A $6 million investment in the **WASHINGTON YOUTH & FAMILIES FUND** will make youth and family homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.

The Legislature created the Washington Youth & Families Fund in 2004 as a public-private partnership to fund services for homeless families and youth.

- **$20M**
  - Invested by State of Washington

- **$73.7M**
  - Total invested by public/private partners over 12 years

- **$53.7M**
  - Invested by 25 private funding partners

**100 ORGANIZATIONS**
- Funded in 24 counties

**Areas funded:**
- Case management
- Employment support
- Mental health treatment
- Transportation
- Child care
- Other homeless and housing services

**Private partners**
- Aven Foundation
- Ben B. Cheney Foundation
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Boeing Company
- Campion Foundation
- Community Foundation of North Central Washington
- Enterprise Community Partners
- Forest Foundation
- Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
- Inland Northwest Community Foundation
- Kawabe Memorial Fund
- Medina Foundation
- Meyer Memorial Trust
- Microsoft Corporation
- The Norcliffe Foundation
- OneFamily Foundation
- Paul G. Allen Family Foundation
- Seattle Foundation
- United Way of King County
- Windermere Foundation
- Weyerhaeuser Foundation
- WorkForce Central Tacoma-Pierce County
- Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County
- Yakima Valley Community Foundation

**Recent recipient organizations**
- Community Action of Skagit County
- Family Support Center of South Sound
- Housing Authority of Grant County
- Kitsap Community Resources
- Housing Resource Center of Lewis County
- Career Path Services
- Janus Youth Services
- Multi-Service Center
- Somali Youth and Family Club
- Workforce Snohomish
- Yakima Neighborhood Health Services
- Catholic Charities
- Council for the Homeless
- HopeSource
- Opportunity Council

These investments are moving more families out of crisis and into housing.
Effective strategies are working across the state.

Counties across the state now have the tools and strategies to help families move out of homelessness and into stable housing:

- **Coordination of homeless services** means homeless families are knocking on one door rather than 45 to 50 to access support.1

- **Rapid Re-Housing is now employed by all counties**, ensuring more families get housed more quickly.

- **Reserving permanent supportive housing for those who truly need it** means communities are using this expensive and scarce resource more wisely.

- **Service providers are helping more families solve their own housing crisis** with a little bit of support at the right time.

- **Greater connections between service providers and workforce development** means more families are being connected with jobs that help maintain stable housing.

But, Washington Youth & Families Fund has been able to meet only 26% of the requests for funding during the last three years despite the growth in need.

More families are obtaining housing, but new families are entering homelessness and we’re seeing more homeless students in our schools.

- **Almost 16,000 families with children accessed homeless services** in Washington in 2014.2

- **Our schools identified 35,511 homeless students** in Washington during the 2014-2015 academic year—a 9.1% increase over the previous year.3

- **10% of those students are facing homelessness alone** and are not in the custody of a parent or guardian.4

1  Westat Systems Initiative Evaluation for King County pre-Coordinated Entry data.
Below are two examples highlighting how investments we make are working to help youth and families.

1. **TAILORED HOUSING-STABILITY SERVICES**

This cost-effective, “first response” strategy engages families early in solving their own housing crisis so they can move quickly to stable housing and stay out of the homeless housing system altogether.

**Pilot Program Results**

- 444 families served
- 62% of families exiting the program were stably housed
- $1,249 is the average amount of financial assistance families received

“Before [Tailored Housing-Stability Services], their shelter stay would have been weeks, months, maybe a year.”

—Tanner Phillips, housing stability manager, Neighborhood House, King County

(Data Source: Building Changes preliminary analysis of a King County Diversion Pilot, 2015.)

2. **HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT NAVIGATOR PROGRAM**

A Housing and Employment Navigator works one-on-one with homeless families to assess their individual circumstances and to address specific barriers to employment in order to help them find and keep a job, and secure stable housing.

**Pilot Program Results**

- 48% of participants secured stable housing
- 58% of participants are newly employed or obtained a new job with higher income
- 67% of those who became employed retained their job six months after hire

“[WorkForce Central’s] Employment Navigator pilot program resulted in integration across systems, which resulted in better outcomes for families. This led to a $6 million federal investment in our state to increase capacity and build on this successful model.”

—Linda Nguyen, CEO, WorkForce Central, Pierce County

(Data Source: Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF) Performance Outcomes Report, 3-31-16. Data pulled by WorkForce Central from SKIES, a computer-based information system that tracks employment and training services in Washington state. Stable housing data from HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) managed by the Washington state Department of Commerce.)
We now have greater knowledge of what families and youth need to become and remain stably housed, and we have the ability to leverage public dollars into private funding that can help us meet the need statewide.

A $6 million investment will:

- Increase funding of innovative strategies and best practices that help homeless families achieve housing stability and economic self-sufficiency.
- Reach more homeless students and better address their unique needs by supporting cross-sector collaboration between the homeless and education systems.
- Help homeless young adults transition to stability by investing in proven efforts to connect those experiencing homelessness with jobs.
- Increase our support of homeless families with children by supporting services and strategies that get them housed and stable.

The Washington Youth & Families Fund is a smart investment because every public and private dollar is strategically directed for maximum impact.

A $6 million investment in the Washington Youth & Families Fund will leverage private dollars to help make youth and family homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.

The Washington Youth & Families Fund is administered by Building Changes, a nonprofit advancing strategies to help youth and families move out of homelessness and into stable housing.

buildingchanges.org