



*CSH advances solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people, maximize public resources and build healthy communities.*

## 2015 Policy Priorities

### Restore Housing Choice Vouchers to Targeted Populations

Building on the proven success of the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (VASH) program in sharply reducing veterans' homelessness, CSH supports replacing the remaining 67,000 vouchers lost to sequestration cuts with targeted vouchers that can be paired with services to create permanent supportive housing opportunities. Targeted vouchers can:

- Prevent low-income children from being separated from their families due to inability to afford adequate housing;
- Prevent youth in the foster care system from aging out into homelessness;
- Help states provide housing for people with disabilities in a community setting;
- Provide safe homes for victims of domestic and dating violence; and
- Allow states to decide the best way to use vouchers to end homelessness, including serving veterans.

#### Vouchers At A Glance

- ❖ Households with vouchers have an **average income of \$13,100 per year, well below the poverty line.**
- ❖ Vouchers help more than 2 million households afford housing by setting their rent at 30% of their income.
- ❖ **Less than 1 in 4 people who are eligible for federal housing assistance receive it** because of limited resources.
- ❖ **Vouchers give families an opportunity to move to safer, less poor neighborhoods.** These effects are closely linked to educational, developmental, and health benefits that can improve children's long-term prospects and reduce costs in other public programs.



With the Budget Control Act caps returning to full force in 2016, we are thankful that the House and Senate maintained the progress already made in restoring vouchers, and that the Senate added \$20 million for Families At-Risk of Separation and youth exiting foster care. However, the housing needs are acute! If there is an opportunity to revisit the House and Senate bills without budget caps, **please request funding for targeted vouchers.**

### Expand Permanent Supportive Housing Opportunities

#### *Homeless Programs*

CSH supports HUD's request of \$2.45 billion for the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Grant programs to reach the goals established in Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. The House bill contains only \$2.135 billion and the Senate contains \$2.2 billion, with \$40 million set aside for a demonstration of solutions for youth homelessness.

As a leader in work addressing youth homelessness, CSH thanks the Senate for their focus on this important issue and looks forward to helping shape the demonstration.

### ***Section 811, Housing for Persons with Disabilities***

The Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities program is helping states create opportunities for people with disabilities to live in community integrated settings, fulfilling their Olmstead mandate. **CSH urges Congress to expand the program by \$25 million in FY 2016** which will allow states to immediately create permanent supportive housing in community settings.

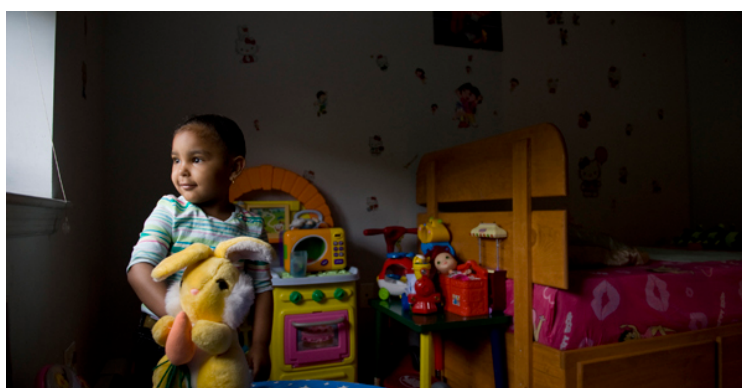
### ***HOME***

States and localities can target flexible HOME funds to the particular needs of their communities, which frequently includes gap financing for permanent supportive housing. HOME funds have been cut over 50% since 2011, with the Senate budget nearly eliminating the program and the House budget significantly under what's needed to serve all 50 states. **CSH urges Congress to provide at least \$1.2 billion in HOME funds.**

### ***Health and Human Services***

**CSH urges Congress to provide \$100 million to SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health and Center for Substance Abuse homeless programs for essential mental health and substance use treatment services.** These grants help chronically homeless families and individuals acquire and maintain permanent supportive housing.

Ensure homeless populations have access to primary health care through Community Health Centers and Healthcare for the Homeless (HCH) projects. HCH projects deliver health and related services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. **Funding CHC at \$1.5 billion in the discretionary HHS budget and \$3.6 billion through ACA implementation will continue to reduce unnecessary health related expenditures while addressing the healthcare needs of homeless populations.**



## **Promote Public-Private Partnerships**

### ***Social Innovation Fund***

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) provides targeted grants that foster collaboration between the public and private sector to scale community-based solutions that are evidence-based. As a SIF grantee, CSH is pursuing housing plus health care interventions with four grantees across the country, testing the intervention's impact. CSH supports funding SIF at \$80 million in FY2016.

### ***Pay For Success***

CSH is using permanent supportive housing, in conjunction with services from various state and local government agencies, to prevent more expensive costs from falling on the taxpayer and drive positive outcomes. CSH supports \$300 million for the Treasury Department's Pay for Success Incentive Fund. The money will provide startup funds for these complicated transactions, as well as credit enhancements for philanthropic investments and outcome payments for successful, money-saving services.

**Congress should pass bi-partisan legislation that authorizes Social Impact Bonds to improve public and social health outcomes.**