Overview
The Washington Families Fund (WFF) High-Needs Families Model (HNF) is a permanent supportive housing program that helps homeless families who experience co-occurring disorders and multiple barriers to housing.

Evaluation
A multi-year study* of the HNF model is being conducted by Westat, a national research organization. The study is designed to better understand the needs of these families and their experiences in supportive housing.1 Also, the study examines if the WFF families enrolled in HNF experience:

- Decreases in homelessness and increases in housing stability;
- Increases in education attainment;
- Increases in employment and monthly income; and decreases in debt;
- Increases number of families reunified;
- Increases in access to healthcare and improvements to overall health;
- Improvements behavioral health status and decreases trauma exposure;
- Decreases in the use of high-cost crisis and institutional care.

What's Next
Analysis using data from DSHS will provide us with greater understanding of how these changes compare with families with similar needs, but not receiving the same housing and supports.

By mid-2014, we also will be able to compare outcomes and costs and determine what types of families succeeded in different housing models.

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* Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
2 Ibid.