

The background of the slide is a photograph of a smiling man with dark skin and short dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. He is holding a set of keys in his right hand, which is raised towards the center of the frame. The keys are silver and have several keys attached. The overall tone is warm and positive.

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER: Uniting Child Welfare, Supportive Housing & Families to Advance Change

April 27, 2023

CWLA Conference 2023

Agenda & Desired Results

- Keeping Families Together overview & examples
- Keeping Families Together Training Academy
- Implementing Family Centered Quality Supportive Housing
- Strategies for collaborating with housing partners
- Partnering with parents for quality housing and services

CSH: What We Do

CSH is a touchstone for new ideas and best practices, a collaborative and pragmatic community partner, and an influential advocate for supportive housing



TRAINING AND
EDUCATION



LENDING



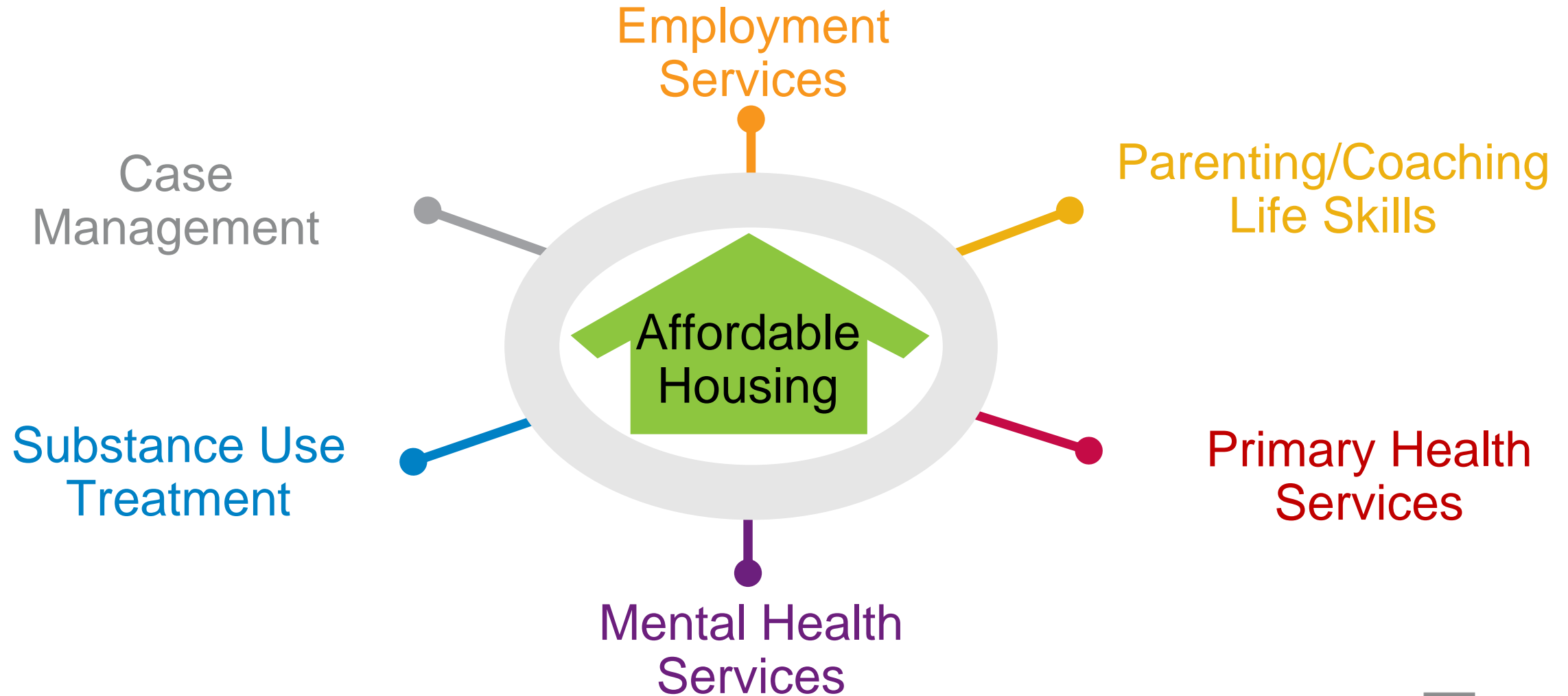
POLICY REFORM



CONSULTING &
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

What is Supportive Housing?

It facilitates cooperation, coordination, partnerships to connect public service systems



The State of Housing

Housing challenges facing families and youth:

- Affordability
- Availability
- Eligibility
- Navigation
- Access

Inadequate housing contributes to the risk of entering foster care for **1 out of every 6 children** involved in CPS investigations



Families **Thrive** in Safe and Stable Homes

Population: Families with children in the United States experiencing housing instability and risk of or involvement with child welfare, especially those identifying as BIPoC.

Result: Define and develop continuum of housing interventions and connected set of services for families experiencing housing instability and risk/involvement with child welfare, and integrate across systems from prevention through family reunification with an equity focused, multi-sector approach.



Keeping Families Together

Two generation approach to supportive housing for families facing child welfare involvement, housing instability and complex need/histories



Keeping Families Together Model

Housing Unit or
Subsidy



Wraparound
Supportive
Services



Coordination of
Services and
Supports



Housing stability
Family preservation/reunification
Child and family well-being



Homelessness
Foster care placements
Child welfare recidivism



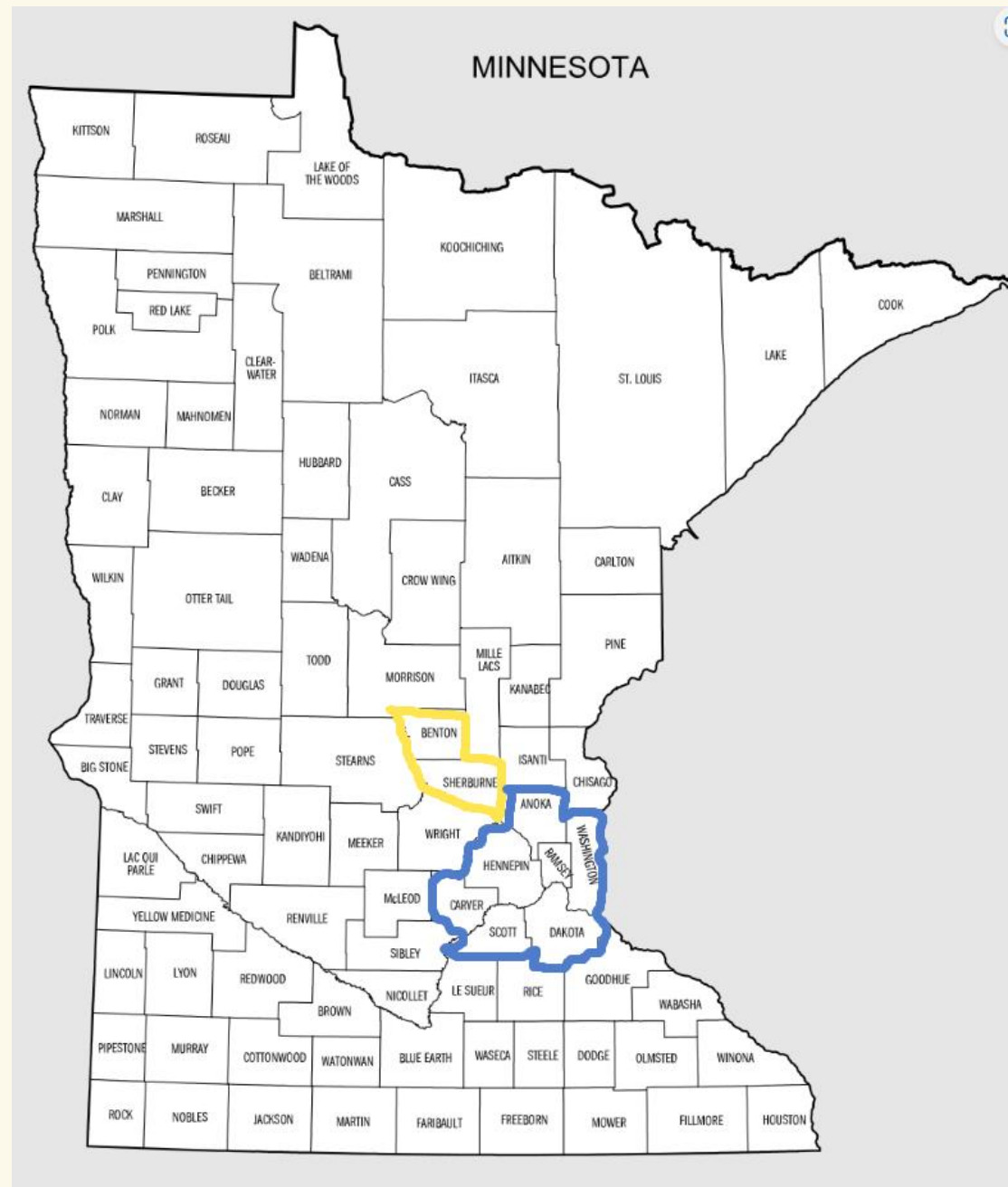
Thriving
Families and
Communities



Keeping Families Together (KFT)

- LSS awarded funding from CSH to develop and implement KFT in Benton and Sherburne counties
- LSS partnered with Benton and Sherburne Child Welfare teams
- Community partners involved in project development
 - Avivo, Catholic Charities, Central MN Mental Health Center, Central MN CoC, United Way, St. Cloud school district, Rise, St. Cloud and Stearns Co. Housing Authority, MN HMIS





Keeping Families Together (KFT)

- Collaboration between housing services and child protection services
- Goal was to assist families involved in child protection when a housing need is identified:
 - To prevent the removal of children from the home
 - OR
 - To assist in the reunification of children



What is a housing need?

- At risk of homelessness
- Literal homelessness



Housing Services - Prevention

- Currently housed but at risk of losing housing
 - i.e., notice to evict; non-renewal of lease; late rent payment notice
- Doubled up
 - living w/someone else and not on the lease
 - asked to leave
- Self-pay at a hotel/motel



Housing Services – Rapid ReHousing/homeless

- Being homeless means:
 - Living in a car
 - Living in a shelter
 - Living in a place not meant for habitation,
 - exiting an institution (jail/treatment/hospital) where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less & was homeless before institution;
 - hotel/motel paid by agency
 - fleeing Domestic Violence



LSS KFT Referral process

- Referral must have current child protection case in Benton or Sherburne county
- Child Protection identified that housing is a need to prevent removal or aid in reunification
- Referral form was developed by Core Leadership team members to target high-need families with a points system for various barriers
 - History of persistent or repeated contacts with child welfare
 - Social supports
 - History of Homelessness or housing instability
 - Rental barriers



LSS KFT Housing Services

- Complete assessment for placement on the housing priority list through Coordinated Entry
- Assist with community housing search
- Financial assistance with security deposit or rent (amount determined on case-by-case basis)
- Case management available from up to 2 years



Case Management

- LSS Case Manager and Child Protection staff have joint meeting with referral
- LSS Case Manager completes an initial assessment of housing needs and history
- LSS Case Manager and household search for housing, address barriers (evictions, unpaid balances, no income)



Parent Advisory

- KFT wanted parent representatives with have current or previous lived experience with homelessness/housing instability and/or the child welfare system.
- The goal is that membership includes families from populations disproportionately impacted by these systems.
- \$40 Stipends per meeting paid to parents following monthly meeting via teams
- Parent Advisory reviewed and provided feedback on our referral form and phases of case management services



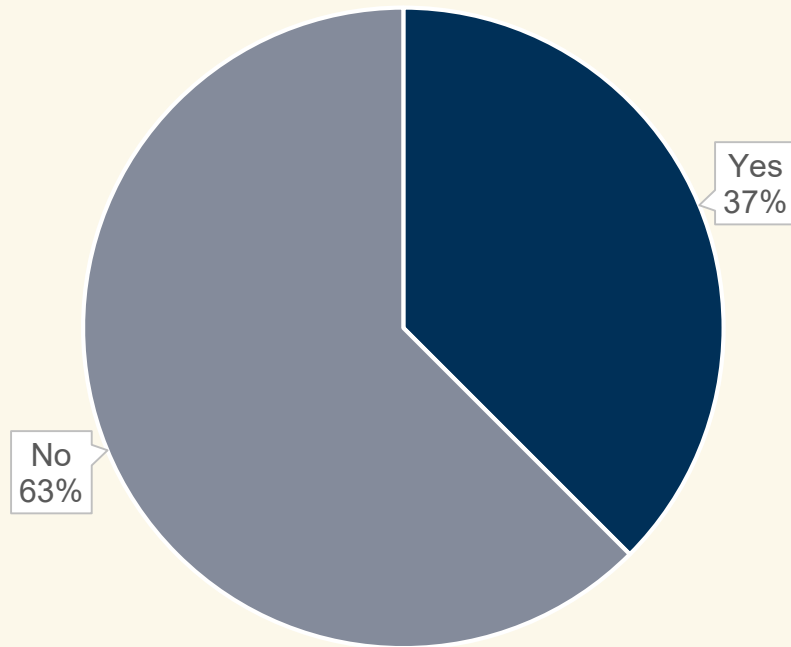
KFT Outcomes – as of 4.1.2023

- 32 referrals received, enrolled 20 households during CSH grant period
- Of the 20 families working with KFT:
 - 8 referrals were literally homeless and obtained housing
 - 5 referrals were able to resolve a housing crisis and maintain housing
- In Sherburne County
 - 20% of CP cases were closed more quickly due to KFT program
 - 53% of CP workers reported they felt the intervention of KFT prevented further abuse and neglect

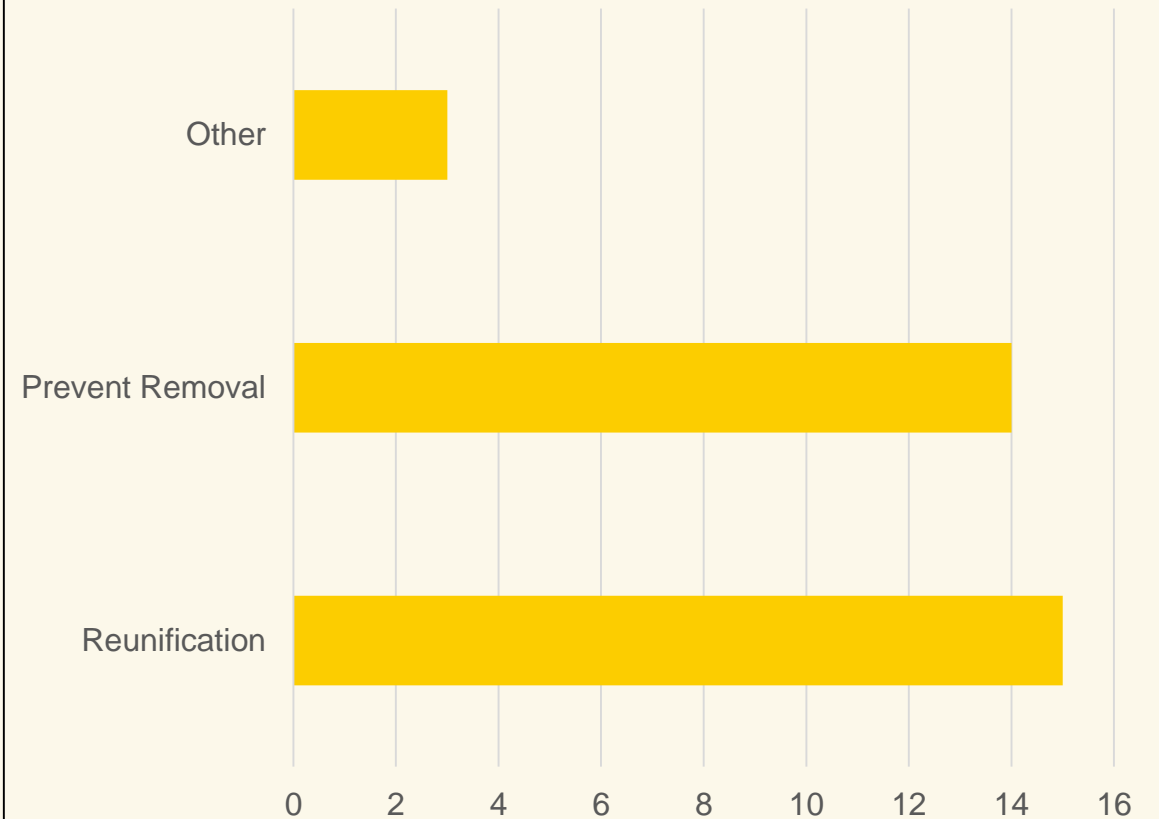


KFT data – as of 4.1.2023

History of contact with Homeless System at time of referral



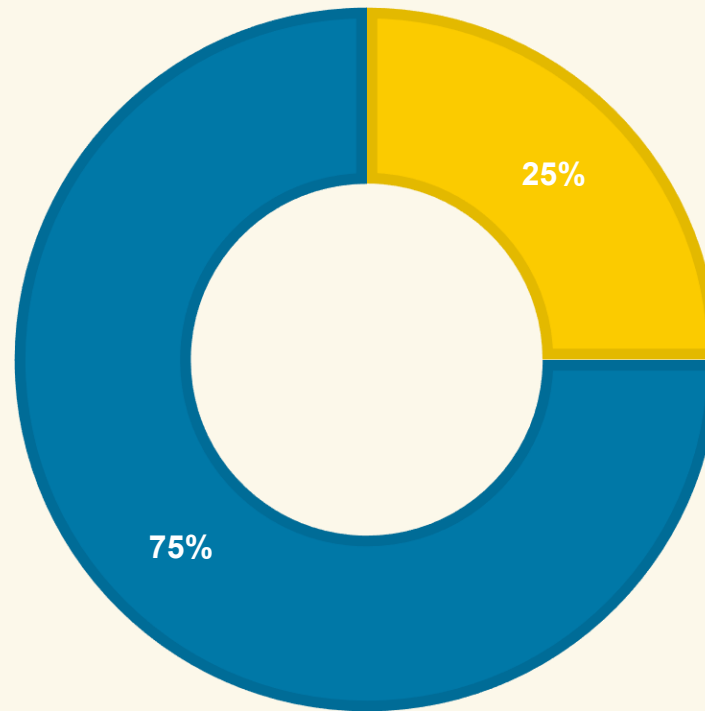
Type of Child Protection Case at Referral



KFT data – as of 4.1.2023

REFERRING COUNTY

■ Benton ■ Sherburne



Sustainability

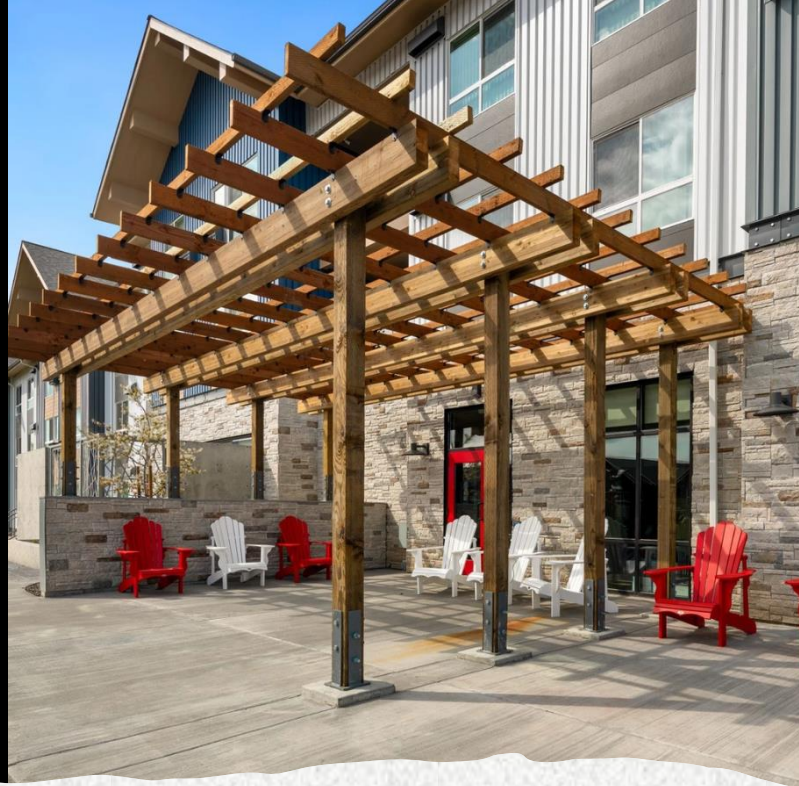
- Benton and Sherburne Counties have committed to sustaining the services
 - Will be using county funds for direct assistance
 - Opening referrals to all of Child Welfare (Child Protection, Parent Support Outreach, Truancy, etc.)
- LSS will hire another Part Time staff person for KFT (total of 1.5 FTE)



Keeping Families Together: Spokane

Initiative Highlights:

- Expanded services and support for families moving into Gonzaga Family Haven.
- Increased housing access and coordination for families exiting Rising Strong.
- Improved collaboration with Spokane Housing Authority and Department of Children Youth & Families, particularly around utilization of FUP vouchers.
- Enhanced local dialogue on need for preventative services targeting potential or current welfare system involved families.
- Community focus on need for improved data and story telling related to reducing foster care placements, time in care, and long-term stabilization.



Gonzaga Family Haven

73-unit property

On site we offer behavioral health services, case management, head start & early head start, community programming, garden space, scholarships to Gonzaga Prep & & more.

Family Treatment program for welfare involved families

- Mission:
 - Expedited reunification
 - Prevention of placement in system
 - Reduced returns to system
- On site:
 - Intensive Outpatient and Outpatient SUD programming
 - Individual & Family therapy
 - WISe Services for families
 - Peer led groups and support services
 - Intensive case management
 - System navigation support
 - Criminal justice support and advocacy

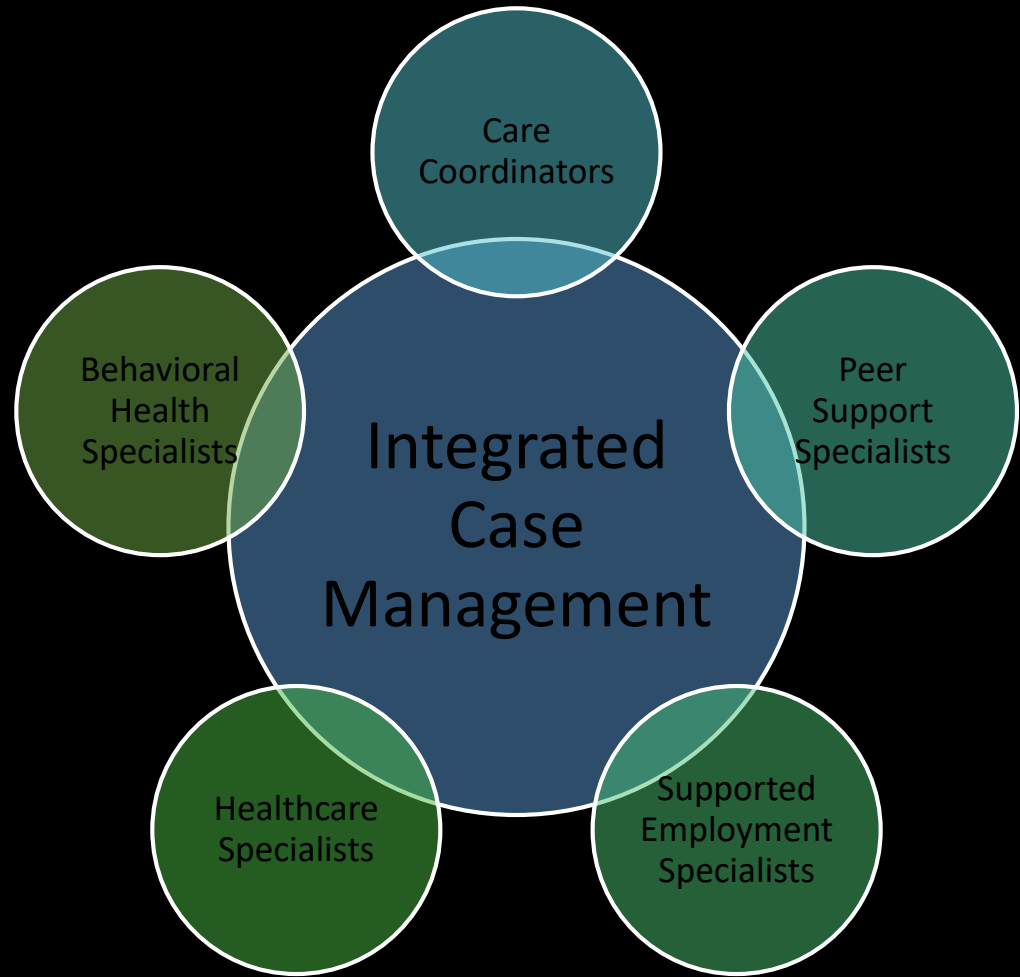




Additional Family Housing

- Sisters Haven – 75 supportive housing units
- Pope Francis Haven – 51 supportive housing units
- Scattered site family supportive housing – 26 units
- Mother Teresa Haven – 72 supportive housing units under construction (Est. completion 3/23)

The Service Model



Sharing Strategies & Ideas



[csh.org](https://www.csh.org)

Strategies to Advance KFT

- Build and strengthen multi-sector partnerships
 - Collaboration and agreements between agencies, sectors and initiatives to streamline pathways for families to access needed housing and services, secure resource commitments and adopt supportive standard agency operating procedures.
- Optimize Funding and Resources
 - Identify and align/connect existing housing stability strategies and resources across agencies
 - Leverage and prioritize federal and state and local funding for children, youth, and families
 - Prioritize housing strategies as part of new or planned prevention/family strengthening and child welfare efforts

Strategies to Advance KFT

- Share and utilize data across sectors/agencies to:
 - Understand and address racial disparities and disproportionality
 - Design and direct programs to match needs and ensure equitable and timely access to resources
 - Develop and monitor key performance indicators and measure results
- Create capacity within child welfare agency
 - Coordinate internal/external housing resources and provide staff support
 - Maintain partnerships to coordinate housing and services across agencies
 - System to identify/screen for family housing stability needs and connect to housing resources

How to find your local housing partners

Public Housing Authorities ([Directory Link](#))

Housing Finance Authorities ([Directory Link](#))

Homelessness Response System -
Continuum of Care ([Resource Map](#))

State, County and Local Government

Small Group Discussion

- Move into small groups of 4 – 5 people
- Share and discuss strategies you can do in your role to deepen or build new relationships with people and organizations with housing resources
- Identify 1 or 2 strategies to share with the large group



Thank You

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