

BUILDING CHANGES

END HOMELESSNESS
TOGETHER



Washington Families Fund Five-Year Report 2004–2009

The Washington Families Fund ensures that homeless families have the housing and services they need to move from crisis to stability.

Washington Families Fund

The Washington Families Fund is a public-private partnership that seeks to expand the availability of supportive housing for families in need by providing stable, long-term funding to agencies with the best models for ending family homelessness and strengthening communities throughout Washington state.

Making progress.

In the five years since its inception, the Washington Families Fund has identified interventions and solutions that are bringing Washington state closer to a future when at-risk families have immediate access to stable housing and supportive services that prevent homelessness and keep families together. This report highlights significant outcomes and progress we've made to date.

Learning from our grantmaking.

Together with our state, nonprofit, and philanthropic partners we are exploring and implementing innovative new programs that address critical needs, such as support services paired with housing, case management, training programs focused on employment and economic stability, and programs for children. Our grantees help us identify and replicate best practices in the field and provide us with important data for measuring outcomes.

Aligning support services.

Also emerging from the work of this partnership is a collaborative effort to improve the way public support services come together to address family needs in order to prevent homelessness.

Bridging the employment gap.

Access to employment services and training is a first step toward self-sufficiency for most families. We're working with providers to create bridges to education and employment that ensure families not only find housing, but also sustain their housing.

Improved Job Prospects through Partnerships

The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County (WDC), one of our newest partners, will support a three-year program aimed at improving job prospects for families. The WDC's \$100,000 Workforce Investment Act funding, which will be matched by the Washington Families Fund, will serve families currently benefiting from the Fund.

The Families Fund to Date:

FUNDING PARTNERS: 23

FUND TOTAL: \$26 MILLION*

AWARDS-TO-DATE: \$15.8 MILLION

COUNTIES: 15

NONPROFIT PROGRAMS
STATEWIDE: 43

SERVICE-ENRICHED HOUSING
UNITS: 618

FAMILIES SUPPORTED: 1009

CHILDREN: 1860

ADULTS: 1181

" The Washington Families Fund offers a sustainable model that is focused on real results for our state's homeless families; and we are honored to be a partner in it."

– Tricia McKay,
Executive Director,
Medina Foundation

* 15 percent of the Washington Families Fund is allocated for training, technical assistance, evaluation and administration.

Milestones 2004–2009

2004

- Washington State Legislature creates the Washington Families Fund with a \$2 million appropriation
-

2005

- Award first round of grants to 10 programs statewide, totaling 109 units of housing
 - Thirteen private funders join Washington Families Fund partnership and contribute \$3 million
 - Launch Moderate-Needs Service model
 - Launch program evaluation
-

2006

- Award second round of grants to an additional 4 programs, totaling 55 units of housing
 - State makes a second appropriation of \$4 million to the Fund
 - Private contributions to the Fund now total \$4.3 million
-

2007

- Award third round of grants to an additional 14 programs, totaling 225 units of housing
 - Develop new High-Needs Service model
 - Expand Moderate-Needs Service model to include employment opportunities and stronger children's services
-

2008

- Award fourth round of grants to an additional 8 programs, totaling 133 units of housing
 - State makes a third appropriation of \$6 million to the Fund; Washington Families Fund bill is the first bill signed in the legislative session
 - Fund grows by 43 percent, serving 456 families, representing 901 children and 1,450 adults
 - Launch evaluation and performance measures to track high-needs homeless families
-

2009

- Award fifth round of grants to an additional 7 programs, totaling 96 units of housing
- On March 19, 2009, the State of Washington in collaboration with King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, the cities of Seattle, Tacoma, and Everett, six housing authorities and several philanthropic partners affirmed their commitment to ending family homelessness by signing a Memorandum of Understanding, which pledges redoubled efforts to reduce family homelessness in the next 10 years; assures public resources are used effectively in serving homeless families or those at risk for homelessness; and assists families throughout Washington state to remain stably housed and increases their income, well-being and education and economic opportunities.
- Private contributions to the Fund now total \$14.2 million



"It saddens me that families with children make up nearly half of our state's homeless population. And unfortunately, the economic crisis may push even more families with children into homelessness. We must do more as a community to help families achieve and maintain stability. The Washington Families Fund Memorandum of Understanding is an important step at a critical time."

– Governor Christine Gregoire



Meeting the Needs of Families

Over the course of our work we have achieved consistent, positive results. Three-quarters of the families helped by the agencies we fund have successfully obtained permanent housing. Service-enriched housing has stabilized their lives.

From the earliest days of our evaluations, however, we observed that approximately 25 percent of the families entering these programs returned to homelessness. Working with our service providers we determined that we could support families better if we improved our screening of their complex needs at the outset and offered them different levels of service to meet those needs.

Families with Moderate Needs—Focusing on Economic Stability

Our original service model targeted housing stability. In 2007 we deepened our focus to include children's services and employment. Getting homeless families linked to training programs around employment has proven to be a key component in helping families increase self-sufficiency and economic stability. We also established 10-year grants for supportive services attached to housing units.

Families with High Needs—Focusing on Housing Stability and Well-being

In response to evaluations showing that approximately 25 percent of families were slipping back into homelessness, we created a model whose goal is to provide stability in permanent housing and services that promote safety and economic well-being and increases the likelihood that families will remain intact. We worked with grantees to:

- Develop a screening tool to better identify needs and target families with multiple barriers
- Fund programs with higher levels of service, especially mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and trauma, and kids in child welfare system
- Establish 5-year grants

Our primary goals for all families are:

- Greater housing stability
- Improved economic and educational advancement
- Increased access to community-based services and support
- Family stability and increased stability in childcare and school attendance

We support our grantees with:

- Long-term, stable funding
- Access to training and technical assistance
- Program evaluation



Representative Ruth Kagi: A Champion for Homeless Families

What sparked your interest and support in the Washington Families Fund?

I came to the legislature to work on issues effecting young children, child welfare and foster care. And obviously homelessness is an enormous issue for children, child welfare and TANF (public assistance) recipients.

In 2002, a group of individuals got together to discuss creating a public-private pooled fund that would provide long-term, ongoing support for the families. It was easy to see and support the outcomes and long-term savings produced for the state.

What made the idea for Washington Families Fund financially compelling then—and now?

I was taken with the idea of a one-time allocation that would be matched by private dollars. At the time we were facing over a \$1B deficit and a supplemental budget. The creativity of this new funding model made sense. There were legislative challenges and hurdles, and a number of allies who stepped up and played a role in making it happen. In the end we delivered a \$2M appropriation—the start of something that is really meaningful.

Ultimately, the Washington Families Fund provides such a successful model for funding that we were all compelled to collaborate. To this day, the Washington Families Fund offers solutions—*constructive, proven strategies*—for helping struggling families with children.

What are the connections between child welfare and the Washington Families Fund?

There is no question that a significant percentage of families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are in the child welfare system. A study a few years ago found that 35 percent of families lose their housing as a result of children being removed. It is a big problem for child welfare, and it's a terrible cycle that we need to address. We need to do a better job of integrating the services that child welfare workers and housing experts each provide. It's probably the single most important thing we can do to reduce the number of children in care.

What accounts for the Washington Families Fund's success to date?

The Gates Foundation and Building Changes do a great job of keeping everyone focused on data, and that's a big part of why the outcomes keep improving. We have to be willing to learn from what is working, and change course when it's not. We are so fortunate to have the resources for research. Good data matters, and success breeds hope.

What are your hopes for the future of the Fund?

Much is currently being done and invested. There should be ways to identify resources, from Medicaid, TANF and other sources—*different streams of existing program funding*—where we can find a match for the dollars provided by the private sector. For the public portion of the Fund, we should eventually try to identify operating resources out of our existing funding. This session will be really historic in terms of the deficit we are facing. But we cannot and will not give up hope, because the need is growing daily.

" Ultimately, the Washington Families Fund provides such a successful model for funding that we were all compelled to collaborate. To this day, the Washington Families Fund offers solutions—*constructive, proven strategies*—for helping struggling families with children."

— Representative Ruth Kagi



Five Years

More Than 1000 Families Making Gains

Families with Moderate Needs:

We have come a long way in moving families out of homelessness and toward self-sufficiency.

Stabilize in Permanent Housing

- 491 families successfully completed programs with an average stay of 11 months.
- 73 percent of those families became permanently housed.

Decrease in Use of Public Assistance

- Dependence on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) decreased by 13 percent.

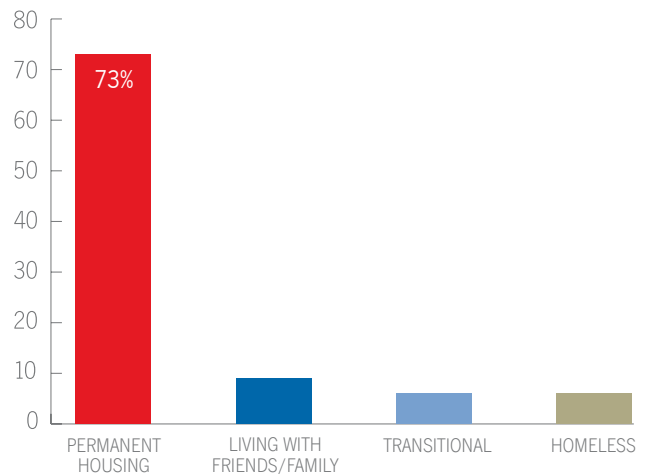
Stability for School-age Children

- With housing stability, the number of children remaining stable in the same school improved by 80 percent.

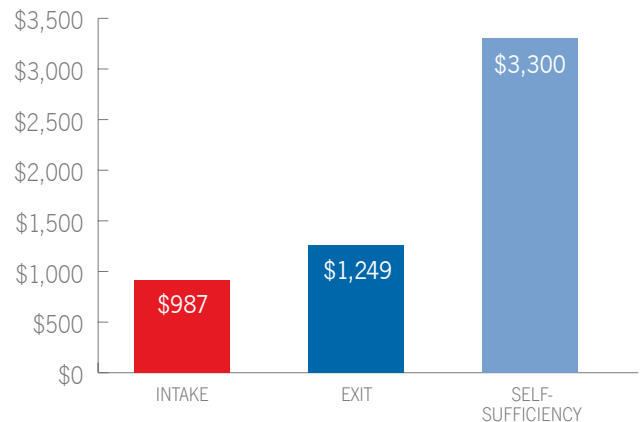
Gains in Economic Stability

- Employment rose by 53 percent among heads of households.
- Income increased by 27 percent, from \$987/month to \$1,249/month.
- Families are earning *only one-third* the amount they need to meet the Washington State Self-Sufficiency Standard. The Fund is putting increased effort on developing opportunities to link families with employment programs and training that will result in living wages.

Majority of Families Secure Permanent Housing



Majority of Families Increase Monthly Income; Yet Remain Below Self-Sufficiency Standard



Emerging Profile of Chronically Homeless Families:

Our innovative high-needs model is producing a first picture of what a chronically homeless family looks like. Fifty-seven families presented with the following challenges upon entering Washington Families Fund programs.

History of Homelessness

High-needs families have significant histories of homelessness and residential instability. 85 percent of mothers have three or more barriers to obtaining housing or service, including substance abuse and CPS involvement.

Impact on Children

Homelessness often leads to family separation. 42 percent of these families have at least one child living apart, and 25 percent have an open CPS plan.

Health and Access to Care

While 63 percent report a chronic or ongoing medical problem, the good news is that 91 percent also report a source of medical insurance, and 79 percent are receiving routine medical care.

Barriers to Employment

Getting and keeping a job is challenging for families caught in a cycle of trauma, depression, and substance abuse. Having a criminal background compounds the problem. 70 percent of these families have indicators of mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression. Rates of substance abuse are high, but even higher are rates for physical and sexual violence.

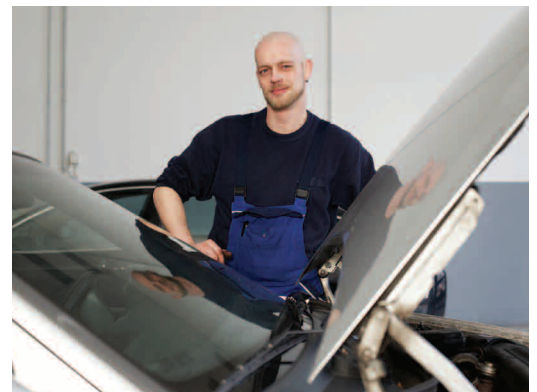
Average number of times homeless in lifetime: 10

At least one child living apart: 42%

Open Child Protective Services (CPS) plan: 25%

Experience of physical or sexual violence: 93%

Chronic or ongoing medical problem: 63%



"The Washington Families Fund grant has helped us make employment a higher priority with our clients. More than 65 percent of our homeless clients find a job, but more importantly, these individuals are learning what it takes to keep that job."

– Meghan Altimore,
Director of Asset Building,
Hopelink, Redmond, WA

Hopelink: With Resources Come Choices

More than 65 percent of Hopelink clients, who participate in its employment program, are finding jobs—even in this economy. But more importantly, these individuals are learning what it takes to keep that job while at the same time setting longer-term and even higher goals of achievement.

"Before we became a Washington Families Fund grantee, employment was just one of the thousand issues our case managers had to work on," says Meghan Altimore, Hopelink's Director of Asset Building. "Now we have a dedicated employment program."

For nearly 40 years, Hopelink has served homeless and low-income families in north and east King County. Its clients range from single moms to multi-generational families; from young people who have aged out of foster care to refugees and immigrants. What they all have in common is homelessness generally due to domestic violence, a mental health issue, substance abuse, job loss, and/or lack of money management skills. Initially, Hopelink's Avondale Park location in Redmond was serving these families with emergency shelter, transitional housing, case management and referrals to a variety of supports both onsite and in the community.

"Our clients were exiting the program as strong tenants," says Altimore, "but they didn't have the link to economic opportunities that would move them out of poverty and into self sufficiency."

That's when Hopelink staff heard about the Washington Families Fund initiative and its approaches to ending homelessness, such as coordinated access to supportive services and a focus on increased economic opportunity through education and employment support.

Hopelink had a lot of the strategies in place, but what they were missing was the economic opportunity piece. Their Washington Families Fund grant allowed Hopelink to make employment a higher priority. They added an onsite employment case manager. Then they secured an additional grant from King County to hire a part-time employment coach.

The results have been tremendous. "It's not as if we're taking people living in poverty to middle class in two years, that's just not real," says Altimore. "But we are getting them on the road, they know their path. They know what they need to do to find stability."

Ultimately this means that families, many who have lived in poverty or received subsidies all their lives, are learning firsthand that with the right resources come more options.



Yakima Neighborhood Health Services: A Hand Up

Two-and-a-half years ago Tom W., his wife Dana and their two children, ages 10 and 12, ended up in a homeless shelter. They had been evicted from their home because circumstances beyond their control—Tom's employer couldn't pay him. Tom recognizes, however, that substance abuse and poor money management did not help their situation.

"All I needed was a push in the right direction," says Tom, "and Neighborhood Health was there to do that."

Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, a Washington Families Fund grantee, operates a transitional housing program for homeless families, providing a crucial longer-term safety net that goes beyond the shorter stays allowed by most shelters.

After nearly a year at the local Union Gospel Mission, Tom's family found supportive housing through Yakima Neighborhood Health Services. They had two years to get back on track with the help of aggressive case management, including lessons on how to become a good tenant, connect to community resources and create a plan for self-sufficiency.

In half that time, the family was on its own, with Tom clean and sober, working regularly and paying the family bills on time. Today, nearly a year later, he's active in his community. "Now instead of needing help," he says, "I'm out helping other people." This includes helping elderly people and volunteering at the Gospel Mission.

He imagines what might have happened had he not received the timely and extensive support from Yakima Neighborhood Health Services. "Without people and mentors and programs like this, I can't even imagine where I'd be," says Tom. "Dead. Jail. Or something else."

He adds, "It's sad to think a lack of funds would be the only thing stopping a family from getting back out there, getting their feet under them and becoming responsible adults."

"Now instead of needing help, I'm helping out other people."

– Tom W.,
Washington Families Fund
program beneficiary



Looking Ahead...

The Right Services to Families at the Right Time

Helping families quickly find the services and housing they need requires a coordinated effort at the point they enter into the support services system. A common assessment protocol and use of Washington state's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) will improve providers' ability to screen for individual needs and housing barriers and refer families right away.

Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness

Emerging from our baseline data on families who fall into the high-needs category is a profile of the chronically homeless family. In the upcoming months and years, as we follow these families through the programs, we will measure their progress every six months and report on it annually. We also will assess how Housing First/Harm Reduction approaches help meet the long-term needs of families with multiple co-occurring barriers. We will share our findings both locally and nationally and use the information to coordinate and improve services.

Three-county Pilot Program

The focus on housing and services is working, but it's not enough. We are making a commitment to homeless families by piloting new strategies in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties to meet the unique needs of families in their communities. As we work with providers and public-sector partners to put these innovative new strategies into action, we will help reinvent our region's approach to combating family homelessness. Our plan is to apply lessons learned from these pilots statewide. The five critical principles that guide our work are:

- **Prevent homelessness** by keeping individuals and families housed and linked to services
- Improve access to **coordinated support services**
- **Tailor programs** that meet people's needs
- **Rapidly re-house** individuals and families
- **Increase economic opportunities** through education, training, and employment

Housing Hope: Long-term Results

As one of Snohomish County's leading providers of housing opportunities—from emergency shelter and transitional housing to affordable rentals and a unique homeownership program—Housing Hope is a busy agency. "When I get to work, I hit the ground running and run all day," says Housing Hope Director of Social Services Karen Matson. As a Washington Families Fund grantee, Matson and her colleagues have really appreciated the focused, quality data that she receives from Building Changes.

In addition to providing critical technical assistance and financial support, Building Changes also listens to the practical working knowledge that Housing Hope has to offer.

"They've been very trusting of us as experts; they pay attention to what we say about homelessness and housing."

— Karen Matson, Director of Social Services, Housing Hope, Everett, WA

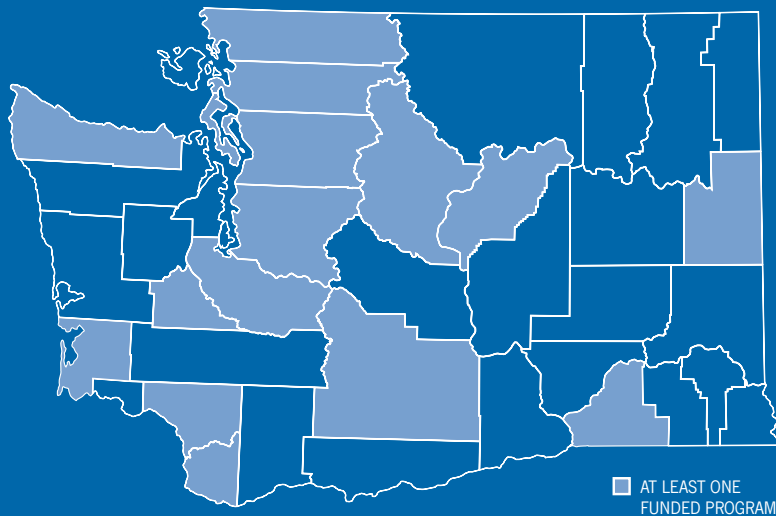
And for good reason. From partnering with the local housing authority in pilot programs to offering classes to 500 families throughout Snohomish County, Housing Hope knows how to provide the integrated services that homeless families need to stabilize and move to self sufficiency.

One example is Housing Hope's College of Hope, an adult-education learning program focused on life skills. Made possible by Washington Families Fund support, College of Hope has dramatically changed teens' abilities to parent. "In all my years, I haven't come across a parenting program with such a positive impact," says Matson.

But most results are not so dramatic. Because success takes time, Matson appreciates Washington Families Fund's longer-term grants. "Services have to be comprehensive if we are going to shift families out of homelessness," she says. "It's not a two-year process—these families really need time to transition to stability. But eventually they are going to be contributing members back in the community."



Washington Families Fund Awardees 2005–2009



"It's not enough to just have housing. The model we have sets up residents for success, giving them the tools to maintain stability."

—Katie Parker,
Regional Director of Resident Services,
Intercommunity Mercy Housing

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: *Croft Place* (7 units), 2005

YWCA of Seattle-King County and Snohomish County

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

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
\$285,830: *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 of Seattle-King County and Snohomish County
\$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

Washington Families Fund Philanthropic Partners

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation
Aven Foundation
The Boeing Company
Ben B. Cheney Foundation
Campion Foundation
Community Foundation of North Central Washington
Enterprise Community Partners
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
Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County
Yakima Valley Community Foundation

Betsy Lieberman
Executive Director
206.805.6100
Betsy.Lieberman@BuildingChanges.org

Emily Nolan
Grantmaking and Evaluation Manager
206.805.6136
Emily.Nolan@BuildingChanges.org

*Special thanks to the Washington Families Fund Steering Committee and the
Building Changes Board of Directors for their continued dedication.*

Washington Families Fund Memorandum of Understanding Signatories – March 2009

Christine Gregoire, Governor, State of Washington
David Bley, Director, Pacific Northwest Initiative, U.S. Program,
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Sam Hunter, Board President, Building Changes
Ron Sims, Executive, King County
Aaron Reardon, Executive, Snohomish County
Pat McCarthy, Executive, Pierce County
Greg Nickels, Mayor, City of Seattle
Bill Baarsma, Mayor, City of Tacoma
Ray Stephanson, Mayor, City of Everett
Susan M. Coliton, Vice President, Paul G. Allen Family Foundation
Fred Kiga, Vice President, Corporate Giving and Government Relations,
The Boeing Company
Sonya Campion, Trustee, Campion Foundation
Brad Cheney, Trustee, Ben B. Cheney Foundation
Rose Lincoln-Hamilton, CEO, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
Jane Broom, Community Affairs Manager, Microsoft
Stephen Norman, Executive Director, King County Housing Authority
Tom Tierney, Executive Director, Seattle Housing Authority
Karen Hull, Executive Director, Pierce County Housing Authority
Michael Mirra, Executive Director, Tacoma Housing Authority
Bud Alkire, Executive Director, Everett Housing Authority
Bob Davis, Executive Director, Snohomish County Housing Authority
Jon Fine, President & CEO, United Way of King County
Rick Allen, President, United Way of Pierce County
Carl Zapora, President & CEO, United Way of Snohomish County

**BUILDING
CHANGES**
END HOMELESSNESS
TOGETHER

2014 East Madison, Suite 200
Seattle, Washington 98122
P 206.805.6100
F 206.805.6101

BuildingChanges.org



Washington Families Fund Moderate-Needs Family Profile

The Washington Families Fund is a public-private partnership that seeks to expand the availability of supportive housing by providing stable, long-term funding to agencies with the best models for ending family homelessness and strengthening communities throughout Washington state.

The Washington Families Fund Moderate-Level Service Model places an emphasis on activities that promote employment opportunities and stronger children's services, in addition to core case management support. Since 2005, Washington Families Fund programs have served 940 Moderate-Needs Families—composed of 1,103 adults and 1,755 children. The profile below represents the average Moderate-Needs Family served by the Fund and is based on composite data collected for families entering the program over five years.

- The head of household is female, 31 years old, and single.
- She has a high school diploma or greater.
- The average age of her two children is 6 years. Her school-age children have attended two schools in the year prior to entering a Washington Families Fund program.
- Prior to entering Washington Families Fund housing, she was most likely living in an emergency shelter or temporarily staying with family or friends. The family has experienced a great degree of residential instability and has moved more than two times in the past two years.
- She has experienced domestic violence from someone she knows and reported a disabling condition, such as mental health or chemical dependency, when she entered the program.
- The family's main source of income is state welfare benefits; a small percentage of families are working.

After completing a Washington Families Fund program:

- 73 percent of families secured a permanent home.
- School stability improved by 80 percent, and 73 percent of children stayed in the same school.
- The number of families who were employed increased by 53 percent, and income from employment increased by 27 percent.

Washington Families Fund Moderate-Needs Family Profile

TYPICAL HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD:

Female: 92%

Average age: 31 years

High school diploma or greater: 66%

Average of 2 children, age 6 years
(more than 50% are 5 years or younger)

Prior residency:

Emergency shelter: 31%

Temporarily staying with family
or friends: 25%

Moved more than two times in the past
two years: 82%

Experienced domestic violence: 66%

Disabling condition: 34%

TANF recipient: 66%

Working: 24%

**BUILDING
CHANGES**
END HOMELESSNESS
TOGETHER

 **Washington
Families Fund**
A Public-Private Partnership



Washington Families Fund High-Needs Family Profile

The Washington Families Fund is a public-private partnership that seeks to expand the availability of supportive housing by providing stable, long-term funding to agencies with the best models for ending family homelessness and strengthening communities throughout Washington state.

The Washington Families Fund High-Level Service Model is intended for agencies that serve chronically homeless families who are experiencing co-occurring disorders and multiple barriers. This model focuses on permanent supportive housing with intensive wrap-around services. Since 2008, Washington Families Fund programs have served 69 High-Needs Families—composed of 78 adults and 105 children. The profile below represents the average High-Needs Family served by the Fund and is based on data collected through baseline assessments of 57 families—composed of 66 adults, 88 children, and an additional 35 children living away from the household—over one year.

- The head of household is female, 33 years old, and single.
- She has two to three children, including at least one child living away and an open Child Protective Services (CPS) plan.
- She has been homeless 10 times in her lifetime and has been “doubled up” living with others 16 times in her lifetime.
- She has experienced a high incidence of trauma, most likely physical or sexual violence.
- She has one or more indicators of mental health conditions, including anxiety, moderate or severe depression and impaired mental health functioning.
- She has received treatment for substance abuse.
- She may have a criminal history, including a felony conviction and time spent in jail or prison.
- She is not currently employed and reports a disabling condition that prevents her from working.
- The family’s main source of income is state welfare benefits. Most families are in debt.

85 percent of High-Needs Families have three or more barriers to obtaining housing and services, including:

Substantial histories of homelessness and residential instability:

- Average number of times homeless in lifetime: 10
- Average number of times doubled up in lifetime: 16

Significant rates of trauma, health issues, and substance abuse:

- Experienced physical or sexual violence: 93%
- Mental health condition: 70%
- Chronic or ongoing medical problem: 63%
- Received substance abuse treatment: 63%

High occurrences of child separation and CPS involvement:

- At least one child living apart: 42%
- Open CPS plan: 25%

**BUILDING
CHANGES**
END HOMELESSNESS
TOGETHER

