CALL TO
Take Action Guide

Why Housing Matters

TAKE A NEXT STEP

Here are some possible steps as you take what you have learned and put it into action. Please contact us if you have any questions or need further assistance.

1. **INTEGRATE EFFORTS WITHIN A STRUCTURE FOR COLLABORATION**
   - Invite a housing professional to join your Steering and/or Oversight Committee
   - Discuss within your governance structure the values of Housing First and Supportive Housing
   - Discuss the importance of stabilizing housing as a means of engaging families in other services
   - Identify barriers that are directly affecting families and explore collaborative solutions
   - Establish a work-group or advisory board that focuses on housing

2. **LEARN WHAT FAMILIES NEED**
   - Conduct focus groups with families to identify what would help them immediately and achieve long-term success
   - Integrate housing into existing screening and assessment tools by asking the following: *In the past two months, have you been living in stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as part of a household? Are you worried or concerned that in the next two months you may NOT have stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as part of a household?*
   - Establish baseline data of the need for housing and share results
   - Invite supportive housing partners to Family Team Meetings, Family Group Decision Making Meeting, or Family Team conferences
   - Prioritize family voice in all planning and decision making
   - Listen!
CONDUCT
COMMUNITY MAPPING

3

- Gain a solid understanding of existing partnerships your child welfare agency with local housing programs
- Identify services and resources needed for supportive housing
- Identify gaps in services and resources
- Scan and identify the community for existing initiatives, services, and resources
- Develop an Action Plan based on the findings
- Share the results with partner agencies and community
- Develop a process for updating the Community Map or re-mapping

LEARN AND SHARE WHAT PARTNERSHIPS HAVE TO OFFER

4

- Talk to your local housing authority and other housing providers about what families need. Explain how a partnership can help preserve or reunite families
- Learn what they can offer your families, such as: Family Unification Program vouchers; Veterans or other targeted vouchers; development-based and housing choice vouchers; case management and economic empowerment programs
- Share what your team can offer housing providers so they can be "consumer-ready," including: intensive case management support; substance use disorder and mental health treatment; trauma-informed approach; parenting classes; drug testing; and monitoring and court oversight

CONTACT US

5

- Contact us about FTCs and court teams that have succeeded in partnering with to secure supportive housing for families
- Contact us about training and technical assistance resources
- Contact us at fdc@cffutures.org
- Visit: www.cffutures.org

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