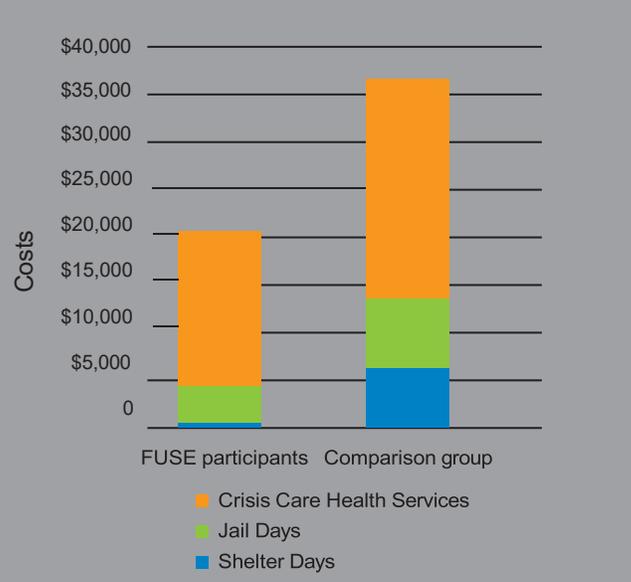


Thousands of people across the country are trapped in a cycle of homelessness and criminal justice involvement. **Frequently Used Systems Engagement (FUSE)** is a signature CSH initiative that helps communities identify and engage high utilizers of public systems and place them into supportive housing to break the cycle of repeated use of costly crisis services and involvement in shelters and the criminal justice system. Columbia University recently completed an evaluation of this groundbreaking initiative piloted in New York City that placed more than 200 individuals into supportive housing.

### MAJOR RESULTS

Costs of Jail, Shelter Crisis Care Services



### FUSE participants stayed housed

- At 12 months, 90% remained in FUSE housing
- At 24 months, 81% remained in FUSE housing
- At 24 months, 86% had permanent housing

### Shelter use declined dramatically

- FUSE participants averaged 15 days in shelters in the 24 months after FUSE housing placement compared to a comparison group who averaged 162 days in shelters over the same time period

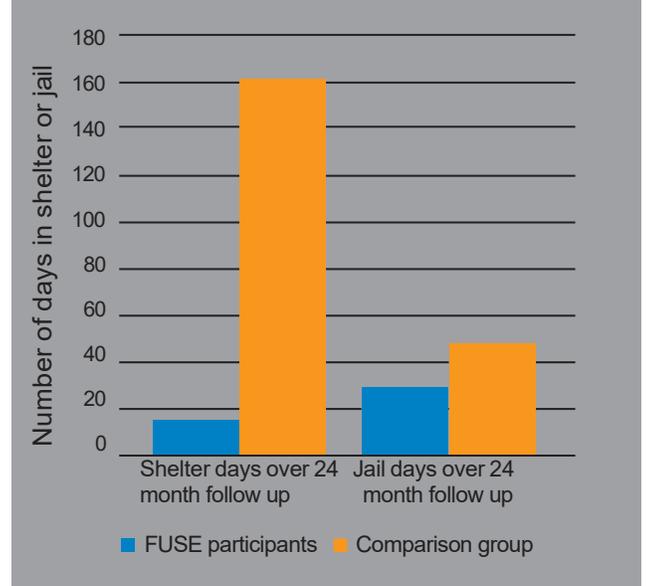
### Psychiatric inpatient hospitalization days were lower

- Comparison group members spent twice as many days (N=8) in psychiatric inpatient centers as FUSE participants (N=4)

### Jail days were lower

- Over the 24 months after housing placement, FUSE participants averaged 29 jail days vs. 48 jail days for the matched comparison group

Intervention Effects for Shelter Use and Incarceration



### FUSE PRODUCED COST SAVINGS FOR CRISIS SERVICES

Through reduced usage of jails, health services, and shelters, each individual housed through FUSE generated \$15,000 in public savings, paying for over two thirds of the intervention cost.

## EVALUATION DESIGN

The Columbia Center for Homelessness Prevention Studies at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University conducted the evaluation following FUSE participants for two years after program placement. The evaluation included propensity-scored matching, structured interview series, administrative data analysis, trajectory group analysis, and econometric analysis.

Program participants had histories of extreme poverty, long experience of homelessness, chronic illness, mental health challenges, substance use problems, lack of family or social connections, and histories of victimization. Over two-thirds of participants reported traumatic or highly stressful events during childhood or adolescence.

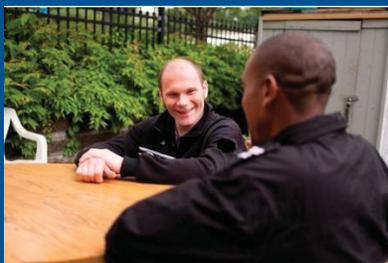
Communities spend billions of dollars on services that bounce vulnerable people between shelters, hospitals, jails, treatment programs, foster care, and the streets. CSH's FUSE model works to solve this problem. FUSE helps communities break the cycle of homelessness and crisis among individuals with complex behavioral health challenges who are the highest users of emergency rooms, jails, shelters, clinics, and other costly crisis service systems. CSH is replicating the FUSE model in communities across the country, including Washington D.C., Detroit, and Los Angeles.

## NYC FUSE PARTNERS

**Government:** New York City Department of Correction, Department of Homeless Services, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Housing and Preservation Development, NYC Housing Authority, Human Resources Administration, CSH

**Housing and Service Providers:** Brooklyn Community Housing and Services, CAMBA, Common Ground, Community Access, Jericho Project, Palladia, Pathways to Housing

**Evaluation Funders:** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation, Open Society Foundation, The JEHT Foundation



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CSH works to advance affordable housing aligned with services as an approach to help people thrive. We do this by advocating for effective policies and funding, investing in communities, and strengthening the supportive housing field. CSH blends over 30 years of experience and dedication with a practical and entrepreneurial spirit, making us the source for housing solutions. CSH is an industry leader with national influence and deep connections in a growing number of local communities. Visit [csh.org](http://csh.org) to learn more.

This resource was originally published in 2018.