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CONNECTICUT HOUSING PROGRAM WINS FANNIE MAE FOUNDATION INNOVATIONS AWARD

STATE EFFORT IS ONE OF SEVEN OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO WIN \$100K PRIZE

WASHINGTON, DC— For its unique approach to ending chronic homelessness, the Supportive Housing Pilots Initiative in the state of Connecticut has won the 2006 Fannie Mae Foundation Innovations Award in Affordable Housing. The award – which comes with a \$100,000 prize – is a joint effort of the Fannie Mae Foundation and the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. The award is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

On any given day in the Nutmeg state, an estimated 2,800 individuals and families face long-term homelessness. The Supportive Housing program reaches out to these families through a case worker who helps rebuild the foundation under their lives. Beyond getting families and individuals into affordable housing (defined as less than one third of the tenant's income), case workers also help them navigate government social service agencies, enroll their children in public schools, assist with employment readiness and job retention, and even help them furnish their new homes. Since the program targets people who have histories of mental and physical illness – which is often the trigger for the loss of a home – case workers also make sure their clients are receiving the medical and mental health care they need.

"It has been clear for decades that shelter alone does not solve the crisis of homelessness," said Stephen Goldsmith, Director of the Innovations in American Government Awards at Harvard's Ash Institute, "so Connecticut has taken a holistic approach. The program goes beyond shelter to reconnect individuals with communities, so that tenants also become neighbors." Two thirds of the program's tenants have remained in their new homes for three or more years.

The results of the program are impressive. Since 2001 the Supportive Housing Pilots Initiative has created more than 400 new households in 25 Connecticut communities for formerly homeless adults and families. A survey of 126 tenants who have remained in their homes for three years or more shows they have significantly lower (by 71%) Medicaid reimbursements because of their access to outpatient and preventative health care. The program also has a positive impact on communities, raising property values (an average of 30% across measured communities) and generating \$72 million in economic activity state-wide.

"The winning program shows us the unique approach Supportive Housing Pilots Initiative in Connecticut is taking to successfully address its local need for affordable housing," said Stacey D. Stewart, president and CEO of the Fannie Mae Foundation. "By recognizing and highlighting this program, we can demonstrate that solutions to the lack of affordable housing do exist and can be tailored to the changing realities of different cities, counties, and states."

Supportive Housing in Connecticut involves five different state agencies and has forged new and productive relationships among them and among the forty-plus community groups who help implement the program locally. Anne Foley of Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management encourages other social service agencies to work with offices like hers to launch supportive housing initiatives. "Budget officers love cost savings," she said. "We have every reason to facilitate inter-agency collaboration that benefits our bottom line."

The Supportive Housing Pilots Initiative in Connecticut is one of seven programs receiving this year's Innovations in American Government Awards. Each winner takes a unique approach to meeting community needs and achieving real results. Because each of these programs is a model for government's capacity to do good, and do it well, the \$100,000 prize specifically supports dissemination to other jurisdictions.

The Innovations in American Government Awards honor city, county, state, tribal and federal government initiatives that are truly creative, measurably effective, meet a significant need, and have the potential to be transferred to other jurisdictions. The 2006 award winners, selected from an initial pool of 1,000 applicants, include two federal, two state, one county, and two municipal programs. The efforts improve conservation, healthcare, housing, education, social services, and law enforcement. The winners will be formally announced this evening at dinner event in Washington, DC.

The Fannie Mae Foundation (<http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/>) creates affordable homeownership and housing opportunities through innovative partnerships and initiatives that build healthy, vibrant communities across the United States. The Foundation is specially committed to improving the quality of life for the people in its hometown, Washington, DC, and to enhancing the livability of the city's neighborhoods. The Foundation, a private nonprofit organization supported solely by Fannie Mae, has regional offices in Chicago; Dallas; and Pasadena, Calif. For more information on the Fannie Mae Foundation, please visit www.fanniemaefoundation.org.

The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation (<http://www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu/Ash/>) at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government fosters excellence in government around the world in order to generate and strengthen democracy. Through its awards program, research, publications, curriculum support, and global network, the Institute champions critical milestones in creative and effective governance and democratic practice.

The Council for Excellence in Government (<http://www.excelgov.org/>) is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to improve government performance by strengthening results-oriented management and creative leadership in the public sector, and to build understanding by focusing public discussion on government's role and responsibilities.

The Supportive Housing Initiative's May 25, 2006 presentation to the panel at Harvard's Kennedy School can be seen at the Ash Institute's website: <http://www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu/Ash/news.htm>. For more information on the Innovations in American Government program and this year's winners, visit www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu or www.excelgov.org.

Style Usage: The Fannie Mae Foundation is a separate legal entity from Fannie Mae (a NYSE-listed company). In order to facilitate clarity and avoid confusion, news organizations are asked to refer to the Foundation exclusively as "the Fannie Mae Foundation" or the Foundation," but not as "Fannie Mae."