

# 2019 Legislative Agenda

## Preserve existing funding for Washington Youth & Families Fund (\$4M)

The Washington Youth & Families Fund (WYFF) was created by the Legislature in 2004 and amended in 2015 to include youth. Administered by Building Changes, WYFF connects state and private dollars to support and serve youth and families experiencing homelessness across the state. To date, WYFF funds have been granted in 25 different counties.





### **Support HB 1263 and SB 5324**

# Secure additional \$2M for and propose technical improvements to the Homeless Student Stability Program (HSSP)

The **Homeless Student Stability Program (HSSP)** was established by the Washington State Legislature in 2016. The purpose of HSSP is to ensure students experiencing homelessness can continue attending the same schools, maintain housing stability, and improve academic achievement.

HSSP includes two grant programs administered by the **Department of Commerce** and the **Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)**.

Some of Building Changes' proposed improvements to HSSP include: add building points of contact to all elementary schools; promote the identification of unaccompanied homeless youth in all middle and high schools; streamline grant delivery; increase focus on geographic diversity; and increase focus on racial equity.





21 HSSP grants in 25 school districts in SY17-18

#### Note: Grants were given to Bellingham Consortia and Kelso Consortia, which benefit Bellingham and Kelso School Districts, as well as several nearby school districts.

40,934 homeless students in WA 6 in 10 homeless students are students of color 6 in 10 homeless students with others

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# 2019 Support Agenda



- ☑ Increase investment in the Housing Trust Fund
- ☑ Expand tenants rights and protections, including eviction reform
- Establish a state housing voucher
  program for families experiencing
  housing instability and involved in the
  child welfare system



- Secure Office of Homeless Youth funding for services to support the Anchor
   Community Initiative
- Eliminate practice of youth detention for status offenses, such as truancy



Increase investments in:

- ☑ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- ☑ Housing & Essential Needs (HEN) program
- Aged, Blind, & Disabled (ABD) program
- ☑ Secure **new**, sustainable, and **equitable** revenue sources



## Education

- Ensure automatic eligibility for families experiencing homelessness in the Early Childhood Education & Assistance
   Program (ECEAP)
- Extend the Homeless Grace Period (HGP)
  policy for families experiencing
  homelessness in the Working Connections
  Child Care (WCCC) program
- ☑ Increase wrap-around supports for and investments in students experiencing homelessness in higher education