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APHSA Awarded \$3 Million Grant to Advance Family Economic Mobility

The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) Receives \$3M in Funding to Advance Family Economic Mobility Through Public-Private Partnerships in Mississippi and Regional Learning Communities

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) has selected the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) for a grant to advance equitable systems change by advancing family-centered economic mobility approaches. Building on work already underway in the state of Mississippi, this funding will advance local, regional, and national system alignment to support public and private family-serving systems toward family economic mobility. The grant totals just over \$3.1 million and kicked off on January 1, 2021.

Utilizing grant funds and their expansive network of human-serving organizations, workforce, and other stakeholders, APHSA will partner closely with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop public-private, cross-sector peer learning communities that facilitate conversations between agencies to foster new approaches to advancing economic mobility at all levels. These peer learning networks equip human services agencies to develop new strategies focused on job quality, race equity, and serving the whole family to increase access to secure employment and career pathways forward for all families. APHSA's work in Mississippi provides a strong foundation and serves as a national model for improving systems to be more aligned to what families need.

“This grant provides us with the opportunity to continue the deep dive support in Mississippi while also expanding on these vital efforts by translating it to a regional and national community,” said APHSA President & CEO Tracy Wareing Evans. “We are excited to increase our impact through this robust body of work alongside our partners, ACF, and with the generous continued support of the Kellogg Foundation.”

APHSA and ACF both acknowledge and value the importance of keeping families at the center of the conversation to advance economic mobility. By engaging learning communities across networks to adopt whole-family approaches to economic mobility while applying a race equity lens, both organizations are promoting system-wide change that will better equip families to thrive and transform the way human services agencies build economic well-being in their communities.

The American Public Human Services Association advances the well-being of all people by influencing modern approaches to sound policy, building the capacity of public agencies to enable healthy families and communities, and connecting leaders to accelerate learning and generate practical solutions together.

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Prior collaboration between APHSA and ACF's Office of Regional Operations, also funded by a WKKF grant, led to the recent publication, [*COVID Response Project: Lessons Learned from State Adaptations and Federal Flexibilities*](#), which documents the real-time impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on state human services agencies and captures state perspectives on lessons learned to guide future federal policymaking and state implementation.

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About the American Public Human Services Association

The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) is a bipartisan national membership association representing the cabinet-level leadership of state and local health and human services agencies, and the subject matter experts that help execute their mission to improve outcomes for people nationwide. Building on their long-standing relationships across the human services field and direct connection to the in-depth knowledge of leaders who administer them, they focus on generating pragmatic, community-wide solutions that advance well-being.

APHSA connects its members to national policymakers and human-serving organizations across a wide circle of stakeholders in the health and human services sector, as well as key partners in education, housing, employment, and others. APHSA also helps members build more capacity for their teams through access to professional education and development conferences, technical expertise, publications, and Organizational Effectiveness practice. To learn more about APHSA, please visit www.aphsa.org.

About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal innovator and entrepreneur Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special attention is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit www.wkkf.org.