



Avalon Housing, Inc. is one of four sub-grantees taking part in the Corporation for Supportive Housing’s (CSH) Social Innovation Fund initiative to address one of the most pressing policy problems currently facing the nation: rising public health care costs associated with fragmented and uncoordinated care that result in poor health outcomes for some of our most vulnerable citizens. In nearly every state, a tragic “revolving door” of emergency room visits, in-patient hospitalizations, detox stays, and involvement in other costly crisis health services contributes to rising Medicaid costs for people who are homeless and who have complex health care needs. The initiative pilots an innovative model of supportive housing linked to coordinated primary and behavioral health care in four different sites across the country (San Francisco, Los Angeles, Connecticut and Washtenaw County) that target homeless high utilizers of crisis health services.

The initiative is jointly funded by the **Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)** and the **Corporation for National and Community Services (CNCS)** and backed by the prestigious Social Innovation Fund. The grant, now in it’s fourth year, provides a federal award of \$200,000 per year for five years. The grant must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis in cash with eligible non-federal matching funds. CSH provides one-on-one technical assistance to Avalon Housing focusing on strengthening local partnerships; aligning housing, care management, and health services; joint client identification and recruitment; raising matching funds; and engaging with policy makers.

WASHTENAW FUSE PARTNERS

Lead Agency

Avalon Housing, Inc.

Non-profit Housing and Service Providers

Ann Arbor Housing Commission (AAHC)
Michigan Ability Partners (MAP)
Washtenaw Housing Alliance
Shelter Association of Washtenaw County
Religious Action for Affordable Housing

Substance Abuse Treatment

Dawn Farm Community of Programs
Home of New Vision

Integrated Health

University of Michigan Hospital System
Saint Joseph Mercy Health System
Huron Valley Ambulance
Packard Health
Washtenaw Health Plan
Washtenaw Health Initiative

Government

Community Support and Treatment Services
Project Outreach Team (PORT)
Office of Community and Economic Development

Funding

CSH Social Innovation Fund grant
Saint Joseph Mercy Health System
Washtenaw County Coordinated Funding

Evaluation

NYU

For more information about the CSH Social Innovation Fund Initiative and the subgrantees, visit csh.org/sif

Jason T Omo
Manager, Compliance and Evaluation
Avalon Housing, Inc.
Email: jomo@avalonhousing.org
Phone: 734-663-5858 ext. 231

Aubrey Patino, LMSW
Clinical Director
Avalon Housing, Inc.
Email: apatino@avalonhousing.org
Phone: 734-663-5858 ext. 224

Carole McCabe
Executive Director
Avalon Housing, Inc.
Email: cmccabe@avalonhousing.org
Phone: 734-663-5858 ext. 214

Washtenaw Frequent Users Systems Engagement (FUSE)

Washtenaw FUSE provides housing and coordinated primary and behavioral health care to 100 homeless frequent users of emergency health services in Washtenaw County. These individuals are identified through the analysis of administrative data from hospitals, shelters and the Community Mental Health system. Care coordination is provided by an intensive case management team working with multi-disciplinary community partners including two major hospital systems, Community Mental Health, our FQHC, substance abuse treatment providers, and homeless shelter staff and advocates. The end result is a patient-centered medical home that provides for housing stability and improved health outcomes for the client, and cost savings to the community.

TARGET POPULATION

Men and women who meet all of the following criteria:

- Very low-income
- Have a diagnosed mental health condition or substance abuse disorder and/or one or more chronic physical health conditions
- Homeless or in persistent housing crisis
- High utilizers of crisis health services

KEY FEATURES AND INNOVATIONS

Cross-System Partnerships: A comprehensive and diverse collaborative of hospitals, housing agencies, primary and behavioral health care providers, nonprofit social service organizations and government agencies

Data-Driven Strategy: Administrative data matched across multiple systems to identify the specific target population

Outreach, Recruitment and Engagement: Assertive outreach into crisis service, institutional settings and homeless service settings

Housing Resources: Housing resources are provided by Avalon Housing, the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, Housing Choice Vouchers, and HUD PSH vouchers.

Integrated Health and Housing Services: The combination of supportive housing with intensive case management and coordinated client-centered primary and behavioral health care

Evidence-based Practices: Based on Housing First principles, the Critical Time Intervention case management model and a Harm Reduction approach to substance abuse

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Participant Level

- Improve physical and mental health, decrease mortality rates and reduce substance abuse
- Reduce homelessness and increase housing stability
- Reduce emergency room utilization
- Reduce medical and psychiatric inpatient admissions and hospital days
- Reduce utilization of detox facilities, shelters, jails and other crisis service systems

Systems Level

- Increase visibility, awareness and understanding
- Reduce public and private health care costs
- Break down systemic barriers to coordinated primary and behavioral health care and enhance the quality of care delivered
- Integrate affordable housing resources with the health care system
- Build a solid base of evidence for supportive housing's effectiveness as a health care solution
- Engage local and state level policymakers to stimulate system changes that work toward sustaining and disseminating the model of care

PROGRAM SERVICES

- Assertive outreach and engagement
- Intake and comprehensive needs assessment
- Connection to affordable housing and vouchers
- Intensive case management
- Coordinated primary and behavioral health care
- Medication management
- 24-hour crisis intervention
- Landlord-tenant mediation and eviction prevention
- Community living supports
- Legal advocacy
- Employment and education support