

# OVERVIEW OF THE FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY DEMONSTRATION DEVELOPMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

Annalisa Mastri, Julia Lyskawa, and Miranda Kharsa



In 2021, the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), in coordination with the Office of Family Assistance, launched the two-year Family Self-Sufficiency Demonstration Development (FSSDD) grants. Twenty grant recipient organizations received funding to engage in evaluation-related activities and strengthen their client-centered approaches to serving families who are eligible for, or at risk of becoming eligible for, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. These approaches target outcomes related to employment and family well-being. Exhibit 1 highlights the grant recipient organizations and their FSSDD grant projects.

As part of their award, grant recipients receive research and evaluation technical assistance through the Supporting Evaluation Efforts for Demonstrations in Self-Sufficiency (SEEDS) project. OPRE contracted with Mathematica and The Adjacent Possible to provide this support. The technical assistance is intended to help grant recipients build their capacity to use and conduct research and evaluation to make evidence-driven decisions. With increased capacity, grant recipients become better equipped to improve their services and programs during the grant period and beyond. It is also intended to position them to participate in future rigorous evaluations.

## Types of research and evaluation support available to FSSDD grant recipients

Grant recipients have regular, one-on-one consultations with a dedicated team of SEEDS coaches who help them document their programs, identify implementation challenges, develop solutions, and rigorously test them on a small scale. In addition, grant recipients can participate in a range of additional activities, such as:

- Learning communities, during which subject matter experts present information about a specific topic and then facilitate group discussion and application of the content
  - One-on-one consultations with subject matter experts, including those with expertise in evaluation design, two-generation approaches, dissemination, and other topics
  - Trainings and one-on-one consultations about culturally responsive and equitable evaluation (CREE), such as a CREE expert review of research and evaluation materials developed by grant recipients
  - Training in specific methods, such as qualitative data collection and analysis and how to conduct an analytic pilot test
  - Review of evaluation plans and data collection tools by methods experts
- Support for telling their story to key audiences

## Exhibit 1. Highlights of grant recipient organizations and their projects

Organization	Project Highlights
Ascentria	Ascentria provides a wide range of services to children and families throughout New England, including teen parenting programs, foster care, refugee services, in-home care for elderly individuals, and mental health services. Ascentria is partnering with residents of their Young Parent Living Program to design services that align with their new culturally responsive assessment tool, Equipped to Thrive.
Bethany Christian Services (BCS)	BCS' Reaching Independence Through Supportive Employment (RISE) program will offer social services on-site, as well as informed referrals to additional community resources, to employees of partner employers. BCS is developing a logic model and refining the RISE implementation through this grant.
Better Tomorrows	Better Tomorrows provides social services and related programming at 120+ affordable housing communities. The team is gathering feedback from staff and participants of the afterschool and job readiness programs to design logic models, develop outcome measures and data collection tools, and inform strategic program improvements.
Brighton Center	Brighton Center's intervention, Pathway to Self-Sufficiency, bundles services from multiple programs using a holistic approach. During the grant period, Brighton Center is defining key outcomes and conducting an implementation study.
CommUnify	CommUnify's Family Self Sufficiency Program helps clients identify and remove barriers around their housing, education, and employment goals. CommUnify uses collaborative empowerment case management and supportive services to achieve this. These supportive services can include rental assistance, energy services, financial literacy, and partner referrals.
Community Partnership of Southeast Missouri (CPSEMO)	CPSEMO's intervention, Empowering Dads to Gain Employment (EDGE), helps non-custodial parents (primarily fathers) find rapid employment and resume regular child support payments. CPSEMO is refining their data collection and entry processes, developing a logic model and evaluation plan, and planning to conduct an outcomes study of the EDGE program.
Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC)	CITC is the tribally authorized nonprofit provider of wraparound social services to Alaska Native/American Indian people in Alaska's Cook Inlet Region. CITC is implementing and planning to evaluate the Five Factors Assessment, a participant-focused, multi-generation, goal setting tool.
Families Forward Virginia (FFV)	In FFV's intervention, CHIP of Virginia, registered nurses and parent educators visit families in their homes to encourage healthy behaviors during pregnancy, coach families on child health and development, address parental health concerns, and promote family stability and economic well-being. FFV is using the grant to prepare for a rigorous evaluation of CHIP.
FamilyWise Services	FamilyWise Services offers services to improve parenting skills, create safe home environments, and help parents connect to their community. FamilyWise is documenting and enhancing the ways program staff help families build self-sufficiency by tapping into their "Natural Supports," networks of existing relationships and community assets to support parenting. FamilyWise is developing and testing a staff resource toolkit to ensure all families get the support they need to identify, build, and access their Natural Supports.
Family Assistance for Renaissance Men (F.A.R.M.)	F.A.R.M. provides peer mentoring services for fathers, father and child relationship building, job skills training, and legal assistance. In addition to developing a new database and set of data collection and entry procedures, F.A.R.M. is building staff capacity to conduct research, including a study of participant outcomes.

Organization	Project Highlights
Hennepin County	Hennepin County's intervention, Teen HOPE, provides integrated case management and home visiting services to young parents. Teen HOPE developed a logic model and documented its implementation strategies. They are road testing a new paired staffing approach with their public health nurses and case managers to improve service delivery.
HomeFront	HomeFront offers holistic services for clients experiencing homelessness or living in deep poverty. HomeFront is developing a logic model and related outcome metrics for its Family Campus model, a one-stop social services campus that provides emergency shelter, case management, job and career supports, health and wellness services, child care, and social and cultural enrichment activities.
Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA)	HACA provides housing assistance and place-based services to more than 5,900 families. HACA is gathering feedback from residents on their engagement in services to help inform resident needs and understanding of HACA services. This data collection will inform the design, implementation, and testing of key elements of their unified service model that aims to better integrate services across four service pillars.
Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington (KCSC)	KCSC, a community-based organization serving a diverse Asian immigrant and Asian American community, is developing its trauma-informed, integrated case management approach for its Victims Services program. KCSC is using the grant to improve its data collection and quality, redesign its intake process, and conduct a road test of trauma-informed care resources for staff.
Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI)	LSI's Immigrant and Refugee Community Services (IRCS) provides culturally and linguistically appropriate services to refugee and immigrant populations in central and northwest Iowa. IRCS provides family services, economic development, and workforce and education programming to promote long-term self-sufficiency and help individuals/families realize their goals and dreams in their new communities. LSI is gathering feedback on and refining their internal referral and intake processes.
Maggie's Place	Maggie's Place offers housing, support services, and educational programming to pregnant and parenting women. They are documenting the alumni program, road testing a new client assessment, and developing new outcome measures.
Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS)	For nearly 100 years, NVFS has provided a wide range of services to families across 1,300 square miles in the Northern Virginia region of the Washington, D.C. metro area. NVFS is using the grant to build its quality assurance capacity and transition to a more integrated service delivery model.
OneHeart	OneHeart provides transitional housing and wraparound services for families and individuals on a four-acre campus. OneHeart is using the grant to build the foundation for evaluation of its impact with an eye toward replication and scaling.
Project Self-Sufficiency (PSS)	PSS provides co-located, comprehensive family stability and economic self-sufficiency services on a five-acre campus. PSS is preparing for an evaluation of its case management approach within its Career Center. They designed, implemented, and are currently road testing a career readiness assessment that helps determine whether someone will receive Career Center services.
Urban Neighborhood Initiatives (UNI)	UNI provides youth employment programs, in which youth learn specialized skills, financial literacy, and professionalism. UNI is developing tools and methods for evaluating longer-term outcomes, creating a database for tracking youth outcomes, collecting information to improve program delivery, and building staff capacity to conduct evaluations of their programs.

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Authors: Annalisa Mastri, Julia Lyskawa, and Miranda Kharsa

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Project officers: Amelia Popham, Emily Ross, Sarita Barton, and Siri Warkentien  
Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation

Project director: Annalisa Mastri  
Mathematica  
1100 First Street, NE, 12th Floor  
Washington, DC 20002-4221

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