



Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is being executed by the undersigned effective as of March 19, 2009 for the purpose of articulating a shared intention to continue and expand the public-private partnership administered by Building Changes and known as the Washington Families Fund, as further described below. This MOU replaces the former Homeless Families Services Fund MOU executed in November 2004.

RECITALS

Whereas, in 2004, the State of Washington (the State) created a public-private partnership called the Washington Families Fund (formerly known as the Homeless Families Services Fund) and selected Building Changes (formerly known as AIDS Housing of Washington) to administer the Fund;

Whereas, the purpose of the Washington Families Fund has been to fund services in supportive housing programs for families with children experiencing homelessness within Washington;

Whereas, since 2004, the State has allocated \$12 million to the Washington Families Fund and 19 different private funders have invested nearly \$9 million to the Fund, affirming that public and private sector collaboration provides the opportunity to address the needs of homeless families with children in new and creative ways;

Whereas, Building Changes has worked in collaboration with the State of Washington, counties, cities, and regional housing authorities since 2004 and has funded 36 programs that collectively provide 522 units of housing with support services throughout the State which are projected to serve over 5,000 families over the next decade;

Whereas, although current efforts have shown great potential, children and their family members continue to comprise nearly half of the 21,947 people who lack a safe place to sleep on any given night in the State of Washington;

Whereas, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, along with local, state and national organizations, have identified emerging promising practices and have visited other communities in the country that have implemented practices which resulted in significant reductions in family homelessness;

Whereas, Building Changes seeks to expand the purpose of the Washington Families Fund to test and implement new county-and state-level system responses that will help end family homelessness in the future while continuing to serve families who are experiencing homelessness right now;

Now therefore, the undersigned agree to the following:

GOALS

The undersigned partners agree to pursue the following goals of the Washington Families Fund:

1. By 2019, reduce by 5,000 the number of children and their family members experiencing homelessness in Washington State, through the implementation of models of promising practices that include coordinated entry, prevention, rapid re-housing, coordinated and tailored services, and linkages to economic opportunities.
2. Assure public resources are used as effectively as possible to serve homeless families or those at risk of becoming homeless.
3. Continue to assist families throughout Washington State to remain stably housed and increase their income, well being, and educational and economic opportunities.
4. Ensure activities are coordinated with local and regional ten year plans to end homelessness.

TERMS

Partner Roles

This public-private partnership relies on the unique strengths and contributions of its partners:

State of Washington

- Shall be represented by the Governor or his/her designee and supported by the State departments that most directly support homeless children and their families.
- Shall work collaboratively with other public and private partners to analyze and report on how state resources, including federal pass-through dollars, are being spent to address family homelessness in Washington State.
- Shall serve as the lead entity to provide available data through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for program evaluation in meeting the statewide goals of the Washington Families Fund.
- Shall work across departments and divisions to collaborate with other funders, and contribute and align resources to meet the goals of the Washington Families Fund.
- The Governor or his/her designated state representative shall co-chair the Washington Families Fund Leadership Committee.

Partner Counties

- King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties agree to serve as “pilot communities” to implement and test the promising practices referenced in the above goals for ending family homelessness at the county level.
- King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties shall conduct a study to determine how county resources, including state and federal pass-through dollars, are being spent to address family homelessness in each county with joint funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other private funders.
- Shall work to collaborate with other funders, contribute and align resources to meet the goals of the Washington Families Fund.
- Agree to share their learning and experiences so that successful efforts may be replicated in other communities throughout the State.
- King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties shall provide a county executive-appointed representative to serve on the Leadership Committee and a representative to serve on the Technical Steering Committee.

Note: Additional pilot communities may be added in the future as resources for county-level activities become available.

Partner Cities and Housing Authorities

- Agree to work with the State and counties to collect relevant data and implement the promising practices for preventing and ending family homelessness in their communities described above.
- Shall work to collaborate with other funders, contribute and align resources to address the goals of the Washington Families Fund.
- Shall agree that at least one representative from a City and one representative from a Public Housing Authority serve on the Technical Steering Committee.

Private Philanthropy Partners

- Agree to work to contribute and align resources to address the goals of the Washington Families Fund.
- Shall agree that one private philanthropy partner will co-chair the Leadership Committee. Other private philanthropy members shall consider serving on either the Leadership Committee or Technical Steering Committee and agree to contribute community understanding and knowledge to support the efforts of the pilot communities.

Building Changes

- Serve as the lead administrator for the public-private partnership known as the Washington Families Fund.
- Provide staffing to the Leadership and Technical Steering Committees and assist these committees in implementing the strategies needed to meet the expanded goals of the Washington Families Fund.
- Provide technical assistance to pilot communities, private philanthropy, and public entities as needed.
- Pool, grant, and administer those resources invested directly in the Washington Families Fund to benefit communities throughout the State.
- Designate one board or executive staff member to co-chair the Technical Steering Committee and one board member to serve on the Leadership Committee.
- Ensure that the remaining Washington Families Fund 2008 appropriation is used according to the terms of the existing CTED/Building Changes contract 08461-7-30

Guiding Committees

Leadership Committee

- The Committee's purpose shall be to champion and refine the goals of the Washington Families Fund; monitor evaluation findings and progress toward meeting stated goals; identify and promote policy changes needed to meet goals; recommend investment strategies for public and private fund sources aligned with the work of the Washington Families Fund; approve funding policies for pooled funds.
- Shall be co-chaired by the Governor or his/her designee and a committee member from a private philanthropy partner organization.
- Standing members shall include the co-chairs, one representative from each private philanthropy organization that has signed this MOU, one representative from the Building Changes Board of Directors, and one executive-level representative from the following entities: each county serving as a pilot community, one City that has benefitted from the Washington Families Fund, and one Public Housing Authority that has supported a Washington Families Fund project.
- Additional members from multiple sectors at the state and local level will be identified and added based on a majority vote by standing members.
- Shall meet two (2) times per year.

Technical Steering Committee

- The Committee's purpose shall be to advise pilot communities during the planning and implementation phases; determine and promote opportunities for cross-county and cross-state collaboration and learning among the counties and with the State; make funding recommendations to Building Changes Board of Directors for grants awarded through the Washington Families Fund; make funding recommendations to partners for aligned funding, if requested; review evaluation findings and share findings throughout the State.
- Shall be co-chaired by a Building Changes executive staff or board member and government representative.
- Shall supersede and include members from the existing Washington Families Fund Steering Committee.
- Additional members will be added as referenced above and from multiple systems at the state and local level at the discretion of Building Changes and the Leadership Committee co-chairs.
- Shall meet up to four (4) times per year.

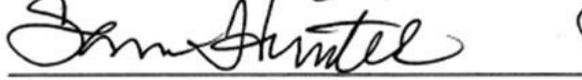
This MOU is a statement of intent only, and is not binding upon the parties. The parties will not be liable to each other for any damages or losses arising from or relating to this MOU. Additional partners may be added to the MOU upon majority agreement by the undersigned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed and made effective this MOU on this 19th Day of March, 2009.

Signatories:

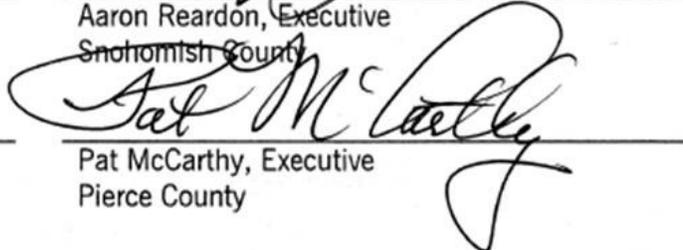

Christine Gregoire, Governor
State of Washington


David Bley, Director
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation


Sam Hunter, Board President
Building Changes


Ron Sims, Executive
King County


Aaron Reardon, Executive
Snohomish County


Pat McCarthy, Executive
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