

The Problem

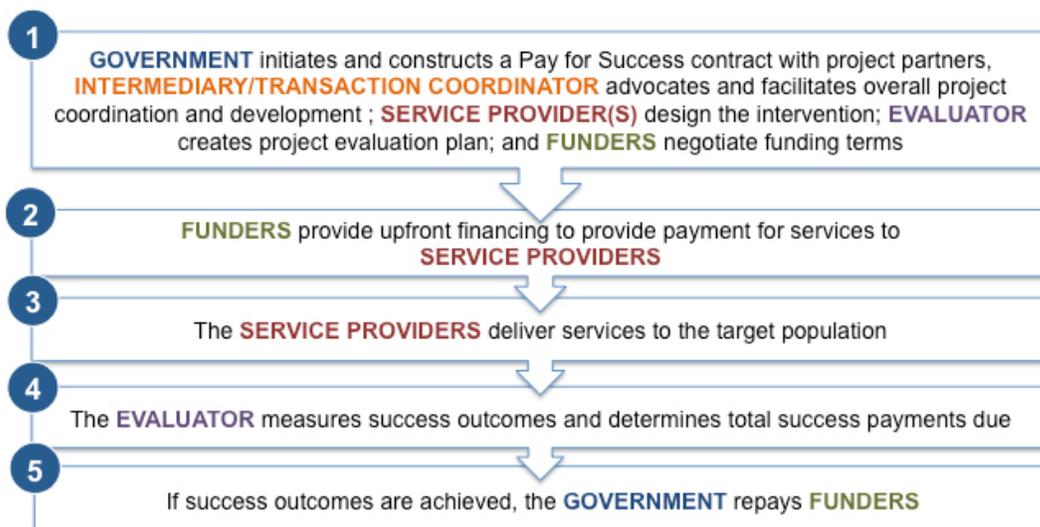
In Cuyahoga County and many communities around the country, gaps between the homeless continuum of care and child welfare systems leave many families at risk.

Caregivers without a stable home cannot reunify with their children, but the child welfare system has not previously had the resources or procedures in place to help parents obtain safe housing and stabilize their families. The unintended result is that children from homeless and housing insecure families spend longer periods in foster care and are left profoundly impacted by the loss of a consistent caregiver.



The Solution

Partnering for Family Success uses an innovative financing model known as Pay for Success that shifts financial risk for promising social programs from government agencies to private and philanthropic investors.



Source: Third Sector Capital Partners

This structure drives government resources toward high-performing programs in areas such as education, prison recidivism, child welfare, and homelessness. In the case of Cuyahoga County's Partnering for Family Success Program, five philanthropic organizations provided \$4 million in up-front capital to fund program operations. The majority of this funding flows to FrontLine Service, the project's service provider. Remaining funds support Case Western Reserve University as program evaluator and Enterprise as program manager and fiscal agent. Cuyahoga County will repay investors for their investment (and potentially a modest return) if and only if the program meets agreed-upon targets. In essence, pay for success ensures that taxpayers only pay for effective programs.

Using an **array of evidence-based services**, Partnering for Family Success attempts to bridge the services gap for families caught between the county's homelessness continuum of care and the Division of Children and Family Services. Case workers from FrontLine Service partner with families identified as having recent involvement in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or domestic violence shelter and whose children are in temporary foster care custody.



Working with approximately 45 families a year, FrontLine provides intensive case management and trauma therapy to help each family caregiver stabilize his/her housing situation, link to mental and physical health care, and reconnect with family members and other needed supports. Stabilizing and strengthening each caregiver allows families to reunify sooner, and prevents children from lingering in the foster care system indefinitely.

Data Driven Approach

The incorporation of a rigorous evaluation is a pillar of any pay for success project. Partnering for Family Success’s independent evaluator, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), is conducting a Random Control Trial to measure the program’s impact. The Cuyahoga evaluation is unique among pay for success projects; CWRU designed the evaluation to not only measure whether the intervention was effective in reducing foster care stays, but why it was or was not effective:



For researchers, governments, funders, and the service provider community as a whole, Partnering for Family Success will yield critical data on how to best support some of our community’s most vulnerable families and what changes to the current system are most needed.

Partners

Partnering for Family Success is a collaborative partnership that has brought together government, nonprofit, private, and philanthropic stakeholders in Cuyahoga County and beyond:



The Enterprise Role

Enterprise is one of the three contractual parties to the Partnering for Family Success contract and houses the program’s Special Purpose Vehicle. We serve as the program manager and fiscal agent for Partnering for Family Success. Enterprise facilitates bi-weekly meetings among PFS partners to track program outcomes in real time, manages the contract with Case Western Reserve University as independent evaluator, and serves as liaison between partners and PFS investors.

For questions related to Cuyahoga Partnering for Family Success, please contact:

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