



# Youth Homelessness in Washington

## Landscape Scan

Prepared for A Way Home Washington and the Washington State Office of Homeless Youth  
Prevention and Protection

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## Introduction

Almost 13,000 unaccompanied youth ages 12-24 experience homelessness in Washington each year. Throughout the state, service providers consistently describe the resiliency of homeless young people, and their community's desire to support and protect them. Unfortunately, there is a simultaneous recognition that our existing systems fail young people in a multitude of respects, repeatedly testing their resilience in costly and avoidable ways.

In creating the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection (OHY) in 2015, our state took a momentous first step in dismantling the divisions serving homeless youth, foster youth, justice-involved youth, disengaged youth and youth with mental health challenges. Leadership at OHY will play a spanning function to improve services for at-risk youth, who too often touch many of these systems in ways that lead to escalated risk instead of enhanced protection.

At the local level, providers often wish to work across systems, but are deterred by funding and licensing restrictions, or simply lack the capacity to build the relationships necessary to modify the status quo. Many providers are actively seeking the resources and advice necessary to make system-spanning services a reality.

A group of funders, service providers, youth, advocates and government partners has come together to form A Way Home Washington, a coalition committed to advancing the vision of a state where homelessness amongst youth is rare and, if it occurs, brief in duration and never repeated. Supported by the Raikes Foundation, A Way Home Washington commissioned this report to help better understand what we know about the issue of youth homelessness in Washington State: current capacity, as well as assets and gaps in policy, program, and practices.

Washington is at a critical juncture in its efforts to address youth homelessness, with coordination, resources and leadership at unprecedented levels. The OHY is poised to bring together multiple agencies to more effectively serve youth across the homeless, child welfare, justice, education and behavioral health systems. We hope this report can be a resource for anyone working to address homelessness, and that our state can keep more young people housed, safe and moving towards their futures.

Three notes on this report: first, "homeless youth" is used throughout the document to refer to the population of unaccompanied young people ages 12-25. When relevant, the distinction is made between minors (under 18) and young adults (18-25). Secondly, interviews with youth were not conducted as part of this project, with the understanding that a separate youth-led planning-process supported by the Mockingbird Society is underway. Finally, this report was created to support the work of the Raikes Foundation, A Way Home Washington, and the Office of Homeless Youth, but was not intended to supplant the report that the OHY is submitting to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2016.

This project could not have been completed without the busy service providers who generously shared their insight, or without the partners sponsoring this project. Many of the recommendations herein were identified in interviews and existing reports by local and national youth homelessness experts. Thank you all for your input and perspective.



**Department of Commerce**



## I. Overview

This report combines qualitative and quantitative research to: (i) identify what we know and do not know about Washington’s homeless youth; (ii) list system gaps; (iii) recommend potential policy and practice solutions; (iv) suggest communities of opportunity that merit additional attention; and (v) assess public funding resources that could be newly leveraged or repurposed to better serve this population.

### **Methodology:**

#### *Data Analysis*

There are four primary sources of data on the prevalence and characteristics of homeless youth in Washington (see right). While no single data source is comprehensive, the various sources can be braided together to develop a representative picture of the issue.

#### *Literature Review*

Analysis of data around homeless and high-risk youth previously published by DSHS-Research Data and Analysis; policy papers and program evaluations produced by Columbia Legal Services, Partners for Our Children and WSIPP; homeless youth plans produced by Minnesota and California; homeless funding audits; etc.

#### *Environmental Scan*

Research on housing and services currently available to homeless youth and youth at high risk of future homelessness in Washington.

#### *Interviews*

Phone interviews with 32 service providers and policy experts.

#### *Assessment*

To determine which communities in the state might be best poised to leverage new opportunities or serve as models for change, a rating matrix scoring need, infrastructure, innovation and leadership was applied to various regions.

### **Data Sources:**

Four primary data sources are referenced in this report:

1. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data
2. Education system data: numbers of unaccompanied homeless students required to be reported under the McKinney Vento Act and estimates developed by Columbia Legal Services for school districts that are not required to report this data
3. Point In Time Data: one-night counts of unsheltered youth collected by communities every two years as mandated by HUD
4. ACES data: used by DSHS caseworkers to determine eligibility for public assistance

See Section II for additional detail.

## Summary of Findings

### DATA

- Youth are homeless in every county in the state:
  - At least 5,788 unaccompanied homeless students are served by Washington schools each year, 77% of whom are under 18.
  - 12,889 unaccompanied youth ages 12-24 access homeless housing and services each year in Washington. 88% of them are over 18.
- The vast majority of young people using homeless housing and services are appearing in the system for the first time, and are accessing resources in the communities where they live.
- Among crossover youth who experience homelessness after exiting another state system, the largest numbers come from residential treatment facilities, but the most likely to access homeless services are those from child welfare.
- Sufficient research exists on risk factors for future homelessness among in-system youth to allow for early identification and intervention.
- Many youth have social supports they can stay with immediately before becoming homeless, particularly in rural regions.
- The incidence of homelessness is elevated amongst African American youth, American Indian youth, LGBTQ youth and parenting youth. Black non-Hispanic youth are most over-represented in urban homeless systems, and Native American youth are over-represented in more rural parts of the state.
- There is vast regional variation in the results of interventions designed to support homeless youth.
- Very little is known about the local relationship between youth homelessness and family conflict, child maltreatment, economic hardship, sexual orientation, gender identity and county juvenile court involvement. Gaps in data integration, collection or analysis in these domains, as well as in the collection of data on youth under 18, limit our ability to address these underlying contributors to homelessness.

### GAPS

1. The supply of housing and shelter for homeless youth is insufficient.
2. Behavioral health resources are not adequately integrated into homeless services.
3. Diversion programs from child welfare and justice systems are important prevention tools that are inconsistently available throughout the state.
4. Intensive, collaborative transition services are necessary for youth exiting child welfare, behavioral health and justice systems with elevated needs.
5. Without capacity and infrastructure support, service delivery remains reactive.
6. Barriers to data collection and analysis make it difficult to assess problems and progress.
7. A coherent statewide strategy around equity is necessary.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Strategy 1:** Increase diversion from child welfare and justice systems.
- **Strategy 2:** Ensure that the child welfare system has an appropriate response for older youth, including effective transition services.
- **Strategy 3:** Monitor the relationship between homelessness and discharge from detention, and improve consistency of transition services.
- **Strategy 4:** Increase housing options for homeless youth.
- **Strategy 5:** Support education systems in identifying and responding to the needs of homeless and highly mobile youth.
- **Strategy 6:** Improve integration of and access to behavioral health services.
- **Strategy 7:** Increase incomes for youth who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.
- **Strategy 8:** Strengthen and elevate the voices of homeless youth and those serving them.
- **Strategy 9:** Put equity at the forefront of planning.
- **Strategy 10:** Pursue a shared research and data agenda.

*\*Policy, practice and data tactics for implementing each of these strategies are identified in Section III.*

## II. Data Analysis

### A. Sources of Data

Data sources used in the production of this report include:

**1. Homeless system data.** The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is used by local service providers to record the provision of housing assistance and services. Local, state and federal funders (HUD) mandate the use of HMIS.

- **Data Strengths:** largest data set on homeless young adults
- **Data Limitations:** only captures youth who are receiving services through publicly-funded homeless service providers; not all state-funded beds (including HOPE and CRC beds) are reporting in HMIS; data on youth under 18 currently cannot be collected in HMIS.

**2. Education system data.** The WA Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) Comprehensive Education Data and Research System contains K-12 public education data, including housing status data collected under the McKinney-Vento Act.

- **Data Strengths:** due to the federal Department of Education's definition of homelessness, which differs from HUD's definition, this data includes youth who are doubled up or couch-surfing
- **Data Limitations:** does not capture students who are not engaged in school, and is limited. Analysis by DSHS showed over half (56%) of homeless youth statewide (including accompanied children and youth) were identified by DSHS caseworkers (in the ACES database) or local housing providers (in the HMIS database) but not by the school system.<sup>i</sup>

**3. Point in Time data.** HUD mandates that all communities receiving federal funds conduct a biennial point in time count of unsheltered homeless populations. Beginning in 2013, communities were required to report data on homeless youth as part of this count.

- **Data Strengths:** only available statewide source for 'street count' numbers
- **Data Limitations:** most communities do not conduct point in time counts designed to reach youth, so number is widely believed to be inaccurate

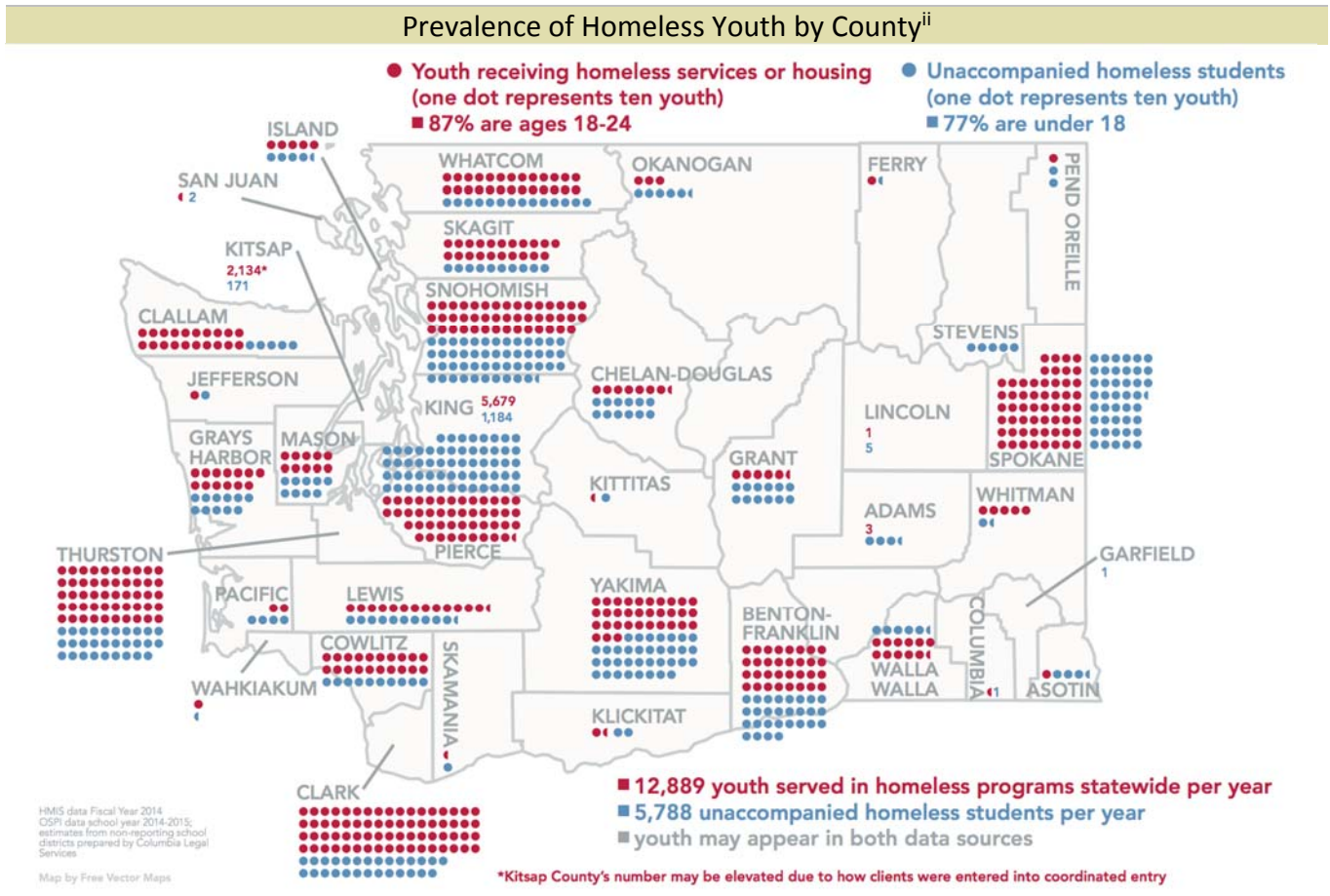
**4. ACES data.** The Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES) is used by DSHS caseworkers to determine eligibility for public assistance. When applying, clients can indicate a housing status of "homeless without housing" or "homeless with housing."

- **Data Strengths:** like education system data, captures youth who are unstably housed or doubled up
- **Data Limitations:** only captures youth who are accessing public benefits (TANF, SNAP, etc.)

Apart from a very small subset of Point In Time Count data, all our data comes from systems. Many youth do not want other people to know they are homeless due to fear or stigma. Because many young people hide their homelessness, and/or aren't involved in any system, it is difficult to get an accurate count, and, while the numbers here are our best available numbers, they remain an undercount.

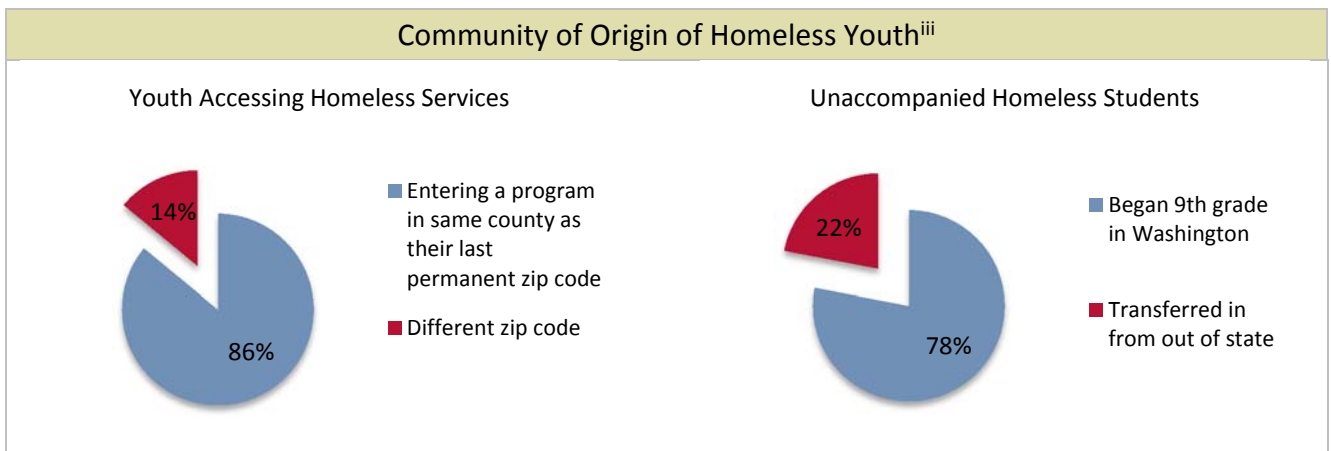
B. Discussion

1. Youth are homeless in every county in the state, and most are local.



Counties with fewer or no homeless services will have fewer HMIS entrants, just as schools with limited McKinney Vento resources may identify fewer homeless students.

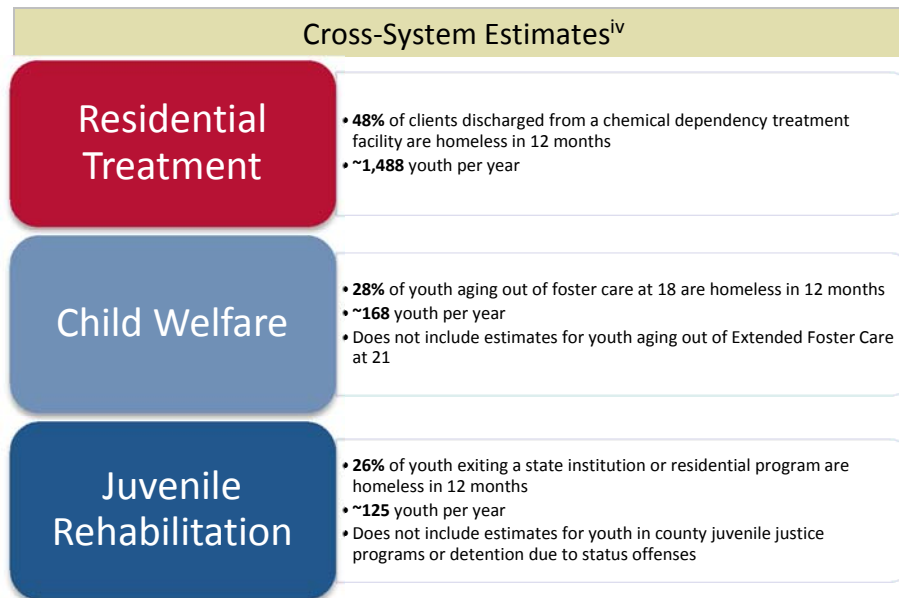
Contrary to some perceptions around the mobility of homeless young adults, the vast majority of youth experience homelessness in their own communities.





**2. Among crossover youth who experience homelessness after exiting another state system, the largest numbers come from residential treatment facilities, but the most likely to access homeless services are those from the child welfare system.**

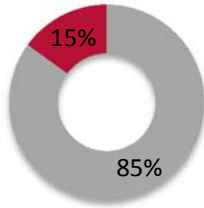
Research has established the numbers of youth who identify as homeless in HMIS or ACES within 12 months of exiting other state systems. Annual numbers below are rough estimates based on existing research, and youth could appear in more than one system.



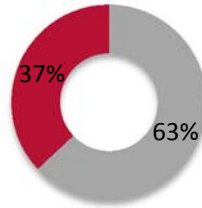
Just as there is variation in the rates at which young people are exiting various state systems into homelessness, there is variation in where these young people seek support when they do experience homelessness. Homeless youth with experience in juvenile rehabilitation or in a chemical dependency facility are much *less* likely to access homeless housing and services than their peers who have exited child welfare. This may be because there are housing resources in the homeless system targeted specifically to alumni of foster care, but it may also be because there are barriers to homeless housing for youth who have histories of criminal activity and/or drug use.

### Where Cross-Over Youth Seek Support<sup>v</sup>

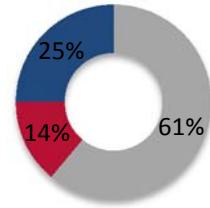
Post Juvenile Rehabilitation:



Post Child Welfare:



Post Chemical Dependency:

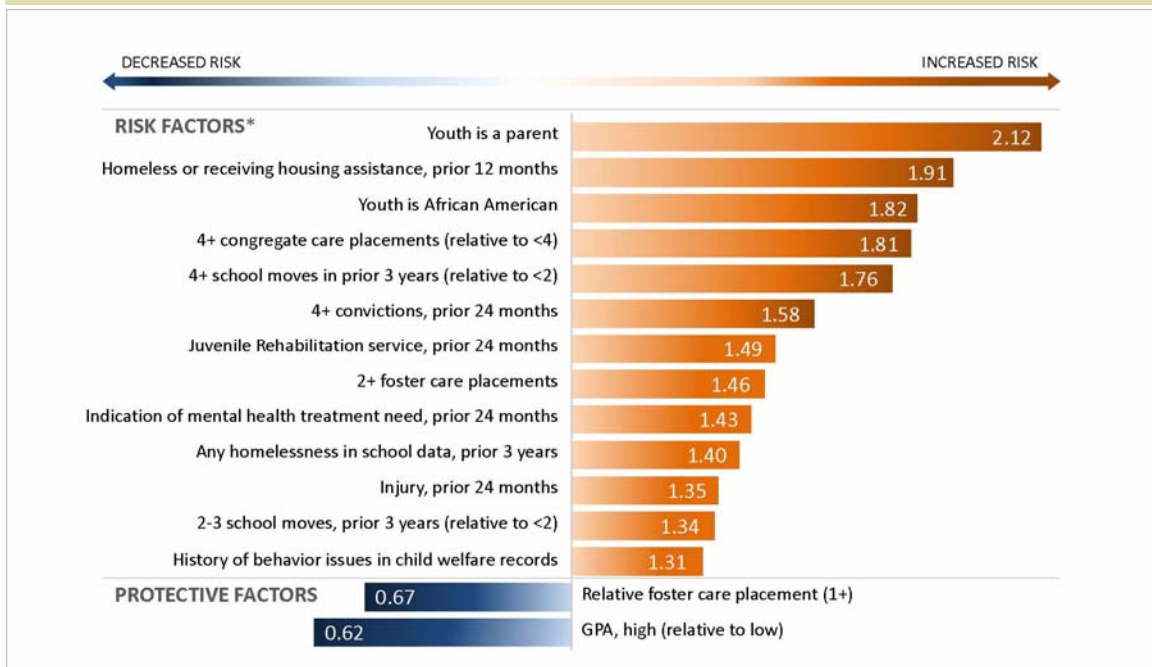


**Homeless System**    Public Assistance (TANF, SNAP, etc.)    **Chemical Dependency System**

### 3. Sufficient research exists on risk factors for future homelessness among in-system youth to allow for early identification and intervention.

The same research that has quantified the numbers of youth exiting systems into homelessness has given Washington tools that can be used for the identification of youth who are likely to struggle with housing stability upon exit from another system. This research should be leveraged in any diversion strategies that target high-risk youth with intensive transition services as they exit systems. One example of research on predictors of homelessness for youth in foster care is below.

### Odds of Experiencing Homelessness After Aging Out of Foster Care at 18<sup>vi</sup>



Graphic reproduced from RDA report.

**4. Many youth have some social supports they access before becoming homeless, particularly in rural regions.**

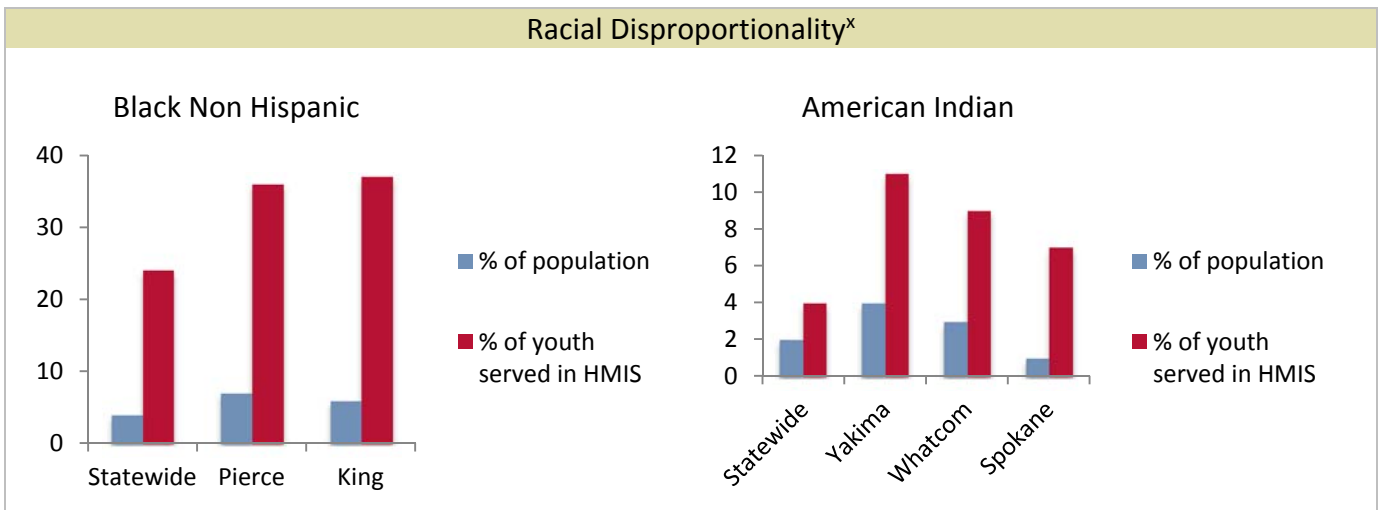
The last place youth report staying before entering shelter reveals a young person’s most recent trajectory, as well as the network that might be available to support an alternative living situation, if resources were available to sustain it. 45% of youth outside of King County report staying with friends and family or at a motel the night before entering shelter, versus 35% in King County.<sup>vii</sup> King County had more youth previously staying in another shelter (17% vs. 8%) or a place not meant for human habitation (27% vs. 12%) than the balance of the state.<sup>viii</sup>

A similar pattern was found by DSHS-RDA when looking at homeless students in urban versus rural regions.<sup>ix</sup> Students who were living in shelters, homeless housing, or in places unfit for human habitation were more likely to live in high density urban areas, and youth in rural regions were more likely to be in doubled-up situations (living with friends or family due to economic hardship, family turmoil, incarceration, hospitalization, etc.).

These geographic patterns suggest approaches to stabilize and divert youth from the homeless system should vary based on regional population density.

**4. The incidence of homelessness is elevated amongst youth of color and parenting youth.**

Youth of color are over-represented across the homeless system. This is most acute for Black non-Hispanic youth in urban regions, and for American Indian youth in rural regions.

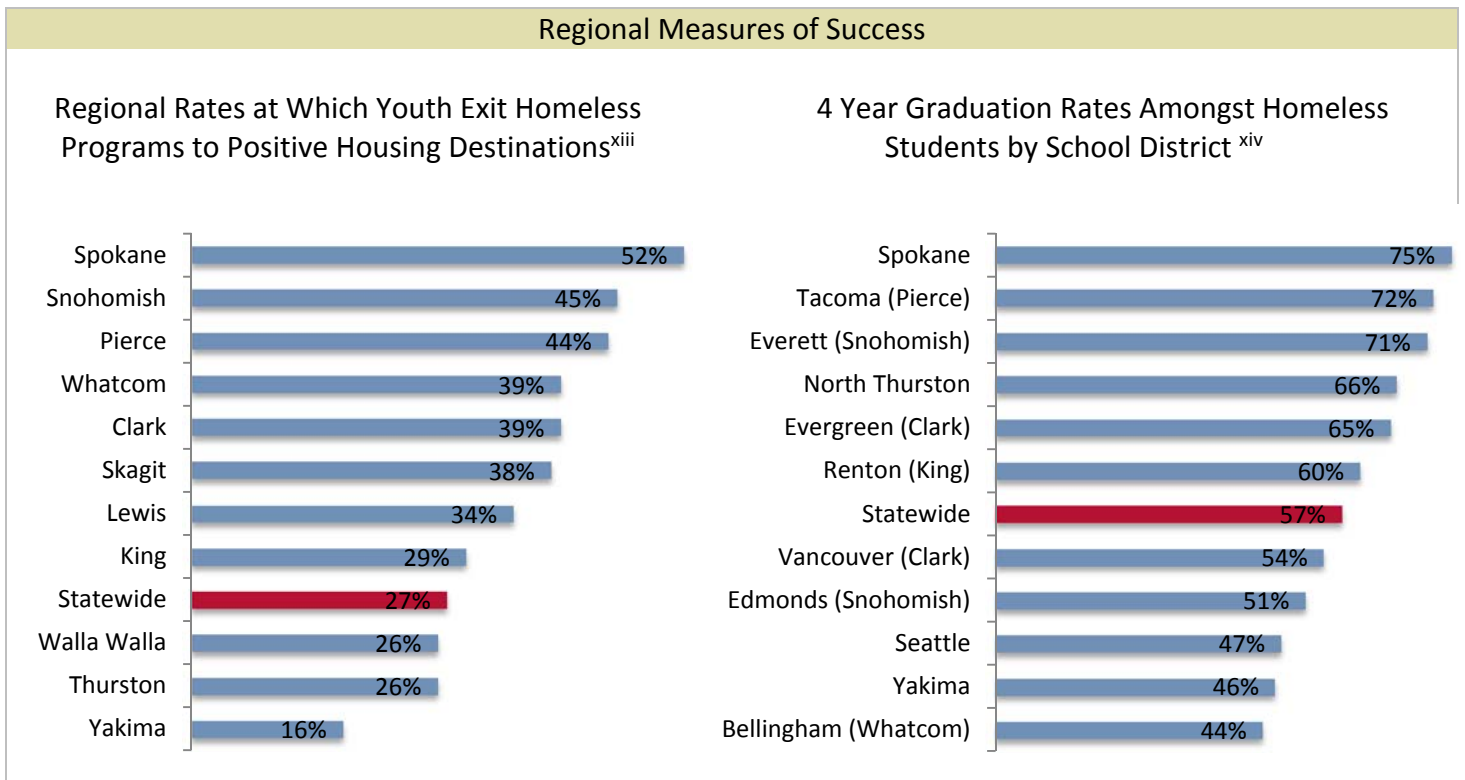


Even more disturbing is data suggesting that for these individuals institutional barriers can make their homelessness longer and harder to escape.<sup>xi</sup>

Parenting young adults make up 16% of the homeless young adult population, whereas only 7% of Washington women ages 20-24 are having children.<sup>xii</sup>

**5. There is regional variation in the effectiveness of interventions designed to support homeless youth.**

There are various ways to measure progress among users of homeless programs, and there are not currently broadly adopted or accepted measures of effectiveness for youth programs. The limited data we have to look at suggests program outcomes vary widely throughout the state, even among programs with similar designs. Numbers are shared here not to make generalizations about the effectiveness of one youth homelessness program over another, but to introduce some of the forthcoming challenges in defining and monitoring success. In addition, the variation throughout the state indicates the need and opportunity for cross-community learning.



Success rates in homeless services also vary by *program type*: 61% of exits from Prevention Rental Assistance programs are to housing destinations, while only 13% of exits from Services Only programs are to housing. However, analysis of where youth go and how effective a program may be in helping youth identify stable housing is hampered by the absence of information; of youth exiting the homeless system in 2014, **58%** went to unknown destinations.

### III. Gap Analysis

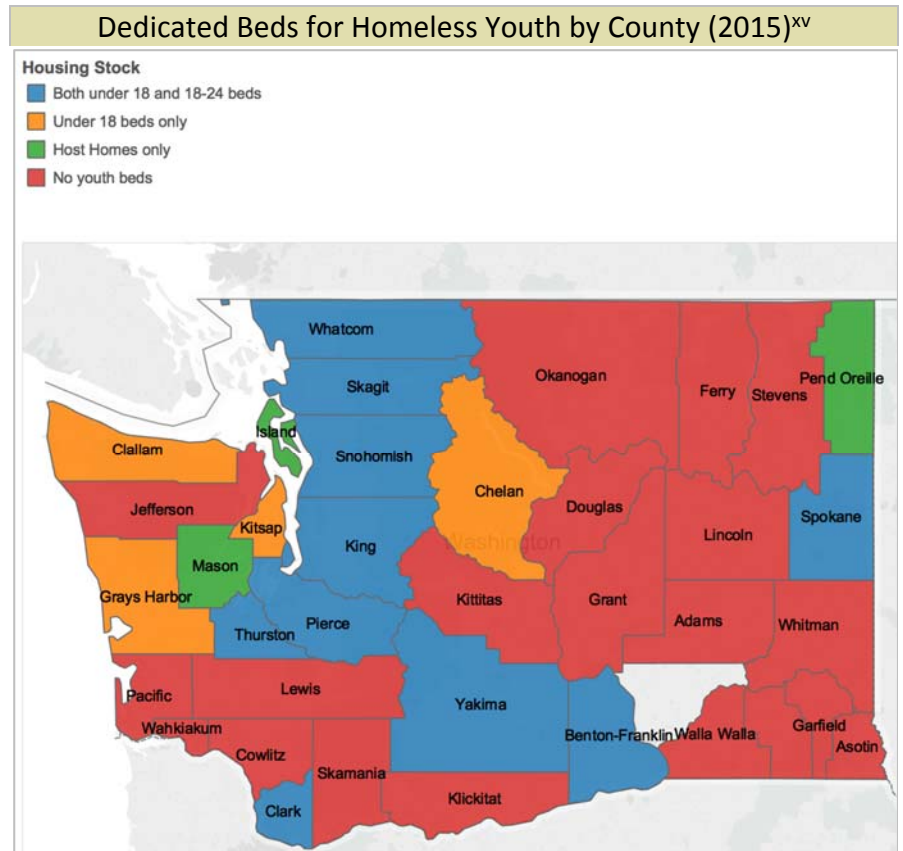
Interviews, landscape assessment and data analysis revealed the following series of barriers that stand in the way of the development and execution of a successful strategy to end youth homelessness in Washington.

#### 1. The supply of housing and shelter for homeless youth is insufficient.

Data and providers overwhelmingly indicate that the current housing resources available to youth are insufficient:

- Over half of the 39 counties in Washington lack any beds dedicated to homeless youth or young adults.
- 44% of homeless young adults are served within the adult homeless system.<sup>xvi</sup>
- Over-capacity shelters assign beds by lottery, which contributes to high rates of exits from homeless programs to unknown destinations.

Communities identified different specific gaps in their housing continuums, but every region identified a bed shortage as the primary barrier to effectively serving youth.<sup>xvii</sup>



The housing needs most frequently identified by providers were:

- Respite-type shelter beds on the front end, as a diversion tool to give minors and families a cooling off period in an environment that would not lead to engagement with the homeless system, while also connecting families to counseling and tangible resources;
- More subsidized housing on the back-end, for older young adults with less intensive service needs ready for greater independence;
- Developmentally appropriate housing for parenting youth; and
- Foster care placements for older youth.

An absence of shelter and housing is typical in rural regions. These also tend to be the counties where a shortage of foster care placements create challenges for child welfare caseworkers who need to

place adolescents. Youth in these communities may be more likely to hide their homelessness, out of fear that involvement with child welfare will lead them to be moved out of their home community.

*“After so many years in the field it has been disheartening to see the safety net dismantled to this point- particularly because for those of us in rural America- it had huge gaps even when it was intact!...[A]sking a school district or community that has no state-supported infrastructure to do more with even less just isn’t realistic.”*

Okanogan County Provider

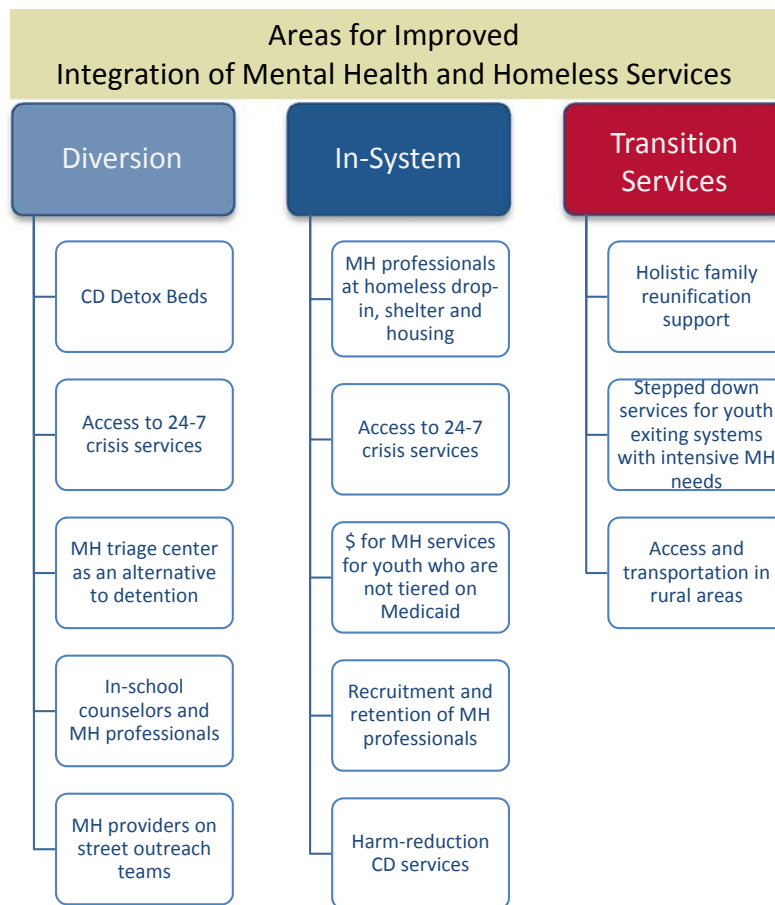
Additionally, confusion around licensing requirements for shelters, host homes and Extended Foster Care placements deters providers from expanding housing supply.

## **2. Behavioral health resources are not adequately integrated into homeless services.**

The connection between a young person’s behavioral health needs and homelessness has been established in local and national research:

- Rates of serious mental health disorders among homeless youth range from 19% to 50%.<sup>xviii</sup>
- Youth in Washington with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health needs are three times more likely to have a homeless spell in high school than those with no behavioral health needs (25 percent compared to 8 percent).<sup>xix</sup>

In spite of this documented need, and the existence of evidence-based mental health tools within behavioral health organizations throughout the state, homeless youth are not connecting or connected to services. After housing, broader availability of mental health and chemical dependency resources was the primary need identified by providers in all regions of the state.



More specifically, the opportunities for improved service integration most commonly noted by homeless youth providers are:

- *Access to crisis services for young people experiencing psychotic episodes.* This is a need both before the young person becomes engaged with the homeless system (diversion) and while they are utilizing homeless services (in-system). The need for these in-system supports is intensifying, particularly in communities that are prioritizing youth for housing based on vulnerability as part of a coordinated entry strategy. The need for crisis response services was noted even in communities where such services theoretically exist; many report that actual access is limited.

*“Unless a [homeless] kid walks into an ER slicing his wrists, he’s not going to receive crisis services.”*  
Spokane County Provider

*“The Emergency Department is not equipped to provide an effective response to mental health crises. They assess really quickly, then discharge at shift change. They are not dealing with those who need help.”*  
Northwest Washington Provider

- *Consistent presence of mental health professionals within homeless agencies.* Even at the handful of homeless youth agencies that are accredited mental health providers, fiscal barriers stand in the way of full integration of housing and behavioral health supports. State general funds are available for crisis services, and more stable youth can be tiered and have services billed to Medicaid, but a gap persists in serving youth in shelters and drop-in who occupy the broad ground between crisis and stability. Providers offering youth mental health services at this juncture do so primarily with private funding.
- *Access to chemical dependency detox beds, and, once a youth is in recovery, mental health services using realistic harm-reduction tools.* The gap in CD treatment beds has been acknowledged, but not resolved, by the mental health system. When a mental health provider is monitoring a youth’s adherence to an abstinence-only chemical dependency mandate (as part of a young person’s probation, for example), harm-reduction strategies generally cannot be well-utilized.

The Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, which oversees publicly-funded children’s mental health services, is aware of the limited availability of resources for youth.<sup>xx</sup> In a 2014 landscape scan, multiple treatment deserts were identified, where local need for evidence or research based behavioral health interventions for youth could not be met with the existing number of trained therapists.

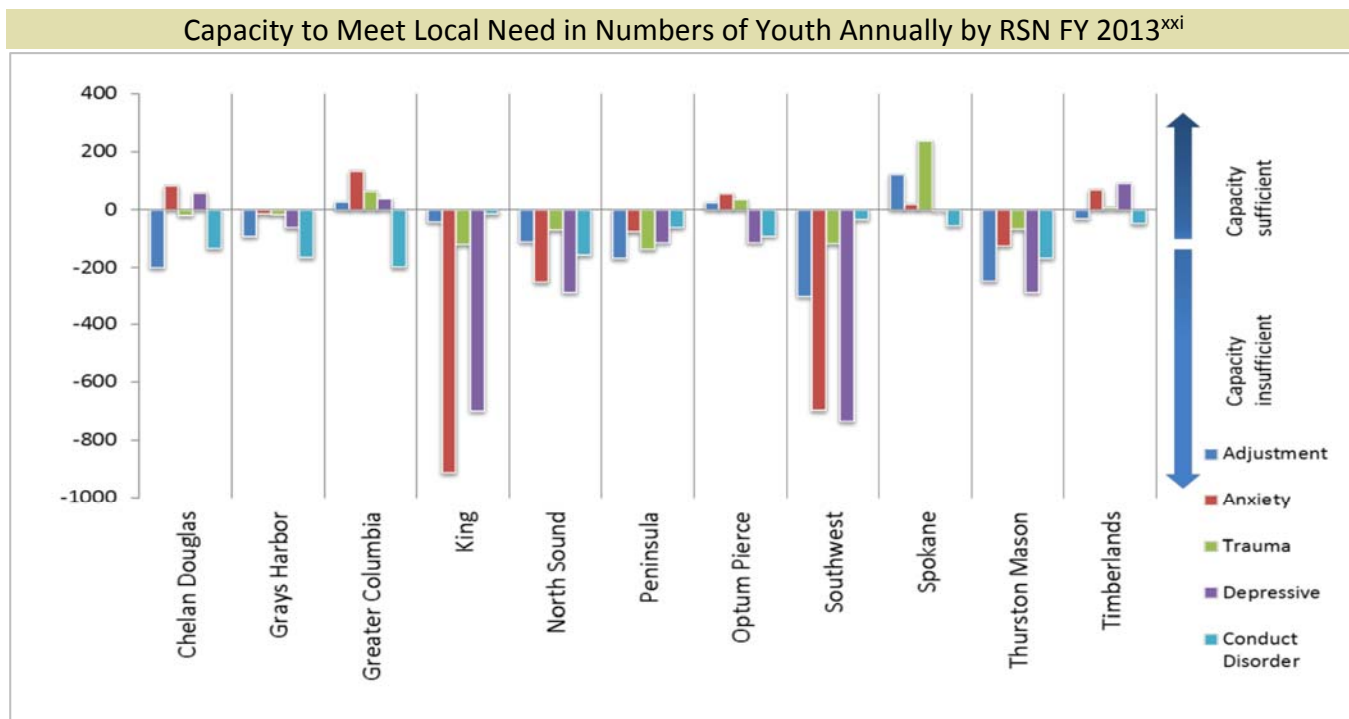


Image reproduced from original report

The systemic shortages in behavioral health resources for youth throughout the state suggest solutions need to focus on increasing service availability broadly, rather than just improving the integration of services into the homeless youth system.



**3. Diversion programs from child welfare and justice systems are important prevention tools that are inconsistently available throughout the state.**

Given the rates at which youth exit the child welfare and justice systems into homelessness, effective diversion programs must be broadly implemented.

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, which safely reduces detention populations by implementing alternatives for detention and developing risk assessment instruments to determine which youth need incarceration, is active in 1/3 of juvenile courts statewide. Truancy boards, which divert truant youth from the justice system, are currently operating in 30% of Washington’s school districts, but are mandated statewide by the 2017 school year.

The complex relationship between the child welfare and homeless systems is such that many homeless service providers criticize gaps in the availability of child welfare services, while simultaneously advocating for diversion programs for youth and their families to avoid system involvement. A number of providers see child welfare as unwilling, and, more importantly, unable, to accept teenagers due to a lack of foster care placements for these youth. Family Assessment Response (FAR), a program connecting families at low to moderate risk for child maltreatment with concrete supports and resources with the goal of averting a youth’s removal from the home, is underway in 32 (of 48) Child Protective Services offices, but focuses on younger children. Options for older minor youth who were either not taken into custody after a CPS investigation, or who avoid system engagement due to fear of removal from their community, remain limited.

**4. Intensive, collaborative transition services are necessary for youth exiting child welfare, behavioral health and justice systems with elevated needs.**

Although the numbers of youth in foster care and detention have decreased over the last 10 years, the scale of the mental health and service needs for youth in care has increased.<sup>xxii</sup> The problem is thus not necessarily the absence of reentry programs, but their intensity, availability, and quality. Evidence based transition programs exist, and certain regions have strong, intensive community reentry programs. For example, Family Integrative Transitions, which provides a 24/7 therapist to support youth and their families for six months after a minor exits custody with a dual chemical dependency and mental health diagnosis, is available in just four counties statewide.<sup>xxiii</sup>

*“While the size of the population in juvenile detention is going down, the intensity of their mental health needs and their incidence of homelessness upon exit is going up.”*

South Sound Provider

*“Kids come out of hospitalization and long term residential care and end up homeless. You get a call that a youth is at a bus station with a garbage bag of stuff, with 30 days of meds in their pocket and no linkage back into services. You can’t leave one system for the homeless system, which, here, is*

*nothing.”*

Yakima Provider

##### **5. Without capacity and infrastructure support, service delivery remains reactive.**

In many regions throughout the state, organizations are often the sole youth-focused agency in a particular system (homeless, employment, mental health), and are not part of a cross-system coalition of youth providers. A sense of being the “square peg” in a system designed for adults is prevalent, and can be harmful for organizations competing for system-wide funding (such as HUD homeless funding). Some organizations were subject to requirements that they use tools, protocols or outcome measures that aren’t appropriate for young people. This appeared to more often be related to a misinterpretation of or confusion around requirements than actual HUD or Department of Commerce mandates.

The recruitment and retention of staff are major challenges for homeless youth providers. Staff vacancies and high staff turnover rates can be disruptive for clients and detrimental to an organization’s ability to provide consistent, quality interventions. The Affordable Care Act and Washington’s recent expansions in the required availability of mental health services have increased demand for mental health professionals in the field, creating a pipeline problem. Several providers cited challenges providing competitive salaries for mental health professionals versus larger healthcare organizations, some of which also offer student loan forgiveness.

Mental health professionals who are dually accredited as chemical dependency practitioners, considered the gold standard for serving youth, are in especially high demand. The licensing process to become a CD professional can be prohibitively burdensome, especially as applied to individuals who were already accredited mental health professionals.

*“We have one position open for a bilingual mental health professional that has been unfilled for two years.”*

Snohomish County Provider

Once positions are filled, many organizations experience atypically high turnover rates. Lack of supervision and access to crisis services can exacerbate burnout.

*“We have one clinical manager, on call 24 hours a day, and when we have suicidal or homicidal kids (which is all the time), we call her.... But she is one part-time person for 1,000 kids per year.”*

Northwest Washington Provider

Leadership repeatedly voiced concerns that these organizational challenges, as well as the absence of youth-focused coalitions with dedicated staff to support them, had their agencies stuck in survival mode, reacting to day-to-day challenges rather than innovating around upstream solutions.

#### **6. Barriers to data collection and analysis make it difficult to assess problems and progress.**

Washington has some very strong analytical resources: HMIS participation, an integrated state administrative database, and the data team at DSHS-RDA. However, several significant blind spots exist:

- HMIS data does not include comprehensive data on youth under 18, or youth shelter beds funded by the state;
- Data from county juvenile detention centers is not integrated with other state data;
- Effective point in time counts of homeless youth are not conducted statewide; and
- Very little is known about the local relationship between youth homelessness and family conflict, child maltreatment, economic hardship, sexual orientation, gender identity and county juvenile court involvement.

We currently also lack consistent, valid methods of measurement to monitor progress addressing homelessness against statewide, cross-system benchmarks.

#### **7. A coherent statewide strategy around equity is necessary.**

In Washington, African Americans are 4% of the population but 24% of the youth served in the homeless system. Native Americans make up 4% of HMIS users, but 2% of the state's population. Various state sources suggest that between 22% and 24% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ.<sup>xxiv</sup> Individual regions and organizations have adopted piecemeal approaches to these disparities, but training and services targeting these inequities are fragmented and inconsistently available.

## IV. Policy, Practice and Data Recommendations<sup>xxv</sup>

Recommendations below address the barriers and gaps identified in the previous section at the systems, service and data levels. Uniting these recommendations is the need for cross-agency collaboration. It is thus a **threshold recommendation that the Office of Homeless Youth establish a cross-agency council or working group with the necessary authority and leadership** to carry out whichever policies the OHY chooses to pursue.

**Strategy 1:** Increase diversion from child welfare and justice systems.

Policies	Potential Partners
Support front-end services that prevent youth from entering justice system including street outreach, non-secure alternatives to detention and mental health crisis receiving centers. While some counties have strong pretrial diversion programs for youth, more consistent statewide access and broader eligibility are needed.	OHY/ JRA <sup>xxvi</sup> / WAJCA <sup>xxvii</sup>
Reform status offense laws to reduce disproportionate over-representation of minority youth incarcerated for such crimes.	Legislative
End detention for truancy, and use community truancy boards and community resources to address underlying causes of truancy.	Legislative
Practices	
Review training for law enforcement and juvenile court administrators re: identifying and supporting homeless youth with indicators of mental health need. Also review law enforcement training on the 72 hour protective custody period for minors.	OHY/ WAJCA
Confirm availability of resources to conduct immediate mental health, substance abuse, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and homelessness screenings at alternatives to detentions and Crisis Residential Centers (CRCs), as well as beds to receive youth in crisis with mental health and chemical dependency needs.	OHY
To divert more families from the child welfare system altogether, increase resources and training on adolescent services in DSHS's Family Assessment Response (FAR) initiative.	DSHS
Increase availability of holistic family interventions, including Family Reconciliation Services, conflict mediation, counseling, and more intensive therapeutic interventions (e.g. substance abuse treatment). Ensure these interventions are available both to minors and young adults.	DSHS/OHY
Increase diversion for youth involved with intra-family domestic violence, so that youth are not charged and families are not separated.	OHY/WAJCA

### Model Practice

#### Family Intervention and Restorative Services Program

**Provider:** King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, King County

**Service Domain:** Permanent Connections

**Program Description:** Law enforcement takes youth involved in familial domestic violence to a 24/7 center. Instead of being booked into detention, youth are assessed by a Master's level social worker specializing in family violence. Youth receive respite care, a cooling off period, and are reconnected with family in a planned and structured manner designed to help change family dynamics. Youth who participate in these services will not have their cases referred to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

**Outcomes:** New in 2016; program model in Pima, AZ, saw juvenile DV bookings drop from over 1,000 to 82 in 6 years.

**Strategy 2:** Ensure that the child welfare system has an appropriate response for older youth, including effective transition services.

Policies	Potential Partners
Extend eligibility to enter Extended Foster Care (EFC) from age 19 to age 21.	Legislative/ CA <sup>xxviii</sup>
Legislate that no dependency will be dismissed until an acceptable transition plan has been presented to the court. The plan should include definitive stable housing (i.e., an actual address), an education/employment plan with meaningful steps for achieving goals, contacts for the youth for relatives and other individuals in the community who have been identified as adult resources for the youth, and a completed independence check-list (addressing issues such as a clean credit report, legal documents in-hand, including identification and birth certificate, and a bank account has been established). These requirements should apply also to incarcerated dependent youth who turn 18 while in detention or a juvenile justice group home or facility.	Legislative
Elevate the needs of older youth and homeless youth in ongoing discussions of the establishment of a Department of Children and Families (separate from DSHS).	All
Practices	
Develop and enhance training and oversight efforts to ensure EFC is available to all eligible youth aging out of foster care, consistent with Fostering Connections.	CA
Increase housing placements for youth under 18 with behavioral health needs and the number of Supervised Independent Living Placements for youth in Extended Foster Care. Work to improve connection between youth in EFC and homeless housing providers, when appropriate.	CA/OHY
Ensure youth entering EFC are assigned an attorney promptly on their 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday or upon entry into EFC (if later).	CA
Work with CCYJ's existing "Safe and Affirming Care" project to improve training and competency in serving LGBT youth.	CA
Strengthen the appeal process for eligible youth denied services through the child protection system.	CA
Clarify CA caseworker versus Independent Living case manager roles and responsibilities in securing housing options.	CA
Consider the reinstatement of adolescent units so caseworkers who specialize in meeting needs of older youth can focus on this population.	CA
Data	
Quantify number of youth accessing the homeless system who are (either pre or post entry) denied protections and services of the child welfare system.	DSHS-RDA <sup>xxix</sup> /OHY/CA
Monitor numbers of youth exiting EFC into homelessness to compare to numbers aging out at 18. Monitor numbers of youth in EFC who become homeless due to lack of available placement.	DSHS-RDA/OHY/CA
Evaluate effectiveness of Independent Living interventions at supporting housing stability.	CA/OHY

### Model Practice

#### Foster Care Transition Program: YV LifeSet

**Provider:** YMCA, King County

**Service Domain:** Social and Emotional Wellbeing, Housing Stability

**Program Description:** YV LifeSet is an intensive, individualized and clinically focused model of Independent Living services for youth aging out of foster care. A model created and administered by Youth Villages in eight states, King County is the first region in the country to deliver the service through a partnership model.

**Outcomes:** In a randomized trial of 1,300 18-24 year olds who received the LifeSet intervention in Tennessee, the program produced statistically significant effects in three domains, including a 22% decrease in homelessness, a 17% increase in earnings from employment, and a 13% decline in mental health problems versus a control group.

**Strategy 3:** Monitor the relationship between homelessness and discharge from detention, and improve consistency of transition services.

Practices	Potential Partners
Encourage collaboration across county detention and youth homeless systems through joint projects and blended grant funding. While working to eliminate exits from detention into homelessness, build relationships between shelters and county detention so youth without permanent housing destinations are aware of safe options.	OHY
Increase the availability of post-release transition services for youth who exit detention without outside support or connection to positive adults, and the availability of evidence-based intensive transition services for youth with caregivers but multiple risk factors for homelessness. Develop recommendations on eligibility and standards for receiving these services.	OHY/JRA/ WAJCA
Ensure training and attention to housing are integrated into CMAP model of probation supervision for juvenile offenders, ensure caseloads are manageable, and promote specialized caseloads and training for probation officers serving 18-25 year olds.	WAJCA/ JRA/ OHY
Work with CCYJ's existing "Safe and Affirming Care" project to improve training and competency in serving LGBT youth.	WAJCA/JRA
Data	
Improve integration of county detention data to increase understanding of the prevalence of youth discharged into homelessness, including those who go from detention to temporary beds at CRCs and/or homeless youth shelters. If data integration is not possible, require reporting on each county's release of youth from detention to shelter or unknown destinations.	DSHS-RDA/OHY/ WAJCA
Explore real-time data sharing options for youth involved in the juvenile justice, child welfare, and education systems to increase case coordination. This could include joint assessment and services planning for crossover youth.	OHY/JRA/ DSHS/ OSPI

### Model Practice

#### Juvenile Court and Detentions Transition Program

**Provider:** Community Youth Services, Mason and Thurston Counties

**Service Domain:** Social and Emotional Wellbeing, Housing Stability

**Program Description:** Case management and mental health services for juvenile justice involved-youth. Youth can be referred into the program by detention staff, probation officers, parents or school staff. A CYS transition therapist meets with the youth regularly while in detention, and when the youth exits detention the transition therapist will help coordinate with family members, the probation officer, and other service agencies that might be involved with the youth. Originally funded through the Thurston-Mason RSN, the program recently received county sales tax treatment funds to double in size.

**Outcomes:** CYS serves over 150 youth per year in this program, with a goal of enrolling 30% of clients in Medicaid Mental Health services post-release.

**Strategy 4:** Increase housing options for homeless youth.

Policies	Potential Partners
Expand eligibility requirements (and funding streams ) for beds and services currently limited to foster youth (such as IYHP, RLSP, Independent Living, Extended Foster Care) to serve a broader population of youth experiencing homelessness.	OHY
Assess whether current licensing requirements and standards used for shelters, host homes, and Extended Foster Care placements are appropriate and overseen by the appropriate body.	OHY/ DSHS
Practices	
Increase funding and support services that are available to family/kin and other natural supports that would result in youth being able to remain housed with their family/kin/natural supports. Ensure these benefits are available to families of youth in Extended Foster Care. Consider adoption of the ABA Model Licensing Standards, which make it easier for kinship care providers to get licensed.	OHY/CA/ Commerce
Improve communication with homeless providers about existing shelter, host home and EFC	OHY

licensing requirements.	
Expand availability of developmentally-appropriate housing for homeless youth who are parenting, disabled youth and Commercially Sexually Exploited Children. Ensure accessibility for both minors and young adults.	Commerce
Review and remove programmatic constraints on housing which discourage family reconnection efforts and homeless-system housing placements for youth exiting detention.	OHY/Commerce
<b>Data</b>	
Work with providers to identify ways to reduce homeless system exits to unknown destinations.	OHY

## Model Practice

### Host Family Program

**Provider:** Ryan’s House for Youth, Island County

**Service Domain:** Education and Employment, Housing Stability

**Program Description:** The *Host Family Program* addresses the housing needs of homeless youth ages 14 to 24 on Whidbey Island by connecting them with caring adults from their community who are willing to provide safe housing and support. Ryan’s House provides case management services to the youth and host family to connect them with community resources. Referrals into the program come from many sources, primarily McKinney Vento liaisons. In 2015, Ryan’s House expanded its programming to better serve LGBT youth, establishing a place for LGBT youth to be supported if they are at risk of being expelled from their home. The agency began a host family recruitment effort to both specifically recruit host families that could provide housing and support to LGBT youth, and to increase the visibility of the needs of homeless LGBT youth in the community.

**Outcomes:** In four years, the program has served 26 youth. 100% of youth participants who were eligible for graduation did so.

**Strategy 5:** Support education systems in identifying and responding to the needs of homeless and highly mobile youth.

Policies	Potential Partners
Explore the continuation of K-12 Open Doors funding beyond age 21 for specific sub-populations (homeless youth, foster youth, late arriving immigrant/refugee students).	Legislative
Introduce flexible “barrier funding” to address education-related unmet needs amongst youth participating in Open Doors.	Legislative
Practices	
Ensure Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) immediately follow students who transfer schools.	OSPI <sup>xxx</sup>
Explore a housing model (such as host homes) for unaccompanied homeless students that can be a resource for McKinney Vento liaisons in regions (primarily rural) that lack outside supports such as shelters, housing and foster care placements.	OHY/ OSPI/ community
Leverage early warning systems (tracking attendance, behavior, performance) to identify youth who may be experiencing housing struggles.	OSPI/ OHY
Reduce suspensions in high schools and middle schools with elevated rates of homelessness and racially disproportionate levels of homelessness and school-based discipline. Encourage adoption of practices that reduce suspensions, including trauma-informed discipline, in-school suspension and free after-school tutoring.	OSPI
Capitalize on new Homeless Student Stability Act to improve coordination between McKinney-Vento liaisons and homeless housing system. Partner with superintendents to advance the important role their districts play in identifying homeless youth.	OSPI/ OHY
Increase availability of in-school counselors and school-based health clinics, and strengthen their referrals to behavioral therapy and substance abuse programs.	OSPI/ DSHS-BH <sup>xxxi</sup>
Data	
Explore ways to improve data-sharing for McKinney Vento liaisons across school districts, to track housing status improvement for unaccompanied homeless students, and build connections between this system and HMIS.	OSPI
Set a statewide goal for graduation rates amongst homeless students. Create opportunities for peer learning among schools with high rates of student homelessness to build knowledge on what	OSPI/ OHY

is working.

### Model Practice

#### Trauma Informed Discipline

**Provider:** Lincoln High School, Walla Walla

**Service Domain:** Education and Employment

**Program Description:** In 2009-2013, a systematic effort was made by teachers and staff at Lincoln High to transform the culture at the school to become supportive of heavily traumatized youth, and to increase the youth’s resilience and capacity to learn. In response to research on the long term effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), staff at Lincoln focused on reducing post-traumatic stress and general mental health symptoms, and increasing adaptive and social skills. The Lincoln High approach was not designed to resolve a student’s homelessness, though an experience of homelessness would be one of the factors assessed in establishing a youth’s ACE score.

**Outcomes:** In the first two years of implementation, Lincoln High’s suspension rate dropped by 85% and graduation rates almost tripled. A 2015 study showed an improvement in student resiliency for the majority of Lincoln attendees, and associated, statistically significant better school outcomes on various measures of school performance: fewer absences, better reading and math scores on standardized tests, and higher grades.

### Strategy 6: Improve integration of and access to behavioral health services.

Policies	Potential Partners
Simplify the chemical dependency licensing process for individuals with a preexisting mental health license.	DSHS-BH/Dept. of Health/ OHY
Practices	
Explore barriers to cost-effectively delivering mental health services to Medicaid-eligible homeless youth in housing or shelter settings.	OHY/ DSHS-BH
Capitalize on roll-out of Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISE) to allow homeless minors to receive community-based wraparound care in WISE counties. Ensure integration of WISE services in under 18 shelters and CRC systems.	OHY/ DSHS-BH
Build capacity of homeless youth providers to provide mental health services on-site (including during street outreach), either through mental-health professionals on-staff, or through enhanced partnerships with local behavioral health providers.	DSHS-BH/ OHY
Integrate more harm-reduction services with mental health services.	DSHS-BH/Dept. of Health/ OHY
Ensure mental health services for youth throughout the state are trauma-informed, strengths based, culturally competent and use a positive youth development framework.	DSHS-BH/ OHY
Scan chemical dependency residential facilities, waitlist lengths and transition plans for youth exiting these facilities. Determine barriers to creating a system of on-demand, developmentally-appropriate detox treatment beds for youth.	OHY/DSHS-BH

### Model Practice

#### Behavioral Health Transition Services: LifePoint

**Provider:** Excelsior Youth Center, Spokane County

**Service Domain:** Housing Stability, Social and Emotional Wellbeing

**Program Description:** Comprehensive transition service for Medicaid-eligible youth ages 17-21 who are exiting from higher levels of care without support system resources. Transition services were a longstanding community need for those individuals aging-out of psychiatric hospitalization, juvenile justice and child welfare systems, who often experienced this transition as an abrupt change in the level of available support. Excelsior began LifePoint to address this gap in 2015, receiving its first clients from Eastern State Hospital.

**Outcomes:** While still a new program with limited data on the youth who have transitioned from services, in its first 12 months of operation, LifePoint clients spent 72 days in acute care beds (in-patient hospitalization, treatment facilities, etc.). In the 12 months *prior* to entering



LifePoint, the same clients had spent 1,066 days in acute care beds.

**Strategy 7:** Increase incomes for youth who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

Policies	Potential Partners
Increase the number of certified pre-apprentice training programs throughout Washington, and provide resources for these programs.	WTEB <sup>xxxii</sup>
Practices	
Monitor expanded connection with publicly funded workforce programs through WIOA and recent WA Youth and Families Fund grants. Ensure that homeless youth providers are engaged with workforce boards and as partners to fulfill Out of School Youth (OSY) requirements under WIOA funding.	OHY/ WTEB
Create low barrier supported job readiness programs that help prepare homeless youth to be ready for mainstream job training programs (such as YouthBuild, JobCorps, Year UP).	All

**Model Practice**

**Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE)**

**Provider:** Rod’s House, Yakima County

**Service Domain:** Education and Employment

**Program Description:** RISE is an employment and training project aimed at moving individuals who receive federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to employment, training and self-sufficiency. One of 21 grantees statewide, Rod’s House will use RISE to address the educational, social and economic barriers homeless young people may have to employment through comprehensive case management, job coaching and job placement activities. Rod’s House case managers will work to identify goals and address gaps that are preventing youth from obtaining employment, whether it’s a GED, an ID, or proper clothing.

**Outcomes:** Aims to serve 47 RISE clients per year, of whom at least 80% (38 individuals per year) become service-independent during their time enrolled in the program.

**Strategy 8:** Strengthen and elevate voices of homeless youth and those serving them.

Policies	Potential Partners
Expand state health professional student loan forgiveness program to include mental health and chemical dependency professionals serving in rural areas.	Legislative
Establish recommended staffing models for safely and sustainably serving youth with high levels of trauma and behavioral health challenges. Increase organizational support to allow agencies to meet these guidelines.	OHY
Practices	
Support youth providers’ full participation in continuums of care and capacity to compete for HUD funding.	Commerce/ OHY
Build infrastructure to allow homeless and formerly homeless youth to provide meaningful input and leadership in systems reform.	All
Support continued development of a shared policy agenda for the homeless youth provider sector.	OHY/ WACHYA <sup>xxxiii</sup>
Increase support for homeless youth line staff, including greater supervision and 24-7 access to crisis services.	All
Strengthen the pipeline of mental health professionals, with an emphasis on diversity.	All
Increase opportunities for peer internships and other tools to hire youth who have experienced/ are experiencing homelessness to strengthen the pool of staff who are representative of youth served.	All

**Model Practice**

**Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness (YAEH)**

**Provider:** Mockingbird Society, King County

**Service Domain:** Advocacy

**Program Description:** Created and run by the Mockingbird Society, YAEH engages youth who have experienced homelessness or housing instability in building leadership skills and utilizing those skills in advocacy activities that generate positive system reforms. YAEH ensures that current and formerly homeless youth have a voice in the civic and policy discussions that affect them. Youth conduct direct advocacy, and connect with a wide variety of other organizations to brainstorm and bring their input to the table.

**Strategy 9:** Put equity at the forefront of planning.

Practices	Potential Partners
Apply a racial equity lens to evaluate any substantial programmatic changes or new investments, including engaging youth who are disproportionately impacted by homelessness.	OHY
Scale up trainings on LGBT competency for homeless youth providers in regions where not currently available.	OHY
Ensure collective efforts are diverse and inclusive, and include culturally specific strategies.	OHY
Consider housing strategies that are designed by and for members of over-represented groups.	OHY
Data	
Work with CCYJ’s existing “Safe and Affirming Care” project to improve data and competency of state agencies in serving LGBT youth.	OHY
Disaggregate any statewide outcome reporting by race to ensure equity in outcomes.	OHY

**Strategy 10:** Pursue a shared research and data agenda.

Data	Potential Partners
Develop a dashboard to monitor progress against statewide cross-system benchmarks.	OHY/DSHS-RDA
Identify common outcomes and consistent, valid methods of measurement for homeless youth providers in the domains of housing, well-being, permanent connections and education/employment.	OHY
Improve data gaps around county detention exits, results of child welfare investigations initiated by homeless youth service providers, sexual orientation and gender identity.	All
Collect comprehensive HMIS data on minors through a clarification of law on minors’ ability to consent to data collection, and through the integration of data from state-funded beds into HMIS.	OHY/ Legislative/ OSPI
Share information about promising strategies positively affecting the lives of homeless youth in Washington across the state and the nation.	OHY/All
Develop capacity to support the research and development of promising practices for the homeless youth population.	All

**Model Practice**

**Early Assessment and Mental Health Support for Transition Aged Youth (TAY)**

**Provider:** NW Youth Services, Compass Health, Whatcom County

**Service Domain:** Social and Emotional Wellbeing

**Program Description:** In 2016, NW Youth Services and Compass Health received a small grant to launch a new partnership to (1) provide on-site mental health assessment and outpatient treatment to homeless youth at NWYS and (2) measure the prevalence of Early Psychosis in Whatcom youth between the ages of 18-24 to establish a baseline for future program development. Partners will use a client’s vulnerability score (using the TAY triage tool), ACE score and mental health assessment data to establish baseline prevalence data, which will be used to inform future efforts to fund comprehensive and targeted program interventions for this most vulnerable group.

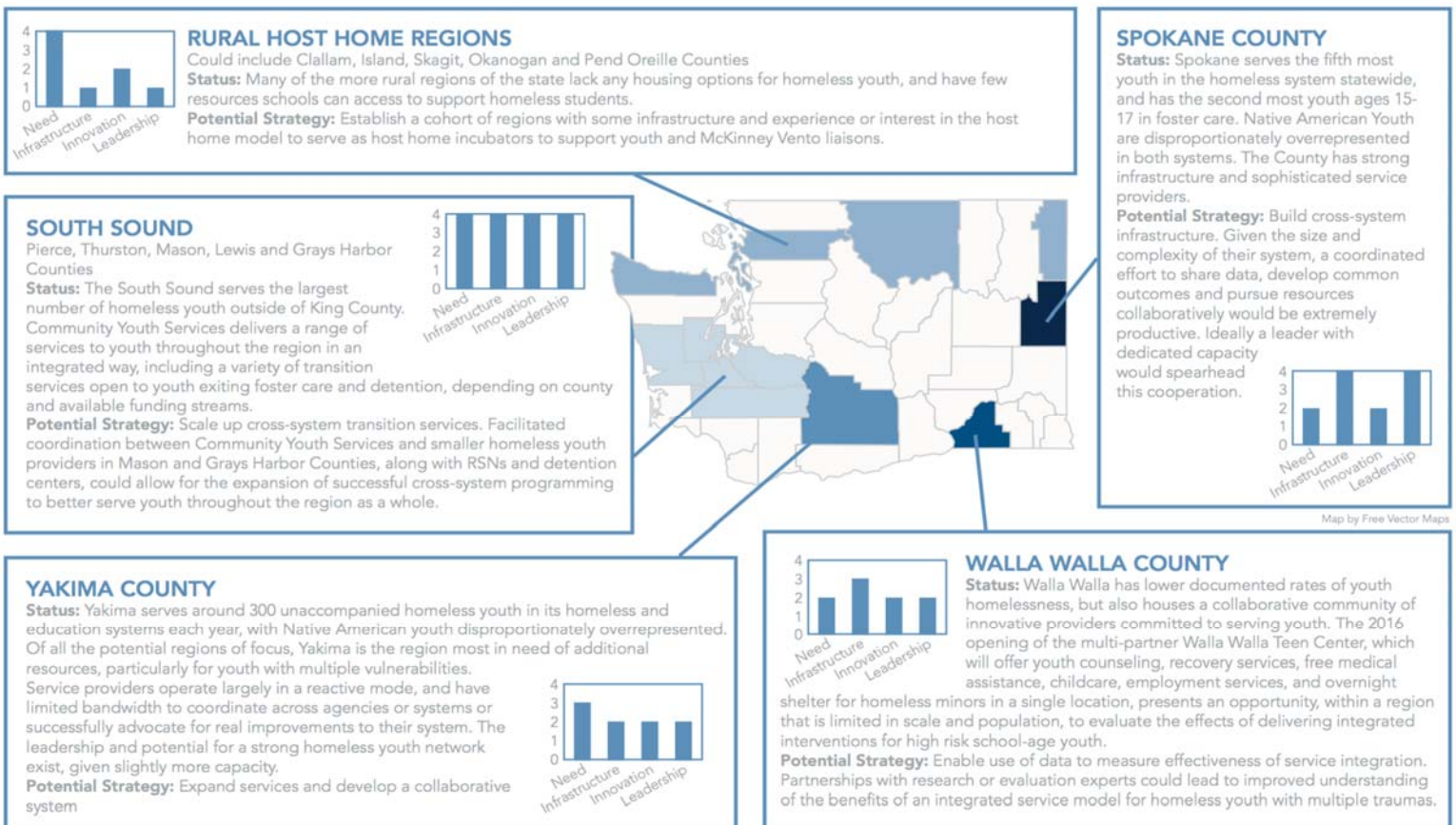
## V. Communities of Opportunity

There are many communities in Washington that could more effectively serve homeless youth given additional resources or infrastructure. To assess which communities might be best poised to leverage new opportunities or serve as models for change, the rating matrix below was applied to regions

Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+1 for 5 counties with highest numbers of youth identified in HMIS</li> <li>+1 for highest rates per 1,000 in 3 or more risk factor categories (poverty, adolescent pregnancy, school disengagement, juvenile arrests)</li> <li>+1 for no young adult-specific housing resources</li> <li>+1 for top 3 in disproportionate over-representation of Native American or African American youth in homeless system</li> <li>+1 for no LGBT youth-specific services or competency training</li> </ul>
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+1 for active or recently active youth coalition</li> <li>+1 for partnership between homeless and MH system</li> <li>+1 for partnership between homeless and police or justice system</li> <li>+1 for partnership between homeless and school or workforce system</li> <li>+1 for youth goals identified in Continuum of Care homelessness plan</li> </ul>
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+1 for promising or evidence-based practice</li> <li>+1 for commitment to data (existing or pending data platform) or rigorous evaluations (including cooperation with researchers)</li> <li>+2 for applications for funding to do any of the above, even if unsuccessful</li> </ul>
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+0.5 for individual providers or agencies who actively advocate</li> <li>+1 for issue-friendly state legislator</li> <li>+1 for youth advocacy organization or opportunities</li> </ul>

across the state. Several communities emerged that contain the resourceful service providers, passionate advocates and resilient youth necessary to catalyze transformation. Details on five top scoring regions' current conditions follow. The list of communities in need is not meant to be a comprehensive list, but a shortlist of possibilities for further conversation.

### Overview



## South Sound

Pierce, Thurston, Mason, Lewis and Grays Harbor

**Youth population (15-17):** 50,608

**Youth in HMIS:** 1,331

**Unaccompanied homeless students:** 948

**Under 18 beds:** 13

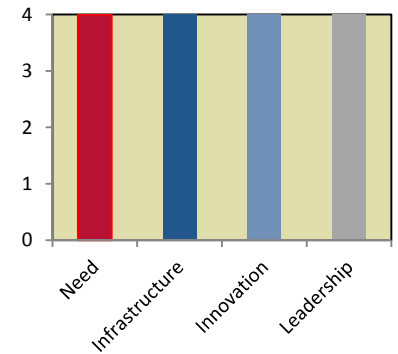
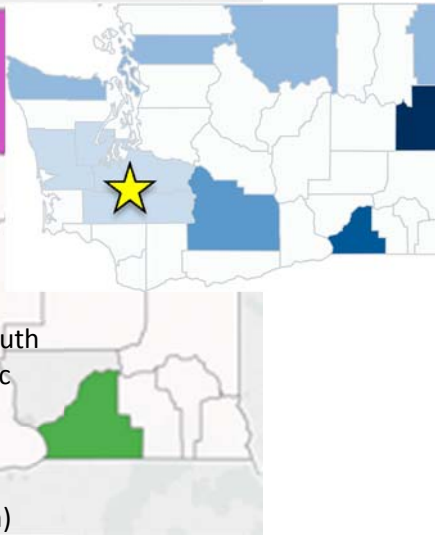
**Young adult beds (shelter, transitional, rent assistance, etc.):** 113

**Homeless services provider:** Community Youth Services (CYS), Mason County HOST, Catholic Community Services

**Behavioral Health provider:** CYS

**LGBT provider:** Oasis Youth Center (Pierce), Stonewall (Thurston), Pizza Klatch (Thurston)

**Employment/education provider:** GRAVITY Learning Center



Need	<p>Together, Pierce and Thurston Counties serve the largest number of homeless youth outside of King County. Demand for shelter and transitional housing exceeds supply in these Counties, with beds prioritized for youth based on vulnerability. More rural Mason and Lewis Counties serve fewer than 100 youth per year but lack any housing or shelter resources other than a model host home program in Mason County. Grays Harbor County has a six bed shelter for minors, but no shelter or housing for young adults. African American youth are particularly overrepresented in the Pierce County homeless system. Mason, Lewis and Grays Harbor do not have an agency or resources specifically supporting LGBT youth.</p>
Infrastructure	<p>These counties are grouped together both because of their regional proximity and because they make up the service area of Community Youth Services. CYS is one of the state's largest youth-serving organizations, delivering housing, behavioral health resources, family reunification, education and employment programs in an integrated way. CYS works closely with juvenile detention, child welfare and education systems, though the scope of collaboration varies widely between counties. The Grays Harbor shelter and Mason County host home program both work closely with local school districts.</p>
Innovation	<p>CYS has shown a commitment to data-driven programming and the development of new models of integrated service delivery. Effective host home programs are in place in both Mason and Pierce Counties.</p>
Leadership	<p>CYS, CCS and the Mason County HOST program each have politically active leadership. The Speaker's Bureau at the Oasis Youth Center and the Olympia/Tacoma chapters of the Mockingbird Society could potentially support the cultivation of youth advisors.</p>

### Recommendation:

The South Sound has a variety of transition services available to youth, depending on county and available funding streams. Facilitated coordination between smaller homeless youth providers in Mason and Grays Harbor Counties, along with RSNs and detention centers, could allow for the expansion of successful cross-system programming to better serve youth throughout the area.

## Rural Host Home Regions

Could include Clallam, Island, Skagit, Okanogan and Pend Oreille

**Youth population (15-17):** 11,705

**Youth in HMIS:** 497

**Unaccompanied homeless students:** 234

**Under 18 beds:** Clallam= 4, Skagit = 12, all others have 0

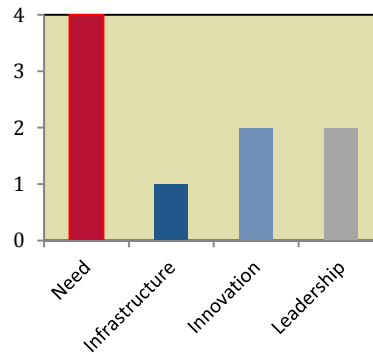
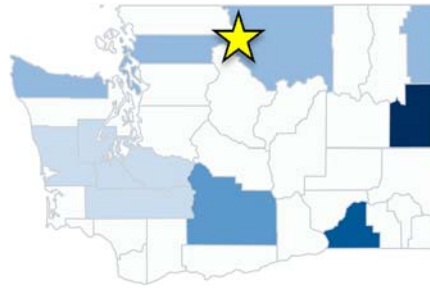
**Young adult beds:** 0

**Homeless services provider:** Ryan’s House for Youth (Island), NW Youth Services and YMCA (Skagit), Youth Emergency Services (Pend Oreille)

**Behavioral Health provider:** Compass Health (Island and Skagit), Pend Oreille County Counseling Service, Peninsula Behavioral Health (Clallam)

**LGBT provider:** Programming exists within NW Youth Services and Ryan’s House

**Employment/education provider:** Pathways to Success (Clallam), Cascade Job Corps (Skagit)



Need	Many of the more rural regions of the state lack any housing options for homeless youth. Two counties in this rural cohort (Island and Pend Oreille) have small host home programs, two (Clallam and Skagit) have a handful of beds for minors, and one (Okanogan) has no beds whatsoever. All indicated the housing supply was insufficient, though the true scale of the need may be most challenging to assess in rural regions like these due to the absence of (1) services and associated HMIS data; (2) urban centers where youth may visibly congregate; (3) in-community foster care placements, which can lead to more youth to hide their homelessness from school systems to avoid being moved out of their home region. Limited services for LGBT youth are available in Island and Skagit counties; competency training for agencies is generally unavailable.
Infrastructure	These counties are grouped here due to some demographic similarities and either (a) a pre-existing host home program; or (b) infrastructure and interest that could support host home opportunities, particularly if that interest was in the education system. McKinney Vento Liaisons in the counties without host homes here relied on informal host situations, but indicated that technical assistance, coordination or support for host families could lead to the evolution of more formal programming able to serve more homeless youth and help them reach graduation. Additional infrastructure exists in Skagit County, which is served by two well-established agencies: NW Youth Services and the YMCA.
Innovation	Island County was a pioneer in the host home arena, and innovated around building connections to the school system and increasing accessibility of host home services to LGBT youth. NW Youth Services is a long-time leader in identifying youth’s needs and developing responsive programming, but it has more services available to youth in Whatcom than in Skagit County.
Leadership	Each homeless youth provider in this cohort regularly participates in WACHYA. Leadership at Ryan’s House and NW Youth Services have been active in pursuing legislation around host home licensing and under 18 data consent, respectively. Ryan’s House recently received a NACEHY grant to create a homeless youth task force, a two-year project dedicated to cultivating youth voice and input in Island County.

### Recommendation:

Explore the establishment of a networked region of host home providers in rural Washington through the creation of a coalition of experts and McKinney Vento Liaisons. Consider efficiencies of centralized training, case management and host family support functions to minimize burden on Liaisons. The network could include additional regions.



## Yakima County

**Youth population (15-17):** 11,593

**Youth in HMIS:** 335

**Unaccompanied homeless students:** 269

**Under 18 beds:** 4

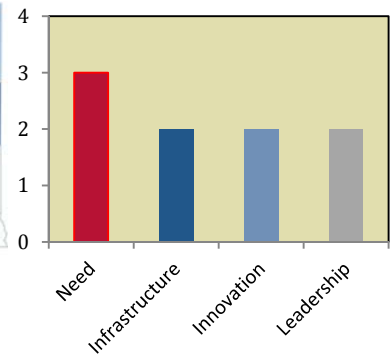
**Young adult beds (shelter, transitional, rent assistance, etc.):** 13

**Homeless services provider:** Catholic Family and Child Service, Rod's House

**Behavioral Health provider:** Comprehensive Mental Health

**LGBT provider:** Neighborhood Health Services

**Employment/education provider:** Rod's House



Need	<p>Yakima serves around 300 unaccompanied homeless youth in its homeless and education systems each year, with Native American youth disproportionately overrepresented. Yakima's relatively low documented need in HMIS is tied to the extremely low number of beds in the community; Yakima has just 17 dedicated youth beds. For comparison, the slightly smaller Thurston County, which has lower incidence of poverty, youth in foster care, adolescent pregnancy, high school disengagement, and juvenile arrests than Yakima, has 89 beds for youth. Prior to Neighborhood Health's opening of a community space for LGBT youth in June of 2016 there were not services or trainings designed to meet the needs of LGBT youth, though other providers did not identify this as a gap. Yakima also lacks intensive services for youth with multiple vulnerabilities.</p>
Infrastructure	<p>Some cross-system and cross-agency collaboration has occurred in the past three years, particularly in the employment space. However, resource limitations remain the overwhelming concern of most providers, and service coordination is considered a luxury most cannot accommodate. As one provider put it, "Yakima is task-oriented community, rather than process oriented one." Coordination between law enforcement, behavioral health and homeless systems is an area for growth. Efforts to assert youth interests within an adult-centric homeless continuum of care are continuously necessary.</p>
Innovation	<p>Rod's House, the local drop-in program for homeless youth, was recently granted a Washington Youth and Families Fund award for an innovative employment program, and is also receiving DSHS funds to pilot an employment program for youth receiving food benefits. The youth homelessness community has been aggressive in pursuing various available funding streams in partnership with other systems. There does not appear to currently be an emphasis on data and research, though providers are comfortable with data systems and evaluation.</p>
Leadership	<p>Yakima's providers have actively attempted to push forward youth-friendly policies at the City and County levels, and are active in local housing and homeless coalitions. The Yakima chapter of the Mockingbird Society could provide the groundwork for the development of youth advisors.</p>

**Recommendation:**  
 Of all the potential regions of focus, Yakima is that most in need of additional resources. Service providers operate largely in a reactive mode, and have limited bandwidth to coordinate across agencies or systems or successfully advocate for real improvements to their system. The leadership and potential for a strong homeless youth network exist, given slightly more capacity.

## Walla Walla County

**Youth population (15-17):** 2,230

**Youth in HMIS:** 115

**Unaccompanied homeless students:** 41

**Under 18 beds:** 0

**Young adult beds:** 0

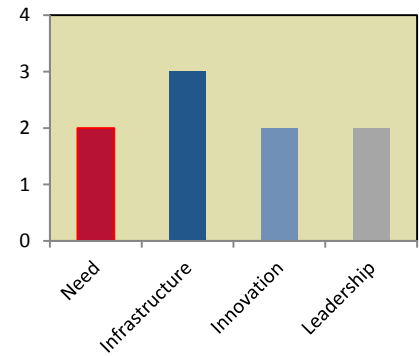
**Homeless services provider:** Catholic Charities

**Behavioral Health provider:**

Comprehensive Mental Health, Trilogy Recovery Center

**LGBT provider:** Triple Point

**Employment/education provider:** Blue Mountain Action Council



### Need

Walla Walla is a smaller community, with lower documented need for homeless youth in both HMIS and OSPI data. HMIS numbers are likely low due to a complete absence of beds for homeless youth. Some LGBT resources are available for minor youth, but agency training on competency serving LGBT youth is not.

### Infrastructure

Walla Walla is one of the few communities where infrastructure currently exceeds available services. In 2013, representatives from social service, law enforcement, education and behavioral health systems established a Youth Alliance to address the absence of services for homeless and at-risk youth. The Alliance identified the need for a multi-purpose, multi-partner facility to meet the needs of adolescents and, after a successful feasibility study and capital campaign, construction of the Walla Walla Teen Center begins this fall. The center will offer youth counseling, recovery services, free medical assistance, childcare, employment skill building/placement, recreation, and a supervised overnight shelter for homeless youth, all under a single roof.

### Innovation

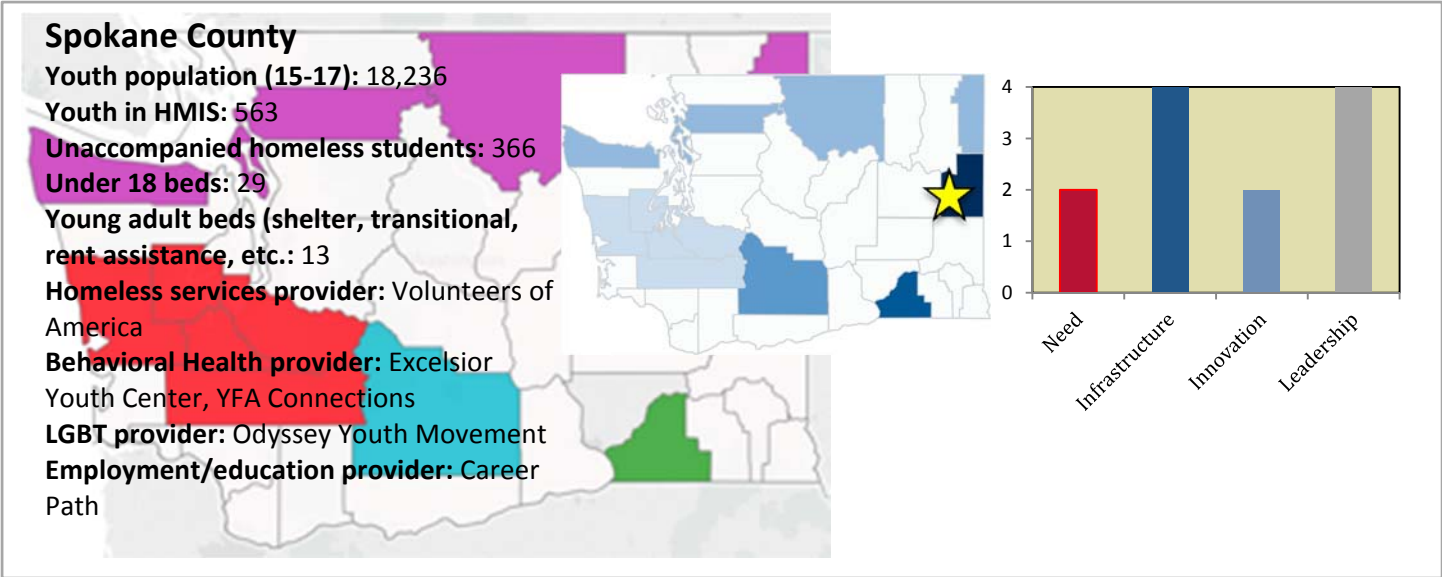
Walla Walla has shown a commitment to youth programming that is responsive to research on childhood trauma (ACEs). Participation in the Voices of Youth data collection effort with Chapin Hall also displays the community's commitment to research and data collection.

### Leadership

Catholic Charities, which will operate the shelter in the Teen Center, is active in WACHYA. There is no Mockingbird Society chapter specifically in Walla Walla, nor is there currently a youth-led, youth-voice organization. The Voices of Youth project will include cultivation of youth advisors, so some new platforms for youth leadership are currently in development.

### Recommendation:

Walla Walla has a collaborative community of innovative providers committed to serving youth. The opening of the Walla Walla Teen Center presents an opportunity, within a region that is limited in scale and population, to evaluate some integrated interventions for school-age youth. Partnerships with research or evaluation experts could lead to improved understanding of the benefits of an integrated service model for homeless youth with multiple traumas.



Need	Spokane serves the fifth most youth in the homeless system statewide, and has the second most youth ages 15-17 in foster care. Native American youth are disproportionately overrepresented in both systems. The community has available beds, particularly for minor youth, but more diverse types of housing are needed to accommodate youth with different intensities of service need. Employment and family reconciliation services specific to homeless youth are available, as is training on how to competently serve and care for LGBT youth.
Infrastructure	A cross-system coalition addressing youth homelessness emerged last year but ceased convening, in spite of good participation and early successes, due to a lack of dedicated staffing. Some coordination exists between the homeless and juvenile detention systems, whereas integration of homeless and crisis mental health services presents an area for growth. Efforts to assert youth’s interests within an adult-centric homeless continuum of care are continuously necessary.
Innovation	VOA, in partnership with Career Path, was recently awarded a WA Youth and Families Fund grant to connect homeless youth to employment opportunities. Both VOA and Excelsior Youth Services have been pursuing resources to integrate housing and behavioral health resources. Providers expressed interest in becoming a more data-driven continuum, but currently have limited resources for evaluation and research.
Leadership	Spokane has strong leaders in the homeless, behavioral health, advocacy and LGBT arenas who are vocal on youth homelessness both regionally and at the state level. Youth leadership programming at Odyssey and the Spokane chapter of the Mockingbird Society could provide the groundwork for the development of youth advisors.

**Recommendation:**  
 Spokane County has strong infrastructure and sophisticated service providers. Given the size and complexity of their system, a coordinated effort to share data, develop common outcomes and pursue resources collaboratively would be extremely productive. Ideally a leader with dedicated capacity would spearhead this cooperation.



## VI. Funding Landscape<sup>xxxiv</sup>

Federal and state funds are available for homeless youth services, both guaranteed by need (formula grants) and awarded through competition (discretionary grants), and other funding streams can be applied to serve this population. Identifying specific amounts dedicated to homeless youth can be complex, however, as their needs are diverse, and many programs that address them cut across multiple agencies and have often been designed to serve either children (18 and under) or adults.

Service providers bear the brunt of these complexities. The challenges of accessing and reporting on public funding, to make no mention of private dollars, can be prohibitively time-consuming for an agency struggling to adequately serve youth. Due to different eligibility thresholds and definitions of homelessness, agencies also spend valuable staff time identifying which youth is served by which funding stream, which does nothing to improve the actual services a young person receives.

This analysis provides a high-level snapshot drawn from publicly available budget documents, but is not a complete audit of all received or potentially available budget sources at the state and federal levels.

### A. Housing Funds

Funding Title	Source//Type	Purpose	Year	Amount
Continuum of Care	HUD// Formula	Provides funding for permanent housing, transitional housing, supportive services, HMIS, and homelessness prevention.	FY 15	\$41 million, approximately \$2.8 million of which is spent on youth programs
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act	HHS// Discretionary	Drop-in, outreach, shelter and housing support for youth under 18/21.	FY 15	\$3.1 million (\$875,000: basic center/shelter; \$700,000: street outreach; \$1.3 million: transitional living; \$200,000: maternity group homes)
Street Youth Services	State OHY// Discretionary	Identification and engagement of youth under 18 living on the street, followed by linkages to appropriate community resources.	FY 17	\$1.3 million (\$800K new in FY 17)

HOPE beds	State OHY// Discretionary	Temporary residential placements for street youth under the age of 18. Youth may self-refer, or courts may order truant youth to placement if there is family conflict or a health and safety concern. Entry is voluntary except when court-ordered.	FY 17	\$1.9 million (\$1 million new in FY 17)
CRC beds	State OHY// Discretionary	Crisis Residential Centers are short-term facilities for runaway youth and adolescents in conflict with their families. Can be secure or semi-secure.	FY 17	\$5.1 million (\$714K new in FY 17)
Young Adult Shelter	State OHY// Discretionary	Funding for 20 shelter beds for young adults ages 18 to 24 years-old.	FY 17	\$420,000 (all new)
Homeless Student Stability Act	State OHY and OSPI// Discretionary	Grants to school districts to pilot increased identification of homeless students and increase capacity to provide support, and connect homeless students to stable housing.	FY 17	\$1 million (all new, another \$1 million through OSPI)
Young Adult Housing Program/ Consolidated Homeless Grant	State Dept. of Commerce// Discretionary	Rental assistance and case management for young adults 18-24. New program in 2016 modeled after IYHP, below.	FY 17	\$787,000
Independent Youth Housing Program	State OHY// Discretionary	Rental assistance and case management for youth who have aged out of the state foster care system. Must be 18 and 23 years old with priority given to young adults who were dependents of the state for at least one year.	FY 17	\$900,000
Responsible Living Skills Program	State DSHS-CA// Discretionary	A placement option for foster youth who are dependent aged 14-18 (may extend to age 21 if the youth is in Extended Foster Care) who have not had success in other, traditional, state placements.	FY 15	\$725,000

## B. Employment Funds

Washington providers, both private and public, compete for and frequently receive federal discretionary grants from the Department of Labor. In the past two years, the federal focus on 18-25 year olds who have disengaged from school and work has led to multiple funding opportunities, many of which have been successfully accessed by providers and coalitions doing innovative work in the Western part of the state.

Funding Title	Source//Type	Purpose	Year	Amount
WIOA	Federal Dept. Of Labor (DOL)// Formula	Youth Activities Program: workforce investment services for out-of-school youth 16-24 and in-school youth 14-21. State/local plans must include youth with barriers in their analysis, needs,	FY 15	\$15,945,865

vision and goals.

Job Corps	Federal DOL// Discretionary	A residential education and job-training program for at-risk youth, ages 16-24. Private companies, unions, and state and federal agencies recruit young people who can train for and be placed in jobs.	FY 15	Unknown
Face Forward 2	Federal DOL// Discretionary	King County Human Services Department received this grant to address barriers to employment for court-involved youth.	FY 15	\$1.5 million
YouthBuild	Federal DOL// Discretionary	Grants to provide job training in construction, education services and support to at-risk youth 16-24.	FY 15	\$3.3 million
Youth Works	State Employment Security// Discretionary	Capacity funding for 12 state Workforce Development Councils to connect out of school youth with employment opportunities.	FY 15	\$2.2 million

### C. Education Funds

Funding Title	Source//Type	Purpose	Year	Amount
Prevention for Neglected and Delinquent Youth	Federal ED // Formula	Grants to states to assist with education services for children and youth who are in state-run institutions for juveniles or adult correctional institutions.	FY 15	\$1.7 million
Education for Homeless Children and Youth	Federal ED // Formula	Grants to states with the goal of ensuring that homeless youth have access to educational opportunities and wrap-around services that address transportation needs, immunization, residency, and other documentation requirements, and guardianship issues.	FY 15	\$1 million
Homeless Student Stability Act	State OHY and OSPI// Discretionary	Grants to school districts to pilot increased identification of homeless students and increase capacity to provide support, and connect homeless students to stable housing.	FY 17	\$1 million (all new in FY 17, another \$1 million through OHY)
Truancy Reform	State OSPI// Discretionary	Training for members of therapeutic truancy boards; dissemination of truancy board best practices to all school districts; and staff support for the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee.	FY 17	\$350K

## D. Justice, Child Welfare and Family Stability Funds

Funding Title	Source//Type	Purpose	Year	Amount
Title II Part B Formula Grant	Federal DOJ // Formula	Supports state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts, as well as juvenile justice system improvement.	FY 15	\$768,000
Chafee Foster Care Independence Program- Title IV-E	Federal HHS // Formula Includes 20% State Match	Provides support for youth transitioning from foster care, including maintenance payment, housing subsidies and other supports.	FY 16	\$2.5 million
Education and Training Vouchers Program (ETV) – Title IV-E	Federal HHS // Formula Includes 20% State Match	This grant provides Education and Training Vouchers Program (ETV) for youth aging out of foster care.	FY 15	\$1 million
Family Reconciliation Services	State DSHS-CA// Formula	Brief intervention or in-home counseling for youth who have run away and their families. Must be screened in by DSHS.	FY 17	\$1.1 million (\$500K new)

In addition, HHS-ACF releases discretionary grants each year that support the emotional and behavioral needs of youth involved with child welfare. Washington research institutions and providers have historically had some success accessing these funds.

## E. Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Washington receives a range of SAMHSA grants each year, including those targeting SAMHSA’s prevention priorities of underage drinking among people between 12 and 20 and prescription drug misuse and abuse among people 12 to 25; as well as funds supporting Drug Courts and associated substance abuse treatment services. DSHS also receives large block grants from SAMSHA for community mental health services, systems of care and substance abuse treatment, which are reallocated throughout the state. The funds available through SAMHSA are an important supplement to supports to homeless youth as they pursue stability, and should be considered an integral part of the array of support necessary to service this population.

In recent years a handful of adult homeless service providers in Washington have directly received SAMSHA discretionary grants for clinical services and research. Homeless youth providers have begun competing for SAMSHA funds to address funding gaps in mental health and homeless housing service integration.

## F. Analysis

With this funding information as a broad baseline, we should consider: (1) whether there are federal dollars that could support the costs associated with youth homelessness that our state is not currently accessing; and (2) if there are places we could spend dollars further upstream that would reduce later costs associated with housing or rehabilitating homeless youth.

## **1. Untapped Federal Resources**

Washington is tapping into all of the large federal funding streams for homeless youth, and is also accessing smaller, discretionary pools. There do not appear to be any major funding streams for which Washington partners are not at least competing, particularly when looking at homelessness-specific programs. However, there are at least three potential opportunities that merit further inquiry:

- Up to 30% of Chafee Foster Care Independence Program dollars may be spent on housing costs. Education and Training Voucher Program funding can also support housing costs for child-welfare involved youth pursuing education. Due to the complexities of using these funds for housing costs, however, Washington is not currently using the full amounts allocated to the state. While the barriers to drawing down the full amounts are imposed by the federal funder (the young person must be on a lease, the property owner cannot be kin, no other funding sources can be available, etc.), local outreach and enhanced expertise among case managers could increase the volume of youth who are accessing these funds.
- As the Affordable Care Act changes are implemented in Washington, more community-based mental health resources will become available. Ensuring that connections between homeless youth providers and behavioral health providers are in place will allow the state to maximize potentially available Medicaid dollars.
- Other than SAMSHA drug-free community grants, most federal discretionary grants are won by agencies in the Western part of the state. As the infrastructure for youth homelessness grows in Eastern Washington there may be opportunities for providers to draw down new federal resources. There may also be grant opportunities through other federal agencies that address needs in rural parts of the state that were not reviewed for this project.

## **2. Upstream Investments**

The question of where spending resources upstream could reduce later costs associated with homelessness is difficult to answer, given that diversion, prevention and early intervention are often underfunded but essential components of any effective strategy to end youth homelessness. A few of the clearest examples of where earlier investments would likely defray long term expenditures include:

- In the behavioral health field, an early diagnosis and treatment of mental illness can determine the trajectory of a young person's illness, and the level of intervention and long term care that they will need. The limited availability of counselors, mental health services and health clinics in the school system is shortsighted, given: (i) analysis establishing the local connection between mental health needs, school completion and homelessness; and (ii) the cost-savings associated with early identification and treatment.
- When youth exit the child welfare and juvenile detention systems with intense service needs but no system of support, they can languish, then return, more damaged, into systems for adults. It would be both more cost-effective and safer for young people if protocols and resources for evidence-based, stepped-down transition services were in place for high-need youth as they age out of the systems designed for young people.

- Giving families the tools, counseling, and resources to better care for a young person whenever it is safe to do so will divert the most youth from the homeless and child welfare systems in the way that also maintains the permanent connections necessary for long term stability. A rigorous evaluation of the outcomes and return on investment of making therapeutic services, as well as flexible resources, available to families, kin and natural supports of high-risk young people would allow us to make responsible funding decisions around expanding the availability of shelter and housing versus focusing on community assets.
- Many youth have multiple caseworkers from multiple systems. A strategy to reduce cross-system caseworker duplication could increase efficiency and reduce individual caseloads, with no decrease in quality of services or results.

The potential return on investment that can be gained through engaging youth sooner and more efficiently should be a lens for thoughtful decision-making about future funding.

## Endnotes

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- <sup>i</sup> Shah, Melissa, et al (2015). Homeless and Unstably Housed K-12 Students in Washington State (RDA Report 11.214). Olympia: DSHS-Research, Data and Analysis. Available at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/rda/documents/research-11-214.pdf>
- <sup>ii</sup> HMIS data FY 2014; OSPI data school year 2014-2015 plus estimates on non-reporting school districts calculated by Columbia Legal Services.
- <sup>iii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>iv</sup> Shah, Melissa, et al. (2015). Youth at Risk of Homelessness (RDA Report 7.106). Olympia: DSHS-Research, Data and Analysis. Available at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/rda/documents/research-7-106.pdf>; Shah Melissa, et al. (2013). Impact of Homelessness on Youth Recently Released from Juvenile Rehabilitation Facilities (RDA Report 11.191). Olympia: DSHS-Research, Data and Analysis. Available at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/rda/documents/research-11-191.pdf>; Shah, Melissa, et al. (2012). The Housing Status of Individuals Discharged from Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities (RDA Report 11.170). Olympia: DSHS-Research, Data and Analysis. Available at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/rda/documents/research-11-170.pdf>
- <sup>v</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>vi</sup> Shah, Melissa, et al. (2015). Youth at Risk of Homelessness (RDA Report 7.106). Olympia: DSHS-Research, Data and Analysis. Available at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/rda/documents/research-7-106.pdf>;
- <sup>vii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>viii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>ix</sup> Shah, Melissa, et al (2015). Homeless and Unstably Housed K-12 Students in Washington State (RDA Report 11.214). Olympia: DSHS-Research, Data and Analysis. Available at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/rda/documents/research-11-214.pdf>
- <sup>x</sup> U.S. Census Bureau; generated by Courtney Noble; using American FactFinder; <<http://factfinder2.census.gov>>; (20 June 2016); HMIS data FY 2014.
- <sup>xi</sup> Carter, George R. III (2011). From Exclusion to Destitution: Race, Affordable Housing and Homelessness. CityScope (Volume 13, Number 11). Available at: [http://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/cityscope/vol13num1/Cityscope\\_March2011\\_from\\_exclusion.pdf](http://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/cityscope/vol13num1/Cityscope_March2011_from_exclusion.pdf)
- <sup>xii</sup> Birth rate data available at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64\\_12.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_12.pdf).
- <sup>xiii</sup> HMIS data FY 2014. Includes permanent housing, transitional housing, friends, family. Analysis limited to communities with at least 100 youth exiting programs in FY 2014.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Data compiled by OSPI. Analysis limited to school districts with a cohort of at least 55 homeless students, including both accompanied and unaccompanied students.
- <sup>xv</sup> 2015 Annual Housing Assessment Report; Housing Inventory Count. Available at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/hdx/guides/ahar/>
- <sup>xvi</sup> HMIS data FY 2014.
- <sup>xvii</sup> Interviews for this report were primarily conducted prior to release of the FY 17 state budget. New budget items for homeless youth, once allocated, are designed to add 53 beds to the statewide system.
- <sup>xviii</sup> Robertson, M. J.; Toro, P. A. 1999. Homeless Youth: Research, Intervention, and Policy, from *Practical Lessons: The 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research*, L.B. Fosburg; D. B. Dennis (eds.). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, p. 3-1-3-32.
- <sup>xix</sup> Kohlenberg, Liz et al. (2013). Behavioral Health Needs and School Success (RDA Report 11.194). Olympia: DSHS-Research, Data and Analysis. Available at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/SESA/rda/documents/research-11-194.pdf>
- <sup>xx</sup> Walker, Sarah et al. (2014). Gap Analysis of Research and Evidence Based Treatment for Children's Public Mental Health in Washington State. Evidence-Based Practice Institute University of Washington. Available at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/BHSIA/dbh/Mental%20Health/Gaps%20Analysis%20with%20Executive%20Summary.pdf>
- <sup>xxi</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xxii</sup> Eg: [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub\\_1038.html](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_1038.html); <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4772248/>

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<sup>xxiii</sup> Evaluations of Family Integrated Transitions are available at: <https://depts.washington.edu/pbhjp/projects-programs/page/mst-family-integrated-transitions-fit>

<sup>xxiv</sup> RHY data: [https://extranet.acf.hhs.gov/rhymis/custom\\_reports.jsp](https://extranet.acf.hhs.gov/rhymis/custom_reports.jsp); King County Count Us In 2015 report: <https://tf008v2.storage.googleapis.com/Count-Us-In-2015-Rpt.pdf> ; Whatcom County Report: <http://www.nwys.org/wp-content/uploads/gates-pride-recommendations-report.pdf>

<sup>xxv</sup> Much credit due to “Heading Home: Minnesota’s Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness” available at <http://www.headinghomeminnesota.org/>

<sup>xxvi</sup> Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration

<sup>xxvii</sup> Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators

<sup>xxviii</sup> DSHS- Children’s Administration

<sup>xxix</sup> DSHS- Research, Data and Analysis

<sup>xxx</sup> Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

<sup>xxxi</sup> DSHS- Behavioral Health

<sup>xxxii</sup> Workforce Training and Education Board

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Washington Coalition of Homeless Youth Advocates; a map showing WACHYA’s members is attached as Appendix 1.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Much credit due to funding reports produced by the Forum for Youth Investment, such as: <http://www.bcm.org/sites/default/files/Out.of.School.pdf>



## Interviews Conducted

Name	Agency	County
Andrew Hill	Excelsior Youth Center	Spokane
Anne Larson	Compass Health	Snohomish, Whatcom, Skagit, Island, San Juan
Barb Lucenko	DSHS-RDA	Statewide
Bridget Cannon	Volunteers of America	Spokane
Cassie Franklin	Cocoon House	Snohomish
Charles Scamman	Catholic Community Services Western WA	Grays Harbor
Dave Frederick	Coffee Oasis	Kitsap
Derek Harris	Community Youth Services	South Sound
Derek Wentorf	Friends of Youth	Snohomish/King
Dr. Sarah Walker	University of WA	Statewide
Ella DeVerse	Aberdeen School District	Grays Harbor
Erin Shea McCann	Mockingbird Society	Statewide
Gina Cumbo	CCYJ	Statewide
Joe Alonzo	Cocoon House	Snohomish
Joe Willis	Rod's House	Yakima
Jude McNeil	Odyssey Youth Movement	Spokane
Judi Lee	Youth Emergency Services	Pend Oreille
Julia O'Connor	Okanogan School District	Okanogan
Justice Bobbe Bridge	CCYJ	Statewide
Kim Justice	Office of Homeless Youth	Statewide
Kim Rinehardt	Mason County HOST	Mason
Kristine Cunningham	ROOTS	King
Laura Riel	Catholic Child and Family Service	Yakima
Lori Cavender	Ryan's House for Youth	Island
Luanda Arai	Building Changes	Statewide
Marilee Boze	Youthnet	Skagit, Whatcom, Snohomish, Island, San Juan
Nicole Yohalem	Road Map Project	King
Peggy Lewis	DSHS-CA	Statewide
Riannon Bardsley	Northwest Youth Services	Whatcom/ Skagit
Scott Hanauer	Community Youth Services	South Sound
Shahera Hyatt	CA Homeless Youth Project	California
Teri Barila	Children's Resilience Initiative	Walla Walla
Terry Pottmeyer	Friends of Youth	Snohomish/ King
Tim Meliah	Catholic Charities Walla Walla	Walla Walla
Vicky Minto	NW Justice Project	Okanogan

Additional interview requests were made for several other counties.

Additional thanks to Katara Jordan and Mary Van Cleve (Columbia Legal Services), Liz Trautman and Melinda Giovengo (YouthCare), Jim Theofelis and Laurie Lippold (Partners for Our Children) and Erin Shea McCann (Mockingbird Society), who provided specific input on Policy and Practice Recommendations.

# Appendix 1

## WACHYA Membership

Organizations only; individual members not listed.

