



## Keeping Families Together

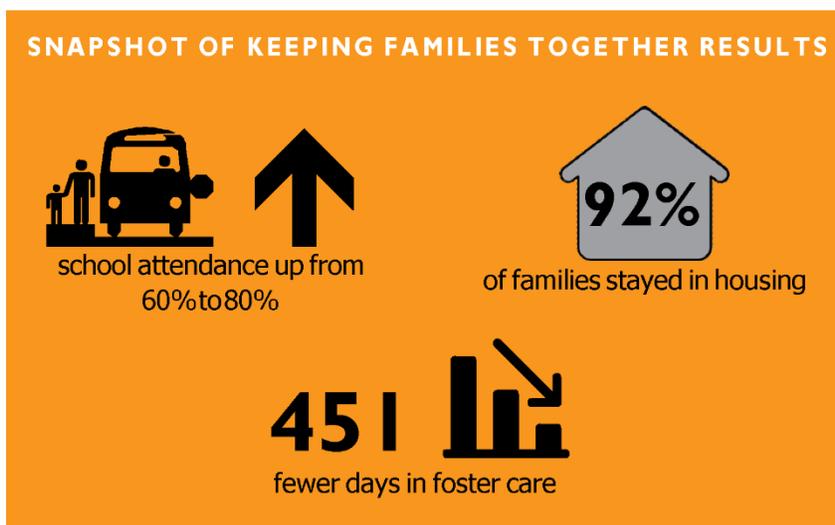
The CSH Keeping Families Together (KFT) model uses supportive housing to offer stability to families with children who are at risk of recurring involvement in the child welfare system. By providing a home and essential supports to families, this model shows real promise in maintaining and reuniting children with their families in a safe environment while reducing costs.

Supportive housing provides an affordable home for families. The services accessed through supportive housing help parents struggling with overwhelming poverty and complex health issues improve their lives and family stability. Currently active in nine states, KFT provides access to affordable housing and essential supports helping every member of the family.

### The Model

KFT supportive housing was initially a pilot project designed and implemented by CSH and funded by [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#). To implement the pilot, CSH partnered with local government agencies and nonprofit supportive housing providers to identify, house and provide wrap-around support services to homeless families involved in the child welfare system. Child welfare involvement among KFT families declined significantly during the pilot and most families had no new abuse or neglect cases after moving to supportive housing. All of the children eligible for reunification returned home to their families and were stably housed with them when the pilot ended. In addition, average daily class attendance improved steadily among KFT school children.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Keeping Families Together: An evaluation of the implementation and outcomes of a pilot supportive housing model for families involved in the child welfare system. Metis Associates. November 2010. [https://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Report\\_KFTFindingsreport.pdf](https://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Report_KFTFindingsreport.pdf)



Families receiving supportive housing through KFT had long histories of contacts with the child welfare system, including multiple investigations, incidences of maltreatment and child removals.

**Early outcomes from KFT were very promising.**





## Federal Investment

Based on the success of the pilot, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families used KFT as their model for a Federal Demonstration to provide vulnerable families with safe, affordable housing and the services and supports they need to stay together. With five sites nationally and multiple private and public partners, the project is bringing supportive housing to more than 400 families with children at risk of, or already in, foster care placement. This represents the first Federal investment specifically focused on creating supportive housing to reduce child welfare system involvement. An evaluation is expected in 2019.

The five local Demonstration sites are:

- ❖ HEART (Housing, Empowerment, Achievement, Recovery, Triumph) - Broward County, FL
- ❖ Partners United for Supportive Housing in Cedar Rapids - Cedar Rapids, IA
- ❖ Memphis Strong Families - Memphis, TN
- ❖ Families Moving Forward - San Francisco, CA
- ❖ Intensive Supportive Housing for Families - CT

## Local Replication

Additional sites offer KFT supportive housing in New Mexico, New Jersey, California, and Texas. The NJ Department of Children and Families launched a KFT Program in 2014. They used data to identify the most frequently encountered families facing homelessness and also experiencing multiple, complex challenges to family progress and socioeconomic mobility. The initiative has seen early success consistent with improved housing stability for families and reduction in child abuse or neglect reports. Based on these promising results, NJ has expanded their program to over 600 units.

In 2016 at the urging of CSH, the State of California established a \$10M “Bringing Families Home” fund to house child welfare involved families experiencing homelessness. The effort, led by the California Department of Social Services and county child welfare agencies, provides stable and safe housing to prevent out-of-home placement, or to facilitate reunification with birth parents. CSH is leveraging a recent grant from [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) to help counties create KFT supportive housing throughout the state.



For more Information on KFT, visit [www.1rooffamilies.org](http://www.1rooffamilies.org)