

# Five Things

## You Need to Know About the Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration



The Office of Community Services (OCS) announced the grant recipients of the Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration (AHSSD). AHSSD funds will strengthen and enhance wraparound supportive services for residents living in affordable housing. Here are five things you need to know about the new AHSSD program:

### 1. Housing instability poses challenges to the health of families.

One in four renters spend over half of their income on rent.<sup>1</sup> A lack of available affordable housing increases the likelihood of homelessness, unsafe housing conditions, and frequent moves for households with low incomes.<sup>2</sup> Housing instability hurts children's ability to learn and form relationships with their peers.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, experiences of housing instability are also related to interpersonal violence and parental depression.<sup>4</sup>

### 2. Affordable housing and supportive services improve families' well-being.

Studies have shown that the provision of affordable housing with wraparound supportive services improves parents' mental health, sense of self-efficacy, and parenting skills.<sup>5,6,7</sup> Secure affordable housing may also reduce intimate partner violence and improve children's engagement in school.<sup>8,9</sup>

### 3. AHSSD provides a range of services to support families.

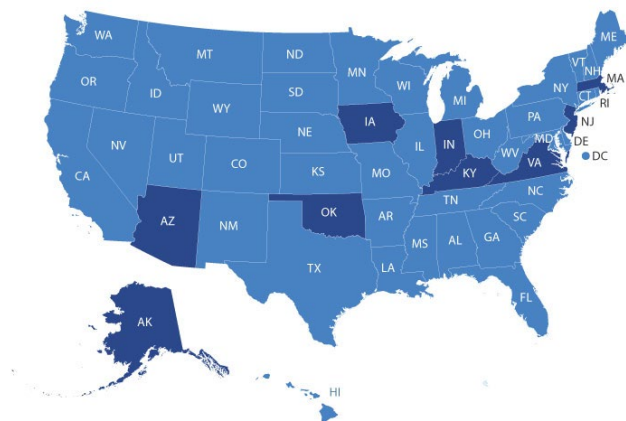
Grant recipients will provide at least two of the following wraparound supportive services: education for youth or adults; out-of-school time programs; early childhood education; older adult care; mental health and substance use disorder care; services for people with disabilities; homeownership resources; financial literacy training; transportation; and health care.

### 4. AHSSD provides an opportunity for OCS to learn more about how award recipients improve outcomes for individuals and families.

Grant recipients will work to improve short-term outcomes related to the safety, stability, and economic mobility of individuals and families, as well as long-term community-based outcomes related to improvements in overall health.

### 5. The AHSSD demonstration program will support grant recipients in 8 states and 1 tribe.

Fiscal Year 2023 AHSSD grant recipients are located in Alaska, Arizona, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Virginia.



## References

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