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CSH's *Keeping Families Together* Pilot Informs Federal Approach to Serving Vulnerable Families

June 5, 2012—New York—*Keeping Families Together*, CSH's three-year supportive housing pilot program designed to address the needs of New York City's most vulnerable families, is a model for an unprecedented investment by the national child welfare system. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) and four private foundations announced that they will be giving five communities around the country the opportunity to create supportive housing designed to give kids a chance to live healthier, more productive lives.

CSH developed the *Keeping Families Together* pilot in 2007 with the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The initiative identified families with recurring involvement in both the child welfare and homeless systems, and placed them into supportive housing where they received permanent affordable housing with individualized social services. Findings from the *Keeping Families Together* evaluation are impressive: 90% of pilot families remained housed at the end of the three-year pilot period, over 60% of child welfare cases closed and 100% of children in foster care at the start of the pilot returned to their families. The results also suggest significant cost savings to multiple public systems.

"We are thrilled that ACYF has invested in supportive housing for families involved in the child welfare and homeless systems," said Deborah De Santis, CSH President and CEO. "Like *Keeping Families Together*, these new demonstration projects will give families with deep-rooted challenges the ability to provide a safe and stable home for their children."

This new funding opportunity indicates the federal government's recognition of supportive housing as a potential tool for preventing foster care and reducing child welfare system involvement among highly vulnerable families experiencing homelessness.

ACYF is partnering with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Family Programs and Edna McConnell Clark Foundation on this public-private initiative.

"*Keeping Families Together* demonstrated that with the right supports, even the most vulnerable families can stay together," said Alison Harte, CSH Senior Program Manager, who leads CSH's child welfare-related initiatives. "With supportive housing, children considered 'at-risk' can grow up to lead healthy and productive lives."

About CSH

For over 20 years, CSH has led the national supportive housing movement. We help communities throughout the country transform how they address homelessness and improve people's lives. CSH develops innovative program models, provides research-backed tools and training, offers development expertise, and collaborates on public policy and systems reform. And, CSH is a certified community development financial institution (CDFI). We make it easier to create and operate high-quality affordable housing linked to services. To date, CSH has made over \$300 million in loans and grants, and has been a catalyst for over 150,000 units of supportive housing.