

PROJECT NEW START

by Kendall-Grundy Community Action Agency

Region 5 • Yorkville, Illinois
Kendallhealth.org/community-action



Housing

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Project New Start connects families with vouchers and other services to move towards permanent housing and stability. The project utilizes a coordinated interagency effort with the Kendall County Health Department. The program began after residents who were homeless raised concerns about the practices of a privately-owned campground who was providing substandard accommodations and employed predatory practices like forcing residents to purchase propane from the campground and employing residents as security guards without proper training.

LOCAL NEED ADDRESSED

The Community Needs Assessment identified safe, affordable housing for families with low income, as well as basic needs support, as critical needs for the community.

ROLE OF CSBG FUNDS

CSBG funds directly supported collaboration and coordination efforts and program planning and implementation, including employment support, basic needs, and rental assistance.

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

Thanks to Project New Start, families have been housed and are making progress towards their goals. Because the campground sought and received a special use permit for long-term residents, the abandoned trailers were able to be used as



substandard housing without any access to inspection. In light of this, SB2466 was introduced in the Illinois General Assembly, giving counties the authority to revoke permits, especially when unsafe conditions exist in campgrounds.

EVIDENCE-BASED OUTCOMES

Families have been able to move to permanent housing. Data points include the use of the HMIS system to track families and utilization of STARS – Illinois' data tracking system – to collect program inputs and outputs. Documentation planning and use, intake processes, recordkeeping and meeting minutes all capture the potential replicability of the initiative.

EQUITY LENS

The project's potential to promote equitable practices

is especially apparent in the Illinois SB 2466, which will put an end to predatory practices that impact families with low income that experience homelessness.

CUSTOMER VOICE

The agency uses ethnographic interviewing as a way to engage customers wherever they are in life. These interviews are conducted face to face when possible, and in a space of the customer's choice. This technique brings in the voice of the customer in the communities the agency serves.

Contact

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