FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT

PONY EXPRESS PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

The Family Support Project addresses the needs of families and children who are homeless, 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 are provided with intensive case management services.

STRATEGIES

• Homelessness/transitional housing
• Parent education
• Home visiting
• Resource and referral
• Love and Logic classes

“One family began the program facing eviction and saddled with multiple debts. We sat down and worked out a budget together. The family worked hard to stick to the budget and recently shared with me that they are DEBT FREE! To see the sense of accomplishment and pride they had makes every second of what we do with the CBCAP program worth it.”

- April Todd, Executive Director, Pony Express Partnership for Children
FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT PONY EXPRESS PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

CHALLENGES

• Of elementary aged children in Marshall County, 42% receive free and reduced lunch. ¹

• In 2017, the Family Support Project served 158 children who were homeless or at risk for homelessness.

• Families living in poverty and preoccupied with providing for basic needs are at higher risk for abuse.

SOLUTIONS

• Provide intensive family support services using the Housing First model (immediate rental and housing assistance before any other step).

• Increase self-sufficiency by providing rental assistance on a step-down scale.

• Provide intensive family support and case management through home visits.

• Refer families to community resources.

SPECIAL POPULATION OUTREACH

• Targeted families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness for program services.

• Coordinated with the Salvation Army and United Way and developed a broad outreach effort to help ensure that all families who need housing solutions are being reached.

COLLABORATION

• Fostered a new partnership with K-State Research and Extension to provide a Food Nutrition Program for families served.

• Partnered with Salvation Army and provided school supplies to 270 students across Marshall County.

• Worked with referral partners including the local mental health agency, the county health department, schools, and the hospital.

• Served on the board of directors for Pawnee Mental Health Services, and shared referrals to meet a wider range of needs for families.

• Collaborated with the County Educational Services Cooperative to help families of children with special needs navigate the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process and secure educational advocates when necessary.

EVIDENCE BASE


OUTCOMES

The number of families who scored a three or above increased between pre- and post-test on the following subscales of the PFS-2 (n = 7*):

- Family Functioning/Resilience by 35%
- Social Supports remained stable
- Caregiver/Practitioner Relationship remained stable

*The sample was too small to assess for statistical significance.

TOTAL FUNDING: $63,500

NUMBERS SERVED

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caregivers</td>
<td>71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children 0-1</td>
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<td>Children 2-4</td>
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<td>Children 5-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children 12-18</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age Unknown</td>
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"We want [families] to be able to stop and breathe and help them to focus on learning and growing instead of being in crisis mode."

- April Todd, Executive Director
Pony Express Partnership for Children