

BUILDING CHANGES

END HOMELESSNESS
TOGETHER



Strengthening Communities Across Washington State

Established in 2004, the Washington Families Fund, a public-private partnership led by Building Changes, provides stable funding for model programs and innovative solutions to ending family homelessness.



At Valley Cities, Families Come First

Families experiencing homelessness and the pain of separation from a child often have a harder time getting back on their feet and getting back together. Programs such as Valley Cities' Families First in King County help vulnerable families get access to the housing and social services they need, but not without navigating a complex set of hurdles that prolong the journey toward wholeness.

For example, to be eligible for family housing, parents must have custody of their children. But if they are involved with Child Protective Services (CPS), reunification cannot happen until parents have proof of stable housing. It's a frustrating Catch 22 that exists for many families in Washington State and one that also burdens the housing providers who are there to help.

An innovative new funding partnership between the Washington Families Fund, King County Housing Authority, King County Housing and Community Development, and the WA State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is working behind the scenes to alleviate this burden.

This funding partnership enables Valley Cities' Families First staff to deliver much-needed social services to families in their homes. "We help them find housing and give them rental assistance," says Mindy Maxwell, Homeless Family Services Clinical Manager. "And because of this streamlined funding program, we're able to bring all our other services directly to the families *where they choose to live*."

Those vital services might include parenting support so that families can be reunited and children can stabilize in school. Or they might involve case management support with mental health or chemical dependency counseling to repair disrupted lives.

"The flexibility afforded by this funding partnership and Building Changes has been tremendous," says Dan McDougall-Treacy, Director of Homeless Family Services. "Currently, we're supporting 20 high-needs families, and we want to do more. We have a great foundation to build on—and that's what we're trying to give these families, too."

GOING FORWARD: Keeping Families Together

Families involved with the child welfare system are often separated due to homelessness. Bringing parents and children back together in safe, secure housing is the first step in moving them forward.

The Family Unification Program (FUP), through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides Housing Choice Vouchers to communities to help preserve and reunify families in the child welfare system and transition youth aging out of care.

In 2010, Building Changes facilitated a Memorandum of Agreement among the WA State Department of Social and Health Services, public housing authorities around the state, and community partner agencies to ensure that Washington families receive this vital resource. The housing authorities will administer the vouchers, and child welfare agencies will provide support serves to families and youth.





OUR WORK: THE WASHINGTON FAMILIES FUND

Serving Families with High Needs

Since 2008, the Washington Families Fund High-Needs Family service model has focused on families with complex barriers to housing stability. These include: substance abuse, ongoing medical or mental health problems, experience of abuse or trauma, and child welfare involvement. This model provides permanent housing that supports families with intensive services and case management.

To date, the program has served 122 families. As of September 2010, we have baseline assessments for 107 families. At the end of 2010, six-month outcomes data on 58 families in our program became available. This is what we're learning:

HEALTH AND ACCESS TO CARE

Families with medical insurance are using mental health services at a high rate, and **reports of depression are decreasing (by more than 50 percent)**.

Overall physical and mental health scores are improving. Families report a **source of routine care for parents (93 percent)** and **for children (100 percent)**.

Twenty percent of families still have **unmet medical needs** and cite lack of providers who accept Medicaid or Apple Health as a common reason.

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Parents are taking advantage of **parenting services (50 percent enrollment)**, and kids are getting case management support.

Children are absent from school due to illness, not their inability to participate or get to school due to homelessness.

Twenty-five percent of children were identified as needing services for learning or a school-related problem.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Families are getting access to income benefit programs, and fewer are reporting no income.

Thirty percent more families have participated in educational programs (primarily GED), and 14 percent are employed.



Serving Families with Moderate Needs

Total families served:	1217
Increase in heads of households employed:	50%
Increase in average earned income:	32%
Decrease in families receiving TANF:	30%
Improvement in school stability for kids:	80%

GOING FORWARD: Focusing On Evaluation

We are learning more about vulnerable families. By pairing Washington Families Fund data with data from the WA State Department of Social and Health Services, we will develop a better understanding of how permanent supportive housing helps families get access to mainstream services such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). We will compare costs across different housing models and ultimately develop better services packages for our homeless families program.



Aligning Public Support Services

Working with our county partners, we are testing new concepts and strategies to reduce family homelessness. This work involves shifting the way public systems and providers work together to serve at-risk and homeless families. What's clear is that it takes innovative thinking and flexible, effective investments of public resources to create change.

In 2011, Building Changes and our partners are pushing this work forward through the first of many targeted Washington Families Fund investments. The following five strategies guide our work:

KEY STRATEGIES FOR ENDING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

- » **Prevent homelessness** by keeping individuals and families housed and linked to services
- » Improve access to **coordinated support services**
- » **Tailor programs** to deliver the right level of service at the right time
- » **Rapidly re-house** homeless individuals and families
- » **Increase economic opportunities** through education, training, and employment



Paving the Way to Employment

Homeless families need to earn a living wage. In partnership with the Workforce Development Council of Seattle - King County and WorkForce Central in Pierce County, we are supporting pilot projects that help families navigate a path toward economic stability by connecting them to employment services, training, and education.

Our three-year grants support the services of Housing and Employment Navigators who will assist case managers and residents of local Washington Families Fund programs. In King County, this work is being led by the YWCA. In Pierce County, this work will be led by WorkForce Central.



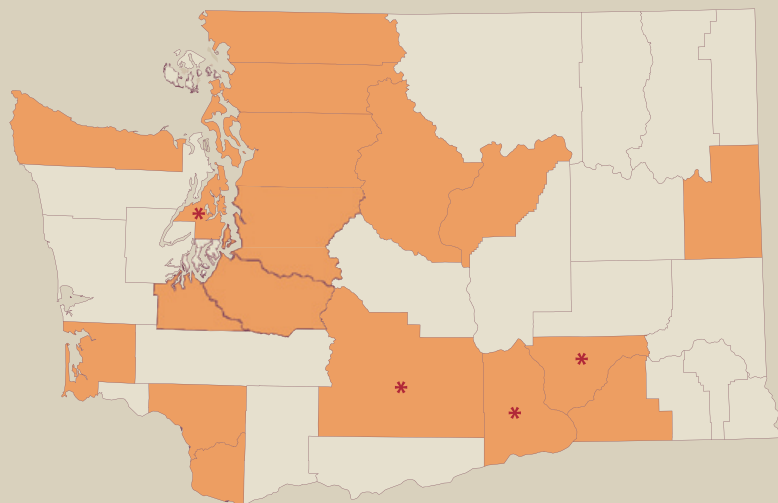
GOING FORWARD: Coordinating Access To Housing And Services

King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties are developing new ways for families and individuals seeking housing and services to get the help they need as fast as possible.

Collecting family information over the phone through a centralized intake system quickly matches homeless families with the providers who are best able to serve them. We are working with our partners to reform state laws that would allow over-the-phone intake, while protecting clients' personal information.

Counties are also integrating a comprehensive assessment tool. This tool assesses a family's immediate housing and services needs in order to quickly stabilize them by matching them with a provider who can best serve those needs.

Washington Families Fund Grant Recipients 2005–2010



* New Counties Funded in 2010

THE FAMILIES FUND TO DATE

Funding Partners:	24
Funding Total:	\$28.0 M*
Private Contributions:	\$14.4 M
State Contributions:	\$13.6 M
Awards to Date:	\$17.7 M**
Counties Served:	19
Nonprofit Programs Statewide:	48
Service-Enriched Housing Units:	662
Families Supported:	1286
Children Supported:	2448
Adults Supported:	1695

* A portion of the Washington Family Fund is allocated for training, technical assistance, evaluation and administration.

** Includes all types of Washington Families Fund grants as of 12/31/2010

BENTON/FRANKLIN

- * Benton Franklin Community Action Committee
\$290,000: Home Base Connections (10 units), 2010

CHELAN/DOUGLAS

- Women's Resource Center of North Central Washington
\$245,000: Strong Families (7 units), 2007
\$320,000: Strong Families (10 units), 2005

CLALLAM

- Serenity House
\$130,000: Cornerstone (4 units), 2007
\$185,000: One-Family-One-Home (12 units), 2006

Westend Outreach Services

- \$334,500: Homestead II (10 units), 2009

CLARK

- Community Services Northwest
\$375,000: Family Housing Northwest Expansion (10 units), 2009
\$265,345: Family Housing Northwest (10 units), 2007

Share

- \$300,000: Aspire (10 units), 2005

COWLITZ

- Drug Abuse Prevention Center
\$750,000: Phoenix Housing (20 units), 2008
- Emergency Support Shelter
\$224,340: Service Enriched Housing for Women and Children (8 units), 2008

ISLAND

- Housing Authority of Island County
\$60,000: Marjie's House (8 units), 2005

KING

- Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services
\$375,000: A Place of Our Own (10 units), 2008
- Church Council of Greater Seattle
\$420,000: HomeStep (12 units), 2007
- Community Psychiatric Clinic
\$450,000: The Willows (15 units), 2005

Consejo Counseling and Referral Service

- \$420,000: Meeting Survivors Needs at Villa Esperanza (12 units), 2007

Hopelink

- \$945,000: Avondale Park (42 units), 2007

International District Housing Alliance

- \$162,500: Solace Project (5 units), 2005

Sound Mental Health

- \$562,500: Project Homestead (15 units), 2007

Valley Cities

- \$518,877: Families First (20 units), 2009

Wellspring Family Services

- \$105,000: Craft Place (7 units), 2005

YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish

- \$490,000: Young Parents Program (14 units), 2008

KITSAP

- * West Sound Treatment Services
\$400,000: Forward Bound (14 units), 2010

PACIFIC

- Crisis Support Network
\$300,000: The Pacific Pearl (11 units), 2009

PIERCE

- Helping Hand House
\$280,000: Rural Bright Futures (8 units), 2006

Intercommunity Mercy Housing

- \$235,830: Eliza McCabe and Hillside Gardens (18 units), 2008

Pierce County Housing Authority

- \$612,150: Family Permanency Project (53 units), 2007

Tacoma Housing Authority

- \$400,000: Salishan I and II (20 units), 2006

Tacoma Rescue Mission

- \$581,310: Tyler Square (27 units), 2008

SKAGIT

- Skagit County Community Action
\$280,000: Skagit Family Housing Initiative (10 units), 2005

SNOHOMISH

Housing Hope

- \$301,570: Avondale Park (14 units), 2009
- \$715,000: New Century Village (26 units), 2008
- \$180,000: Hope Village (9 units), 2007
- \$235,000: Maple Leaf Meadows (12 units), 2007

Volunteers of America

- \$187,500: Housing First-Sky Valley (5 units), 2007
- \$300,000: Lincoln Way (15 units), 2006

YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish

- \$382,000: Edmonds Highlands (12 units), 2005

SPOKANE

Catholic Charities of Spokane

- \$110,115: Walnut Corner (10 units), 2008

Transitions

- \$357,080: Spokane Families Futures (20 units), 2005

THURSTON

Community Youth Services

- \$700,000: Employing Parents to Inspire Change (20 units), 2009

Housing Authority of Thurston County

- \$250,000: Supporting Family Self-Sufficiency (10 units), 2005

Intercommunity Mercy Housing

- \$225,060: Evergreen Vista (10 units), 2007

WALLA WALLA

Blue Mountain Action Council

- \$385,000: Paine Court Supportive Housing (11 units), 2009

WHATCOM

The Opportunity Council

- \$256,000: WFF Housing (12 units), 2005

YAKIMA

Yakima County Department of Community Services

- \$840,000: FIESTAS (24 units), 2007
- * \$750,000: FIESTAS Lower Valley (20 units), 2010

Washington Families Fund Public and Philanthropic Partners

"The work of Building Changes, through the Washington Families Fund, is extraordinarily compelling. From funding local and regional systems change to advocating for broader policy changes, they are guiding transformation across our state, with families in need as the beneficiaries." —Brian Boyd, Executive Director, Forest Foundation

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation

Aven Foundation

The Boeing Company

Campion Foundation

Ben B. Cheney Foundation

Community Foundation of North Central Washington

Forest Foundation

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Greater Tacoma Community Foundation

Inland Northwest Community Foundation

Kawabe Memorial Fund

Medina Foundation

Meyer Memorial Trust

Microsoft Corporation

Norcliffe Foundation

OneFamily Foundation

The Seattle Foundation

United Way of King County

Washington State Department of Commerce

Windermere Foundation

Weyerhaeuser Foundation

WorkForce Central Tacoma-Pierce County

Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County

Yakima Valley Community Foundation



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Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Kari Burrell, *Committee Co-Chair*

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