The Family Support Project addresses the needs of those experiencing, or at risk for, homelessness. The Family Support Project addresses the most basic provision of shelter before tackling other areas of need. Once housing or rental assistance is secured, families begin intensive case management and services.

"Through the home visiting services at the Family Support Project, one mother became empowered to advocate for her son’s needs at school. This resulted in his improved academic performance and improved the relationship between son and mom. Sometimes having someone believe in you makes all the difference."

-Family Support Project program staff
FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT
PONY EXPRESS PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

SERVING children ages birth to 5 who are homeless or at risk for homelessness

Supporting those experiencing, or at-risk of homelessness with help finding housing and intensive case management

STRATEGIES

1. Parent education
2. Homelessness/transitional housing
3. Home visiting
4. Resource and referral
5. Love and Logic classes
FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT
PONY EXPRESS PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

CHALLENGES

• Of the 178 families seen by the Pony Express Partnership for Children in 2014, 60% were homeless or at risk for homelessness and 52% were unemployed.

• When families are living in poverty and preoccupied with providing for basic needs, the risk for abuse rises.

• 46% of elementary aged children in Marshall County receive free and reduced lunch.

SOLUTIONS

• Rental assistance on a step-down scale, as well as case management and intensive family support

• Intensive family support services using the Housing First Model (immediate rental and housing assistance before any other step)

• Children are provided a safe and stable place to sleep, grow, and learn

• Of the 18 adults receiving rental assistance, 10 obtained employment or better employment

• One parent completed his General Education Diploma, one resumed college classes online, one completed a Certified Med Aide certification, and one was connected with a Retired and Senior Volunteer Program person to help her learn to read

SPECIAL POPULATION OUTREACH

• Serves homeless families and families at risk of homelessness

• Several families served received Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Income

• Families are connected with resources that work on behalf of children with disabilities

• Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are extensively discussed during home visits to inform family needs

COLLABORATION

• THRIVE, a group composed of hospital staff, school administration, early interventionists, and family service providers focus on the improved health outcomes of their community meets monthly

• Referral partners include the local mental health agency, the county health department, schools and the hospital

• Educational collaboratives include Parents as Teachers (PAT), Head Start, Early Head Start, Infant Toddler Services, and the GED Program

EVIDENCE BASE

Emerging and Evidence-Informed: The Family Support Project uses the Housing First model, a peer reviewed and evidence-informed model.
FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT
PONY EXPRESS PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

**NUMBERS SERVED**

- Families: 41
- Caregivers: 56
- Children 0-1: 20
- Children 2-4: 23
- Children 5-11: 34
- Children 12-18: 7
- Age Unknown: 0

**TOTAL FUNDING: $66,800**

- CBCAP: $46,431
- ECBG: $8,442
- TRUST FUND: $5,427
- MATCH: $6,500

**OUTCOMES**

The percentage of families who scored 5 and above in the following PFS subscales increased from pre- to post-test:

- Family Functioning by 33%
- Concrete Support by 11%
- Nurturing and Attachment by 11%

There was no change for the Social Supports subscale from pre- to post-test.