the federal government to address the growing problem of rising health care costs by pulling people with the most complex issues out of the revolving door of costly crisis health services.

“It’s cheaper, more humane, and ultimately more successful in ending homelessness when we create direct connections between housing and primary health care for our neighbors who are the most medically vulnerable,” said Janice Elliott, Executive Director of the Melville Charitable Trust. “For individuals who rely on costly crisis services— such as going to emergency rooms for routine medical care – because they have no other options, the CSH Social Innovation Fund shows us a better way. If we end a person’s homelessness through access to housing and then open the doors to healthcare, including mental and behavioral health services, we see significant drops in their use of emergency rooms and better outcomes for people who have lived through a great deal of trauma.”

A 2014 Central Florida Commission on Homeless report found that over \$31,000 per year is spent on each homeless person for inpatient hospitalizations, emergency room fees, incarceration and other systems associated with homelessness. For this same group of chronically homeless men and women, it costs about \$10,000 a year each for supportive housing, an almost 70% savings in community costs.

In addition to its long-term partnership with CSH, the Melville Charitable Trust has invested in a number of innovative efforts emphasizing reform of crisis support services, including healthcare delivery and workforce development for people experiencing homelessness or who are formerly homeless.

“This support from Melville comes at a crucial time for CSH-SIF,” said Deborah De Santis, President & CEO of CSH. “The Corporation for National and Community Service has provided invaluable funding support for the CSH-SIF initiative, which is set to expire in 2018. Melville and other philanthropic partners also have been generous in their backing and are now continuing their support because we are seeing more and more evidence suggesting CSH-SIF is cost-effectively ending homelessness and expanding health coverage that transforms lives.”

Helping individuals overcome obstacles to improving their health is central to CSH-SIF. What sets this initiative apart are the new health care and housing partnerships it has help to forge and the unique role of patient navigators, dedicated services managers who work one-on-one with the CSH-SIF clients to help make and keep appointments, and ensure coordination among doctors and other care providers. In many ways, patient navigators are client case managers laser focused on matching client needs with services to improve health outcomes.

The CSH Social Innovation Fund has active demonstration sites in Connecticut, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Ann Arbor, Michigan, which combined have housed and tied to primary healthcare over 570 people.

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### **About Melville Charitable Trust**

Since 1990, the Melville Charitable Trust has focused on the singular goal of ending homelessness. Research and the Trust’s experience have demonstrated that homelessness is a solvable problem and that safe, accessible and affordable housing is an indispensable part of the solution. For individuals and families with the greatest challenges to housing stability, ensuring access to affordable housing with appropriate services – supportive housing – is smart, humane and cost-effective. The Trust is the largest foundation in the U.S. that is exclusively devoted to supporting solutions to prevent and end homelessness. Since inception, we have invested more than \$120 million to alleviate homelessness by developing supportive housing, community solutions, and a stronger policy environment. Learn more about the Trust at [www.melvilletrust.org](http://www.melvilletrust.org).

### **About CSH**

CSH has been the leader in supportive housing for 25 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. We are working to assure that housing solutions are accessible to more people in more places. Visit us at [www.csh.org](http://www.csh.org)

### **About the Social Innovation Fund**

The Corporation for National and Community Service Social Innovation Fund (SIF) is a powerful approach to transforming lives and communities that positions the federal government to be a catalyst for impact—mobilizing private resources to find and grow community solutions with evidence of results. With the simple but vital goal of *finding what works, and making it work for more people*, the Social Innovation Fund and its grantees create a learning network of organizations working to implement innovative and effective evidence-based solutions to local and national challenges in three priority areas: economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development. Find out more at [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)