



Family Keys Screening Tools

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) provided technical assistance to Family Keys. The [Screening for Family Housing \(CSH\)](#) was a resource they shared.

CSH has found that a growing number of state and county child welfare agencies, community-based agencies, and other providers have integrated housing stability screening within their triage and assessment processes. Integration of housing stability screening within child welfare and community-based prevention efforts for families can:

- Serve as a valuable triage tool for those providing direct support and;
- Provide leaders with critical data to improve systems, programs, and housing investments.

Informally, counties based a family's readiness to participate in Family Keys with their overall participation in current programming and compliance with other services. Family Keys did not require counties to use a housing first model. Since families were required to have an open ongoing IA or CPS and/or YJ case most were already receiving services when asked if they wanted to participate in Family Keys.

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Each of the three pilot counties chose to enroll families into Family Keys based on their own internal processes.

The only criteria which DCF required were that families;

- Had an open initial assessment; or an open ongoing CPS and/or YJ order.
- The family also had to have a current housing issue; or a child was prevented from returning home due to housing instability.

These criteria were put into place as the intention was not to create a service which would attract families to enter the door to child welfare.

The goal of Family Keys was to work with other agencies, property owners, philanthropic organizations, financial institutions, religious organizations, civic groups, etc. to meet the needs of families with housing instability issues and not to fix housing.

Participating agencies found that there are numerous resources in the community, but it is time consuming for child welfare professionals to learn what the resources are and to build relationships. For those reasons it is recommended that agencies try to hire a housing navigator who has the lived experience and knowledge about housing supports.

