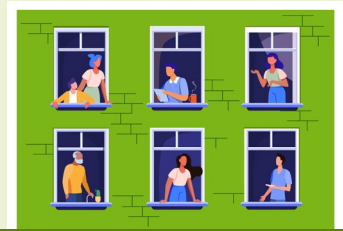


# Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration Program

Mesa Community Action Network



## About the Grant Recipient

Mesa Community Action Network (MesaCAN) is a community action agency (CAA) that helps individuals and families with low to moderate incomes in Mesa, Arizona gain housing and economic stability. MesaCAN provides supportive services related to medical and mental health services, education, housing, nutrition, parenting, workforce development, and finances to families living in affordable housing units.

## About the Award

MesaCAN has been awarded \$250,000 through the Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration (AHSSD) program, administered by the Office of Community Services (OCS). With this funding, MesaCAN will expand housing and supportive services for 126 households residing in the La Mesita Affordable Housing Campus to help improve their self-sufficiency and long-term economic security by:

- Improving access to transportation by providing bus passes, light rail passes, and ride share vouchers.
- Expanding residents' access to a case manager to increase their awareness of the supportive services available, including financial wellness, youth and adult education, afterschool and summer child care, and GED preparation.
- Hiring an activities coordinator and personal development coaches who will provide a comprehensive list of onsite and offsite community resources that are available to residents, encourage uptake of these services, and coordinate referrals to those services.
- Providing referrals and connections to resources to help meet resident needs using an online network that connects health care providers and local social service agencies.

## Combining Affordable Housing with Supportive Services

Affordable housing provides a place to live for individuals and families with low incomes, but sometimes housing alone is not enough to help residents achieve safety, stability, and economic mobility.

Barriers to housing stability include, but are not limited to, having a low income, mental and physical health challenges, limited education, and limited English proficiency.

Combining supportive services with affordable housing has been shown to be an effective strategy for helping vulnerable populations maintain a stable home, while moving toward economic mobility and self-sufficiency.

## About the Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration (AHSSD) Program

In fiscal year 2023, [OCS](#) within the [Administration for Children and Families](#) (ACF) at the U.S. [Department of Health and Human Services](#) launched AHSSD, a brand new demonstration program. OCS awarded nearly \$2.1 million to nine grant recipients — eight CAAs and the Chickasaw Nation — across the country to strengthen and enhance the wraparound supportive services available to residents living in affordable housing communities. This funding will provide supportive services to affordable housing residents in Alaska, Arizona, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, and Virginia. With this funding, grant recipients will increase their capacity to help families living in affordable housing access wraparound supportive services to improve their overall safety, stability, and economic mobility.