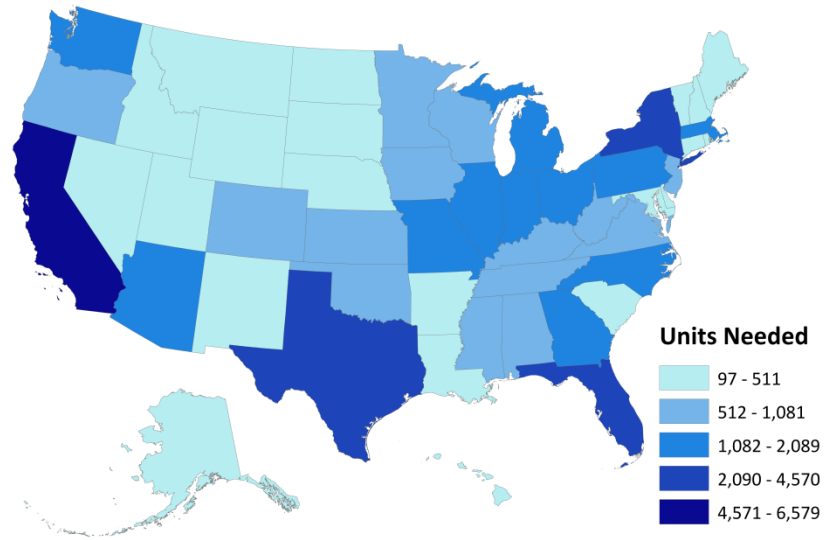


# FAMILY SYSTEMS



## ESTIMATED SUPPORTIVE HOUSING NEED - 53,000 HOMES

### What do we hope to achieve?

Vulnerable families with multiple or complex needs have access to safe and affordable housing and support services that avoid separation and create a stable foundation for healthy child development.

### What do we know so far?

#### Promising Trends:

- Since 2010, the number of people in families experiencing homelessness has declined by over 20%.
- Several federal agencies committed resources and strategic efforts toward preventing and ending family homelessness, including a 5-year, \$35 million federal demonstration to provide supportive housing for 400 homeless child welfare-involved families.
- Studies show the majority of families who experience homelessness are in shelter for a brief period and generally do not enter homeless shelters again.

#### Problematic Trends:

- Studies estimate that 24-26% of children who are homeless experience foster care, more than 34 times the rate of children in the U.S generally.
- Children who experience homelessness are four times more likely to have developmental delays, two times more likely to have learning disabilities, three times more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems, and eight times more likely to repeat a grade as compared to low-income children with stable housing.
- 30% of children in state care in 2012 were removed from home for parental alcohol or substance use.

### How is CSH making a difference?

**Capacity Building:** Provide supportive housing with evidence-based and trauma-informed services for families; educate and train child welfare systems to implement Housing First and Harm Reduction strategies serving vulnerable families.

**Promoting Community-Level System Change:** Increase collaboration between housing and child welfare systems, including blending funding streams, integrating assessment processes and delivering cross-disciplinary, family-centered care.

**Increasing and Triaging Supportive Housing for Families:** Realign systems and increase resources to create new family supportive housing where needed and ensure communities are prioritizing the families most vulnerable to repeat involvement with the child welfare system.

**Cultivating and Disseminating Research:** Promote rigorous research on child welfare involvement among families experiencing homelessness and the longitudinal impact of supportive housing on child and parent.

“Seeing how happy my children are to have their mother with them in our own home keeps me going.”  
- Tennelle M.



## KEY PARTNERS

**Child Welfare Systems:** Promote supportive housing as a platform for delivery of child-welfare services that can also address underlying issues that lead to child-welfare involvement and promote policy and practice that focus on keeping families together.

**Education system:** Promote stronger coordination between early child development programs, schools, homeless services and other family-serving systems to ensure children in homeless families have the opportunity to succeed.

**Mental Health and Addiction Services:** Increase access to integrated and trauma-informed services tailored to the needs of women and families with young children experiencing homelessness.

**Federal, State and Local Housing Agencies:** Increase the availability of housing vouchers and units linked to services for families experiencing homelessness; aggressively promote the Family Self-Sufficiency program and other employment and asset-building programs for families living in public housing.



## CALCULATION OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING NEED

CSH estimates that 52,756 families in the U.S. need supportive housing and highlights a continued need for data development. CSH reviewed three primary data sources for the family systems needs assessment:

- CSH estimates between 10-30% of the 56,606 families, identified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) annual report to Congress, are in need of supportive housing. For this paper, the need was modeled at 16% (9,089) families in need of supportive housing. CSH arrived at this estimate based on both length of stay and clinical conditions indicating need for long-term services.
- CSH estimates 18% (43,667) of the 242,593 families with children placed in foster care are in need of supportive housing. CSH calculated this number by multiplying the average number of children per family under the U.S Census by rates of repeated episodes with child welfare and indicators of housing instability. Although this was annualized data, CSH used a proxy for point in time system capacity due to an average length of stay of 13.3 months.
- CSH reviewed National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) data to assess supportive housing needs for families experiencing homelessness in public schools, showing roughly 2.6% (758,443) of the 28,395,826 families in public education report homelessness. However, because the definition used in education is inconsistent with HUD's, the NCHE data does not currently offer accuracy sufficient to estimate supportive housing need. This highlights a need for greater collaboration to assess housing and services needs across their systems of care.

This is part of a national supportive housing needs assessment prepared by CSH. The goal of this assessment is to use the best data available to make clear and transparent projections of supportive housing need, foster development of national level data, and promote discussion and refinement of this assessment over time. CSH is using a point in time, or average daily census, approach to assemble data across different systems of care. The intention is to show current snapshot of need in each system and does not represent need over time or annualized need for any single system of care. For further information on the national needs assessment, data and sources, please visit [www.csh.org/data](http://www.csh.org/data)



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- Advancing solutions
- Using housing as a platform for services
- Improving lives of vulnerable people
  - Maximizing public resources
  - Building healthy communities