

FAMILY KEYS

A collaboration of communities, counties, and the state focused on supporting child welfare-engaged families experiencing housing instability.



What is Family Keys?

The focus of Family Keys is to support families involved in the child welfare system who are experiencing housing insecurity. Localized teams will work to **strengthen** partnerships between community-based services and **invest** in up-front costs to support more children and families in their homes. By utilizing **shared learning** in their communities and other participating teams, we hope to show that innovation in **how child welfare intersects with other agencies** can **prevent unnecessary removals, return youth** to their families sooner, and offer **cost savings** to the broader community.

Family Keys is designed to meet the needs of the partners involved, allowing for community-specific relationship-building, investment, and implementation.

We want to see families experience:

- More **stable housing**
- **Fewer child removals** related, in part, due to housing instability
- **Shorter stays** in out of home care if housing is a barrier to reunification
- **Choice** in their housing outcomes
- Improved **economic stability**
- **Increased engagement** between child welfare agencies and community

Who will be eligible?

Families involved with child welfare who have:

- An assessment being conducted related to safety concerns in the home **OR** an ongoing child welfare case
- Children at risk of removal from the home due to housing insecurity **OR** families unable to reunify due to a current lack of adequate housing

What do we hope to achieve?

Family Keys aims to be **community-specific, integrated with local resources, and adaptable**. It's a collaboration of cross-disciplinary stakeholders who want to see their communities thrive by supporting families who need support in managing a crisis or breaking through other housing-related challenges in their community.

Family Keys teams will be **innovative** in how they partner with local groups, businesses, and philanthropic organizations that can help identify and close gaps in quickly meeting family needs.

We're prioritizing short-term housing supports as we build a sustainable community approach.

Supports include:

Immediate housing: Short-term hotel vouchers & transitional housing

Incidentals: Security deposit, application fees, utility fees, transportation to housing meetings

Case management: Housing navigators will assist families as well as child welfare staff

