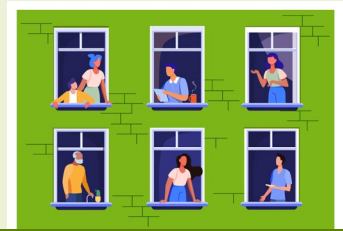


Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration Program

Northwest Indiana Community Action



About the Grant Recipient

Northwest Indiana Community Action (NWICA) is a community action agency (CAA) that provides families with low incomes in Porter and LaPorte Counties, Indiana with financial literacy and housing stability services so they can achieve economic stability and live healthy lives. NWICA enhances and expands supportive services available to residents in its more than 200 affordable housing units with the goal of creating communities in which families with low incomes can thrive.

About the Award

NWICA 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, NWICA will expand its capacity to provide supportive services for affordable housing residents by:

- Hiring a new full-time resident services coordinator who will work with residents to determine their needs and connect them with the supportive services to address those needs as well as make referrals and assist with benefits applications.
- Hiring an information technology analyst who will identify and implement technology solutions to better connect residents to essential social services.
- Enhancing the types of support services provided to older adults and individuals with disabilities by engaging partners to help them explore and navigate in-home care systems that allow residents to remain safely in their homes.
- Providing residents with classes and coaching on topics related to health, financial literacy, workforce development, and mental health to improve residents' well-being and housing stability.

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.