

Organization Name: Family Promise of Southwest NJ

Website: <https://www.familypromiseswnj.org/>

County where headquartered: Gloucester

Counties providing services: Gloucester, Camden, Cumberland & Salem

Organization Mission: provide homeless families with an opportunity to achieve stability by providing shelter, food, case management, and hospitality while simultaneously utilizing resources within local congregations and the community.

Total Operating budget: \$328,000

Project Name: Promising Futures

Project Description:

Family Promise works to empower and support working families, low-income families, and families experiencing homelessness. Never has this work been more vital. We provide food, shelter and case management services to low income working families who are deemed homeless and living in an unsafe environment. Our goal for launching the Promising Futures Program is to deepen our current support model for families facing housing insecurity from a single model of emergency shelter to also include Prevention and Shelter Diversion services.

Our process begins with a full assessment and eligibility determination conducted by the Executive Director of Programs and Services for each family. Upon admission, the Executive Director of Programs and Services identifies the root cause(s) that contribute to the family's housing insecurity such as loss of a job, health issues, poor financial planning, lack of access to resources in the community, or little to no support from family or friends. The Executive Director works with the family to develop a stability plan that includes short and long-term goals to overcome their obstacles and create opportunities to maintain permanent housing in the future. The Executive Director meets with families several times a week to evaluate progress and establish new goals as needed.

The program provides families with financial literacy training, job search assistance, connections to resources within our community, and assistance finding permanent affordable housing. Additionally, we connect families with our network of volunteers to provide meals, clothing and household items as needed. Families may also be eligible for a stabilizing grant of up to \$1,500 per household. The funds could be used for back rental payments, utilities, moving costs, car repairs, security deposits, bus passes or any identifiable cost that will prevent the family from becoming homeless or entering into the shelter. Families must meet all goals established by their case manager and complete the financial literacy training before funds are awarded. Funds will be paid directly to the provider, not given to the family. Family Promise Prevention and Shelter Diversion programs provide excellent services and support for families. We work proactively to reduce the number of families that need to enter a shelter, which is cost effective, better for parents, and most importantly, and better for children. Receiving the grant would allow Family Promise to hire a part-time social worker to assist with the case management component of the program and provide individual family grants.

Over the two year period, the Promising Future Program would support the needs of approximately 150 families.