



HOME

AS THE FOUNDATION

*Supportive Housing &
Community Wellbeing*



Before we get started.... **What's CSH?**

A national nonprofit & Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) dedicated to ending homelessness through supportive housing.

With over **\$2.2 billion** invested in nearly 50 states, CSH partners with local leaders to **deliver technical assistance, policy advocacy, and financing** that create lasting impact.

The CSH Mid-Atlantic Team



**We support partners
throughout Delaware, D.C.,
Maryland, & Virginia**

Since 1991, CSH has **pioneered solutions that combine affordable housing with essential services**, helping communities reduce homelessness and build thriving neighborhoods.



Our Work in VA

CSH supports SH programs & projects across the state through **tailored training** opportunities, **lending & grant making**, and by providing **one-on-one technical assistance**.



2022

- CSH partners with DBHDS to offer specialized training and TA to SH providers
- CSH, DBHDS, & Housing& launch the Northern VA Supportive Housing Institute

2023

- CSH, DBHDS, Housing&, and Region 5 collaborate to create the first multi-regional VA Supportive Housing Institute
- The first round of SHI Project Initiation Grants are awarded to 4 projects

2024

- CSH, Virginia Housing, Housing&, & VHA take the Supportive Housing Institute statewide
- The second round of SHI grants are awarded to 9 projects

2025

- CSH, Virginia Housing, & VHA partner to provide property managers across the state with Trauma Informed PM Certifications

2026

- 50 property managers across Northern VA will have access to a FREE Trauma Informed Property Management Certification
- CSH & Virginia Housing will launch the first ever Virginia Operations Clinic
- Region 5 + CSH will release over \$8M in capital funding across the region

Collaboration & Community

Are the heart of what we do.

The Mid-Atlantic team and CSH share a deep commitment to building strong, healthy communities where **collaboration is the cornerstone of success**. By partnering with state agencies local & regional organizations, and service providers we **harness collective expertise and resources** to create housing solutions for those most vulnerable.

Our approach goes beyond bricks and mortar.

We seek to **foster dignity, stability, and opportunity through shared vision and action**. Together, we transform challenges into pathways for hope, **ensuring that every individual has a safe place to call home** and a **supportive network to thrive**.



Pouring the Foundation



Homelessness is Harmful

For Individuals

Homelessness exposes individuals to constant stress, instability, and health risks, making it harder to heal and thrive.

For Communities

Policy choices that create and exacerbate homelessness reflect deep challenges within communities.

For Systems

Homelessness places immense pressure on care systems like hospitals, shelters, and emergency response units.

Homelessness harms people by creating instability and health risks, challenges communities by eroding shared safety and belonging, and overburdens care systems that are forced to respond to crises instead of focusing on long-term solutions.



Understanding Community Need in Virginia

Housing Affordability and Supply

- Virginia faces a severe shortage of deeply affordable housing units, especially for individuals with extremely low incomes and supportive service needs.
- Over 21,000 units are needed to meet demand for people currently in crisis or institutional systems.

Regional Variations

- **Urban areas:** High housing costs and long voucher waitlists
- **Rural areas:** Limited providers, transportation gaps, and fewer mental/behavioral health services



What is Supportive Housing?

Supportive housing **combines affordable housing with support services** that help **people who face the most complex challenges** to live with **stability, autonomy, and dignity**. Supportive housing is an **innovative and data-driven solution** that helps people break the cycle of homelessness and thrive.

It Works!

Supportive housing helps people achieve stability, improve health, find employment, and succeed in school, while offering a foundation for recovery from substance use. It empowers individuals to live safer, healthier, and more productive lives.

It's Fiscally Responsible

Supportive housing costs about the same as leaving people homeless, who often cycle through expensive crisis systems like emergency rooms, jails, and shelters. Instead of paying for instability, supportive housing invests in lasting solutions that change lives.

It Improves Public Safety

Supportive housing strengthens communities by improving neighborhood safety, revitalizing properties, and stabilizing property values over time. It creates healthier, more vibrant places for everyone to thrive.



Why SH in VA?



Meeting a Statewide Need

The 2024 Point In Time Count estimates that there were 1,278 people unsheltered Virginians on the night of the count.



Breaking Harmful Cycles

A 2022 DBHDS report found the state needs 7,220 supportive housing units for people with serious mental illness who cycle through multiple systems.



Bridging the Gap

Supportive housing ends homelessness and costly crises for people with the greatest health and economic challenges.

Vision Requires Action

Through collaboration, we are **transforming challenges into opportunities.**

- Funders bring critical investment,
- Developers create quality housing,
- Service providers deliver the wraparound supports that make stability possible.

Together, these partnerships form a **powerful network** committed to **reducing obstacles, streamlining processes, and building pathways to housing for individuals and families who need it most.**

This collective effort demonstrates that when communities work together, lasting change is not only possible—
it's inevitable.



Building the Field



GOOD SUPPORTIVE HOUSING *IS SUSTAINED BY* STRONG PARTNERSHIPS



**Funders &
State Agencies**



**Developers &
Community Organizations**



**Current Tenants &
Persons with Lived
Experience**





Any volunteers?

Partnerships *at the* Community Level



Expanding the Table

- Engaging new partners or deepening understanding of their roles can reduce duplication, expand resources, and spark fresh ideas in community discussions.
- Clearly defining each partner's role, capacity, and contributions strengthens collaboration across systems.

Formalizing Agreements

- Standard, written agreements (*kept as living documents*) clarify roles and responsibilities.
- These documents help resolve disagreements, maintain continuity during staff changes, and provide a clear structure for group operations.

Sustaining Momentum

- A shared mission and group values can help realign and energize the community when progress stalls.
- Clarifying partners' roles and capacity informs clear directives and removes barriers to collaboration.

Overcoming Disagreements

- Disagreements and miscommunication will happen! Plan for them and stay transparent about next steps. When uncertain, return to your shared mission.

Fidelity as the Foundation

Supportive housing is evidence-based, but success depends on partners committed to fidelity and delivering housing and services to best-practice standards.

Fidelity in Supportive Housing

- Set shared community priorities using local and regional data.
- Integrate supportive housing into the community and ensure locations are accessible.
- Provide individuals with real choice and autonomy in selecting where and how they live.



in **Supportive Housing**



Framing Partnerships *with* **Fidelity**

Ask your community:

*What do we know from both **hard data** and **lived experience**?*

*Where are community members encountering the **greatest barriers** and **gaps**?*

*Who is **most at risk** if the system remains unchanged?*

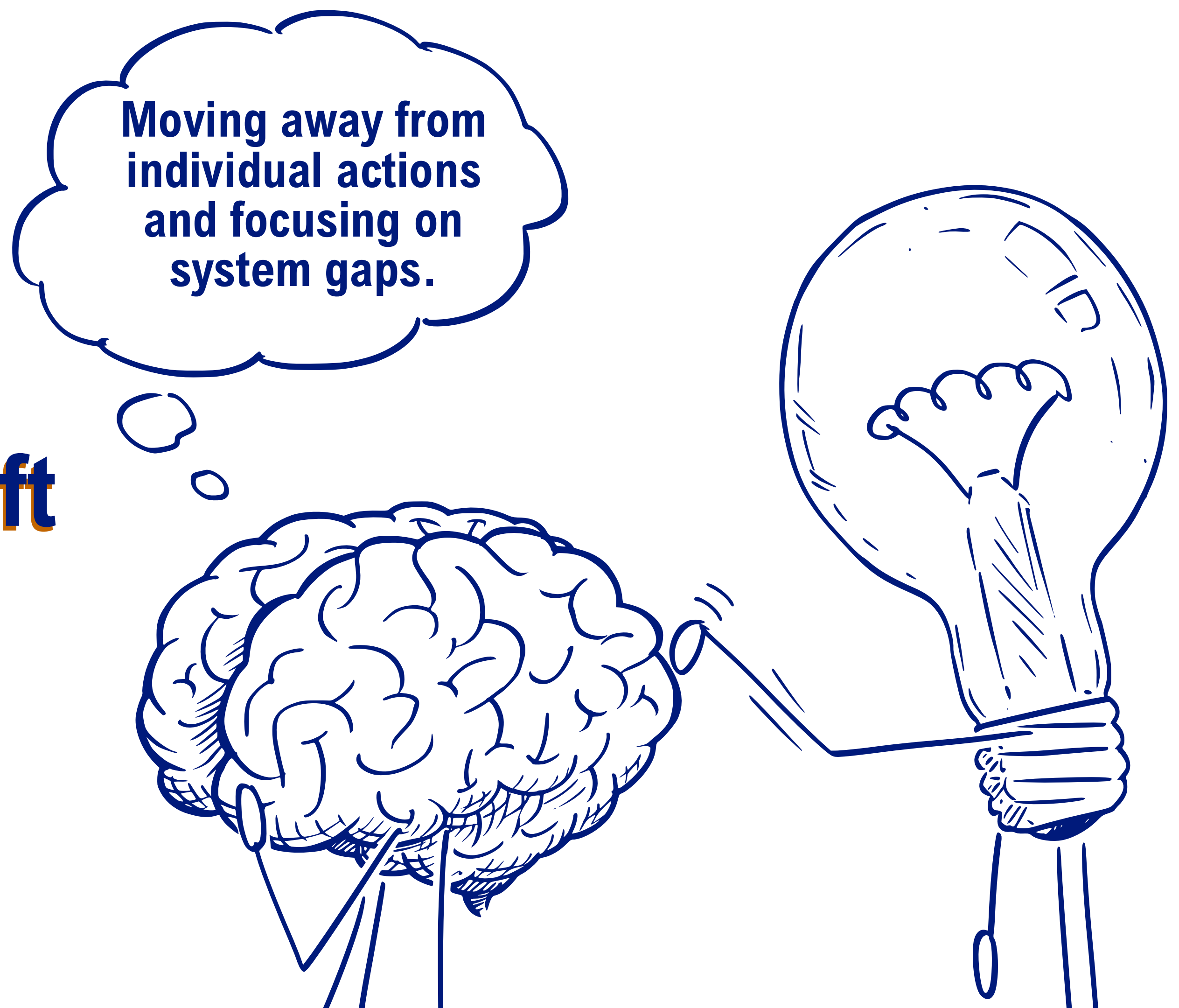
*Who is **missing from the conversation**, and how can we **bring them to the table**?*



Promoting Community Wellness



Mindset Shift



Holistic Community Wellness

What it means:

Prioritize care for the most vulnerable (*such as those experiencing homelessness*) while **building systems** that **promote safety, stability, and well-being for all.**

Key Actions:

- **Focus on Community Impact:** Direct resources to those with the greatest needs first.
- **Integrate Services:** Connect housing, healthcare, and social supports into a seamless system.
- **Ensure Accessibility:** Locate services and housing in areas that are safe, reachable, and inclusive.
- **Empower Choice:** Give individuals autonomy in where they live and how they receive support.
- **Build Resilience:** Create policies and programs that strengthen long-term community stability.



Reframe the Narrative

Folx experiencing homelessness in our communities are **our neighbors**. **Shifting the mindset** means **moving from blaming individuals** to addressing the **systemic barriers** that **create inequities...and taking action to fix them.**

Normalize System-Level Conversations

- Use language that highlights structural issues (e.g., “service gaps,” “policy barriers”).
 - Incorporate system-focused framing in public meetings, newsletters, and social media.

Share Data & Lived Experience Together

- Present hard data alongside personal stories to show challenges are systemic, not individual.
 - Host community forums where people with lived experience speak about barriers they face.

Train Partners on Structural Causes

- Offer workshops for service providers, leaders, and community members on root causes.
 - Include topics like housing market trends, funding limitations, and policy constraints.

Build Accountability into System Design

- Create dashboards or scorecards tracking system performance (e.g., housing availability, service response times).
 - Publicly share progress and gaps to keep focus on improving systems.



Fidelity means...

NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US.

-Center for Disability Rights

Including people with lived experience is essential for making informed, person-centered decisions that truly reflect community needs. Setting the community up for success means:

**CLEAR
COMMUNICATION**

**INFORMED
CHOICE**

**GOAL SETTING ON
SHARED TERMS**

**COLLABORATIVE
PROBLEM SOLVING**

Before we go...

Picture one person in your community who might be impacted by today's discussion.

With that person in mind, **finish this sentence in your head:**
"This person is my neighbor, and I can support them by..."

Remember:

Community members aren't statistics,
they're our neighbors.

Every decision we make should reflect that truth.





THANK YOU!

Questions?

Let's Stay In Touch!
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csh.org