



"Building strong, healthy, self-sufficient families since 1992"

Website: www.fscss.org

3545 7th Ave SW STE 200, Olympia, WA 98502

Phone: (360) 754-9297 Fax: (360) 943-1139

Contact: Trish Gregory
Telephone: 360-754-9297 ext. 206
Email: trishg@fscss.org
Website: www.fscss.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 9, 2021

Family Support Center Secures Final Funding to Build 62 Units of Permanent, Affordable Housing

Family Support Center of South Sound (FSC) is a multi-service agency that has served families in the South Sound since 1992, continually growing and adapting to meet the needs of Thurston County community. The agency focuses on building strong, resourceful, and hopeful families through collaborative programs, while reducing the negative impacts of poverty, homelessness, and family violence. Lack of affordable housing is currently one of the biggest barriers that families who are experiencing homelessness face on their way to finding a permanent home of their own. It is not uncommon for families to wait weeks, sometimes up to six months, to find a permanent home. Affordable housing is not only scarce, but also expensive. According to the Thurston Regional Planning Council's recent Housing Needs Assessment there are over 34,650 households paying 30% or more of their income in rental/mortgage costs, with some paying as much as 80%. These high housing costs leave very little for utilities, transportation, food, medicine, or other essential items. As the primary agency for families who are experiencing homelessness in Thurston County, FSC is all too familiar with the difficulties faced by families trying to find affordable housing – and they decided to do something about it.

On December 24, 2020, Trish Gregory, FSC's Executive Director, joyfully announced that the agency had secured the final pieces of funding needed to get started on the organization's biggest project yet – building 62 units of permanent, affordable housing with supportive services for families and survivors. The new units will serve households with families who live below 50% AMI (average median income), with a portion dedicated for those below 30% AMI. Options will include apartments with one to three bedrooms with each household having access to onsite supportive services. Residents will also have access to the services and resources located directly across the street at the Family Support Center Campus which houses the majority of agency's programs and services, as well as 14 other organizations who provide direct services to families, children, and survivors of violence. The affordable housing project is made possible with generous support from the City of Olympia, Washington State Housing Finance Commission, Federal Home Loan Bank, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, Impact Capital, and the Housing Trust Fund. These organizations have **contributed a combined total of more than \$10,192,483**. The project is also a recipient of Low Income Housing Tax Credits providing the investors and equity needed to secure bank financing for the balance of the project cost. The total project cost for this development is estimated as \$22,739,345. FSC hopes to start moving families into the completed units by late 2023. Shortly thereafter, they will start work on a second round of development to add an additional 60+ units on the same site.

Not only is FSC building 62 new housing units, but they are in the final stages of completing the Family Support Center Campus Family Shelter, which opened April 1, 2021. The agency already owns and operates Pear Blossom Place, the region's largest family shelter, which provides 36 shelter beds each day as well as seven permanent, affordable housing units with supportive services. The new family shelter provides an

additional 10 beds for families with children each night and offers individual units, communal living spaces, onsite supportive services, laundry, and more. The new family shelter was made possible with the support of the Washington State Department of Commerce, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, the Cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater, as well as the Rotary Club of Olympia.

The Family Support Center of South Sound serves 4,000 parents, children, and survivors every year. The organization is successful because they are able to draw on networks across the entire community, leveraging support to create stronger, more comprehensive programs and meet the growing needs of the community. If you would like to learn more about their programs, or how you can support families and survivors in the South Sound, visit their website at www.fscss.org or contact maijag@fscss.org. If you would like to make a financial contribution toward the health and safety of families and survivors in our community, [CLICK HERE!](#)