

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Washington, DC – 2018 and 2023 Bezos Day 1 Families Fund grantee

For 45 years, Community of Hope (COH) has been a cornerstone of support for families in Washington, DC, combining housing solutions with comprehensive healthcare to help families move from crisis to stability. Through a network of community health centers, a free-standing birth center, and multiple family housing programs, COH provides integrated medical, dental, behavioral health, prenatal, and housing services to thousands of families each year. Their approach is simple yet powerful: pair stable housing with wraparound support like case management, employment assistance, and emotional wellness services.

COH was among the first recipients of the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund leadership awards in 2018, receiving \$5 million, and the nonprofit received an additional \$3.75 million Day 1 Families Fund grant in 2023. These investments have been transformative, helping COH connect over 1,000 unsheltered families to safe housing and help thousands more families access services like childcare, job training, and healthcare—critical resources for long-term stability and success.

One of COH's most innovative uses of the grant funding has been the Housing Our Newborns, Empowering You (HONEY) program. Launched with support from the Day 1 Families Fund and



KEY STATISTICS



With its Day 1 Families Fund Grant, Community of Hope has:

- Connected **1,086** unsheltered families with safe places to stay
- Connected **4,451** families with services to help them thrive
- Served families through the Housing Our Newborns, Empowering You program

a federal innovation award, HONEY ensures that pregnant individuals experiencing homelessness receive coordinated prenatal and postpartum care. The program began with just one staff member and since has grown into a team of more than 10 specialists who are now serving 200 pregnant people and new mothers. HONEY provides health education, safe-sleep training,

and essential supplies like diapers and baby clothes—all while connecting families to housing and long-term care through their baby's first year.

The impact is clear: DC has seen an 18.1% decrease in family homelessness in 2025, and COH's integrated model is widely recognized as one of the drivers of that progress.

Looking ahead, COH plans to continue scaling its health-and-housing approach, showing that ending family homelessness is possible through coordinated, compassionate, and system-wide solutions. As Kelly Sweeney McShane, CEO of COH, puts it: "Funding from the Day 1 Families Fund has impacted every family in our housing programs since 2018. It's allowed us to innovate and respond to families' needs in ways that truly change lives."

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KELLY SWEENEY MCSHANE
CEO

FAMILY STORY

Karema, a single mother, left an unstable home situation to protect herself and her one-year-old daughter, Aleema. With nowhere to go, they entered an emergency shelter and soon moved into The Aya, a short-term family shelter run by Community of Hope, just before Christmas.

At The Aya, she found not only safety but support. Her case manager helped her navigate housing paperwork, connect to services, and stay on track after an early apartment denial. She also enrolled in a broadband-wiring training program and worked with job-readiness coaches to build toward stable employment. Programs like Fam-Club at The Aya gave her a sense of community and reminded her she was building a life, not just surviving a crisis.

Now on the verge of moving into her own apartment, she says hope means believing “tomorrow will be better”—a belief Community of Hope helped make tangible.

