



2022 Request for Proposals for
Projects Serving Families

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About Building Changes

Our Vision: Communities thrive when people have safe and stable housing and can equitably access and use services.

Our Mission: Building Changes advances equitable responses to homelessness in Washington State, with a focus on children, youth, and families and the systems that serve them.

Our Values: Equity, People, Partnership, and Integrity

Building Changes works at the intersections of housing, education, and health to ensure our systems better serve people experiencing homelessness, and that policies, practices, and processes are equitable to Black, Indigenous, and people of color who are disproportionately impacted by housing crises.

Guided by our values, we use an interdisciplinary approach to influence systems:



About the Washington Youth & Families Fund

The Washington Youth & Families Fund (WYFF) was created by the Washington State Legislature in 2004 and amended to include youth in 2014. Building Changes administers this fund of public and private dollars to make grants across the state to support innovative housing interventions and strategies. To date, we have awarded \$59.6 million in funding to 118 grantees, including two tribes, across 26 counties.

Through our WYFF grantmaking, we:

- Identify and test promising practices in partnership with providers and community.
- Collect data and evaluate interventions, models, and programs.
- Advance strategies informed by research and community.
- Support housing and service providers through peer learning, training, and capacity building.

Funding Opportunity

In 2022, Building Changes will make available approximately **\$1,520,000** in funding for projects that introduce emerging healing services focused on trauma recovery, as well as flexible housing supports for families experiencing homelessness. Eligible applicants include housing and social service agencies, nonprofit community-based organizations, local housing authorities, public development authorities, federally recognized tribes, and culturally-specific/Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC)-led and -serving organizations in Washington State. Building Changes will provide funding, technical assistance, and capacity building support for up to three years per project.

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted longstanding operating norms and altered the ways we live and examine our lives. The pandemic brought into focus national and global health crises, racial inequities, and the challenges of maintaining meaningful connections within communities. It also emphasized the importance of interconnectedness and interdependence of each other and helped us to realize the importance of prioritizing our well-being. Racism has been a public health threat and the unjust deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, among many others, has been a constant reminder of the need to heal the traumas that BIPOC communities face. Our awareness expanded during the pandemic, allowing space for us to examine the individual and collective roles we play, and the responsibilities we have, to dismantle racial inequities in every aspect of our personal and professional lives.

Building Changes is dedicated to fulfilling a vision where communities thrive when people have safe, stable housing and can equitably access and use all the support services available that can help them thrive. Our funding priorities and activities are informed by root causes of inequitable services that we see in the housing, education, and health systems. We work to improve housing outcomes for children, youth, and families, especially those experiencing homelessness¹ because we believe housing is a human right. Families experiencing homelessness deserve housing justice and access to healing, restorative support services. By providing these types of services, we can all work together to help strengthen cultural identities and belonging for a wide array of communities. We believe this approach can mitigate historical and present-day symptoms of racial trauma.

Previous projects funded by Building Changes have started to include healing practices in our homelessness support work. Through our Family Homelessness Initiative, sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we have been supporting families experiencing homelessness through interventions that include cultural services and the Enhanced Rapid Re-Housing Model (ERRH) since 2018. ERRH, developed at Building Changes, continues to focus on expanding capacity for organizations to include cultural healing services as an essential component of their homelessness response.

Racism continues to impact BIPOC's ability to thrive and experience well-being, and this has been apparent in our work through WYFF. With WYFF dollars, tribes and organizations serving BIPOC communities are able to provide flexible funding for their program participants. Flexible funds are dollars that can be used to provide tailored supports for families overcoming homelessness by helping to fill in any service gaps the families may encounter. These funds can also be used to provide culturally relevant services to help with undoing historical trauma. Flexible funding has allowed tribes and organizations to provide culturally relevant healing support services and a

¹ Center for Social Innovation. "SPARC: Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities," (2018): <https://c4innovates.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SPARC-Phase-1-Findings-March-2018.pdf>

more holistic housing assistance. Healing support services may include ceremonies and customs that are upheld to help participants heal from the historical, political, systemic, institutional, and cultural violence² traumas that have affected BIPOC communities.

Our learnings from WYFF indicate that there is a significant need for culturally-responsive, restorative support services and healing services for BIPOC communities. Flexible funding can be used to provide housing assistance, address trauma (e.g., intergenerational and internalized), help people deal with the loss of communities, and help expand people's social-emotional learning. These services may also include healing through mindfulness practices, body movement, and expressive art therapies. It is imperative that we center people's cultures in healing practices to help restore people's sense of belonging, identity, and community.

People with lived experience of homelessness, service providers, and [researchers](#) within the homeless system understand the prevalence of trauma within the homeless population³. Homelessness trauma can look like exhaustion, feelings of hopelessness and despair, feeling a loss of meaning and connection, disorientation, and lack of self-care. Judith Herman, a renowned trauma expert, described trauma as the affiliation of the powerless and the overwhelming loss of control, connection, and meaning⁴. Trauma, thus far, has been approached by the field of social services through [Trauma Informed Care](#)⁵. While Trauma Informed Care is an important body of work because it recognizes the existence of trauma, there is limited focus and attention on the healing aspect of serving clients. It does not acknowledge that trauma persists within bodies; instead, it primarily focuses on organizational practices, building trust between client and service provider, and client choice. Healing services go beyond Trauma Informed Care towards [Healing Centered Engagement](#), a framework developed by Shawn Ginwright.⁶ Healing Centered Engagement recognizes that those who have experienced trauma are more than their trauma/deficit. Stemming from the Healing Centered Engagement framework, healing-centered services focus on positive self-knowledge, self-love, self-identified meaning, and connection with others. It also promotes internal safety and positive self-orientation.

Another important framework at the intersection of housing systems and healing practices is Maslow's Hierarchy of [Human Needs](#) and [Human Motivation](#). His theories state that basic needs include shelter, food, water, air, sleep, and clothing⁷. Thus, the field of homelessness utilizes the [Housing First](#) approach which recognizes housing as a basic and essential physiological need⁸ that must be fulfilled first when supporting people.

Humans also have psychological and social needs that go beyond survival needs. These human necessities include safety, security, connection, belonging, respect, self-esteem, and self-actualization. They promote wholeness, health, and wellness. In homeless services, when safety and security are established via stable housing, the work of supportive services begins. Support services often help people integrate themselves into communities while promoting self-care and wellness. Education, health, and social service sectors have begun to move into the [direction](#) of funding culturally-specific and BIPOC-led and -serving organizations. Organizations that center cultural connection and provide culturally responsive services in their support deliveries are not only emphasized but

² University of Minnesota CYFC. "What is Cultural Healing," (2015): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1o7ls7JnxA>

³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). "SHIFT Study Highlights Trauma's Impact on Homelessness," (2016): <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/traumas-impact-homelessness>

⁴ Herman, Judith Lewis. *Trauma and Recovery: From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror*. Rivers Oram Press/Pandora List (1998).

⁵ Trauma Informed Care Implementation Resource Center: <https://www.traumainformedcare.chcs.org/what-is-trauma-informed-care/>

⁶ For more background on Healing Centered Engagement, see: Ginwright, Shawn, Ph.D. "The Future of Healing: Shifting from Trauma Informed Care to Healing Centered Engagement," (2018): <https://ginwright.medium.com/the-future-of-healing-shifting-from-trauma-informed-care-to-healing-centered-engagement-634f557ce69c>

⁷ Maslow, Abraham. "A Theory of Human Motivation," York University, Toronto, Ontario, (2000): <http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Maslow/motivation.htm>

⁸ National Alliance to End Homelessness. "Housing First," (2016): <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/housing-first/>

celebrated.⁹ Positive cultural identity is a pillar of [healing](#),¹⁰ which [tribes](#)¹¹ have long identified as a pathway to community and self-actualization.

Maslow's framework reminds us at Building Changes that housing and homeless interventions should not only include help to fulfill people's basic needs (*e.g., housing*). We believe that homeless services that promote healing from traumas, incorporate culturally relevant support, and focus on well-being are more effective ways to successfully house families that have experienced racial trauma and homelessness.

Through flexible funding, holistic housing interventions can be made possible. It can be used to help secure and stabilize family housing and help to provide healing services. We are one of the first organizations in the state to fund cultural healing services as part of housing interventions. We believe in the necessity and power of culturally relevant healing services, and we are excited for the opportunity to partner with organizations and tribes that can scale healing services at large through WYFF.

Strategy

Recognizing the overrepresentation of Black and Indigenous families experiencing homelessness, Building Changes will apply a targeted universalism approach for the **2022 WYFF Funding** cycle. We believe that BIPOC-led and -serving organizations are best positioned to advance the housing and healing services approach we are presenting in this RFP.

Strategic Objectives:

- 1. Ending homelessness through flexible funding housing assistance.**
- 2. Providing healing services that strengthen cultural identity, community, and belonging.**

Tribes and organizations may coordinate with new or existing partners to achieve these objectives. Applicants may also utilize internal and/or external experts to design programs that deliver on housing and healing services. While healing services are non-clinical, clinicians in mental and behavioral health are invited to participate in organization/agency's program design process and accept referrals from healing service groups. In this way, clinicians can be better prepared to take on patients who may need clinical therapy in conjunction with support from community healing services. Through healing services, we intend to gain insight into which programs and activities are most useful and helpful in supporting people obtain long-term housing stability and helping them toward homelessness trauma recovery. Building Changes aims to address racial disparities in the homeless response system by funding organizations that work closely with and serve communities most impacted by homelessness. Using targeted universalism,¹² tribes and organizations may advance their work by partnering or contracting with experts, practitioners, and facilitators to incorporate healing, address racial equity, and focus on wellness to deliver healing-centered services for families co-enrolled in housing assistance. The most competitive organizations will demonstrate internal and external efforts to dismantle systemic oppression by addressing racial inequities and describing a programmatic vision that implements new or expanded healing services. Programs

⁹ Scientific Research Publishing. "Rethinking Services with Communities of Color: Why Culturally Specific Organizations are the Preferred Service Delivery Model," (2019): https://www.scirp.org/pdf/SM_2019061215164604.pdf

¹⁰ Harvard Medical School: News & Research. "A Different Kind of Healing," (2019): <https://hms.harvard.edu/news/different-kind-healing>

¹¹ Rethinking Learning. "Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and Blackfoot (Siksika) Nation Beliefs," (2019): <https://barbarabray.net/2019/03/10/maslows-hierarchy-of-needs-and-blackfoot-nation-beliefs/>

¹² Othering & Belonging Institute. "Targeted Universalism: Policy & Practice," (May 2019): <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/targeteduniversalism>

must have culturally responsive strategies to serve BIPOC communities with special attention to Black/African American and/or Indigenous families.

Ending Homelessness Through Flexible Funding

Housing assistance should include flexible funding to help families acquire and secure stable housing, and to help resolve homelessness/housing issues. Flexible funding may also be used to overcome unique and individual barriers to obtain housing, as well as systemic and market-based housing barriers such as:¹³

- **Housing unaffordability**
- **Limited rental vacancies**
- **Landlord bias**
- **Rental, credit, and/or legal history barriers**
- **Work and/or school proximity preferences**
- **Community and medical care accessibility**
- **Other unique family priorities, needs, or preferences**

We believe providers should partner with families to help them identify their housing priorities, needs, challenges, and preferences. Providers may utilize a variety of housing approaches to achieve housing solutions. Providers may set up rental assistance, Diversion assistance, and/or more immediate hotel/motel assistance. Families transitioning out of homelessness may request financial support that will assist them in expanding their support network, acquiring information and resources, and gaining additional skills to deal with the conditions surrounding their housing instability and prepare for identified future housing stability challenges.

Uses of Flexible Funding

Flexible funds may be used to assist families to overcome homelessness. Spending of flexible funding is informed by specific family needs, preferences, and priorities that are essential to acquire, secure, and maintain stable housing. The list below indicates some examples of flexible funds uses:

- ***Any reasonable cost associated with acquiring, securing, or maintaining safe housing.***
- Supporting families with accessing healing services and community activities, such as supplies for artmaking, culturally relevant experiences, dancing, making and sharing of food, and other aspects of community-building activities where culture is uplifted and celebrated.
- Reintroducing participants to personal self-care and wellness activities when these activities have been disrupted by homelessness. These activities encourage feelings of well-being and increases self-esteem and regard for oneself. Self-care may include hair care, nail care, and body care.
- Helping families access specific foods and/or medicine tied to their culture.
- Working with families in non-traditional office/case management settings to build rapport and strengthen trust between families and service providers. Meetings can be held in spaces, such as a park, a place of cultural and historical significance, or a safe place of the participant and provider's choosing. This can help to promote a sense of community belong, respect for history, and show ties to participants' communities.
- Service providers may cover costs associated with including participant's support network in support services. This can include covering the cost of meals or other activities when including participants' support networks to help cultivate and expand connections for healing.

¹³ Desmond, Matthew. *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Thorndike Press Large Print (2017).

- Acquiring new or donated items that can help make participants' places feel more at home. This may include supporting participants with selecting meaningful items that represents and reaffirms people's cultural identities and histories. They can be chosen colors and fabrics, family photos, or symbols.
- Other activities that may be identified by service providers and families that enhance and reinforce positive cultural identities. and unique abilities to heal and build community.
- **Flexible funds do not cover medical procedures (e.g., dental care, surgeries) outside of mental and behavioral health therapies.**

Healing Services

Tribes and organizations expanding or developing healing service programs should consider the following guidance below.

1. Healing services supported in this project align with the following tenets:
 - Healing is reclaiming of cultural roots.
 - Healing engages the heart.
 - Healing allows participants the opportunity to be seen and heard in safe community spaces.
 - Healing is restorative for communities and relationships.
 - Healing engages the body, mind, and soul to retrieve self-knowledge.
 - Healing raises critical consciousness and self-awareness.
2. Healing services may be delivered through a combination of formats and activities, including group work, arts activities, play activities, parent/child co-learning, one-on-one sharing, etc.
3. Healing services should be facilitated by healing practitioners, cultural leaders, and racial equity practitioners who are skilled in trauma-informed care and group facilitation. Whenever possible, healing services must collaborate with tribes/organization's leadership and people with lived experience. Through this collaborative process, programs and activities are informed and designed by people with lived experience and considers the expertise of providers and practitioners.
4. Tribes and organizations may refer clients to clinical services while also delivering community care and cultural healing. Where necessary, flexible funding may be used to support family referrals and access to clinical services (e.g., complex PTSD, Co-Occurring Disorders). These symptoms do not preclude families from participating in community care, but they may require additional resources to ensure safe and successful participation in communities (e.g., peer navigation support).
5. Tribes and organizations may engage in any of the recommended program concepts below to achieve the tenets of healing described above. Providers may merge multiple programs based on resources and participants/communities' needs.
 - Healing through Positive Cultural Identity
 - *Facilitating activities based in cultural celebration (drumming, ceremony, humming, dancing, singing, learning, etc.)*
 - Healing through Community
 - *Facilitating belonging and inclusion practices by strengthening and promoting community. Organizations can do this by sharing resources and care to bring communities together.*
 - Healing through Building Relationships
 - *Facilitating opportunities to develop interpersonal skills and generate new connections that can be built to create meaningful/sacred relationships.*

- Healing through Well-being
 - *Encouraging mindfulness¹⁴ through, yoga, meditation,¹⁵ art, dance, personal care, and well-being workshops. These will all be centered around culturally relevant community interests. Workshops aim to help build resilience in the mind and body.¹⁶*
 - Healing through Safe Spaces
 - *Facilitating safe meeting spaces that promote grace, courage, and restoration to everyone who participates. Examples of these types of healing-centered meetings include Peace Circles, Listening Circles, Breathing Circles, Learning Circles, and Truth-Telling Circles.*
 - Healing through Personal Storytelling, Narrative Identification, and Spoken Word
 - *Facilitating personal narrative identification¹⁷ and opportunities to be seen and heard while storytelling and sharing relevant cultural artifacts, information, and personal stories/journeys.*
 - Healing by Reclaiming Radical Self-Love, Joy, Play, & Celebration
 - *Facilitating embodiment practices focused on radical self-love and joy to recognize these expressions in the body. These uplifting feelings are an expression of joy¹⁸ and engage us in play and celebration.*
 - Healing by Reconnecting with the Body
 - *Facilitating engagement with bodily sensations, awareness of trauma in the body,¹⁹ resilience with [Somatic Experiencing Techniques](#) to build internal safety, and awareness of the body's fight, flight, or freeze response ([Peter Levine](#))²⁰ when recognizing the trauma that is held in the body.²¹*
6. Program learnings should also aim to **raise critical consciousness and awareness** of underlying systemic issues impacting individual and collective experiences and well-being. Systemic issues may include homelessness, intergenerational trauma, internalized racism, dominant culture norms and impacts, patriarchy and violence, and colonization.

Participants should feel enabled to connect the ways their individual experience plays a part in upholding/dismantling harmful systems and observe the impact they can have on communities. Through encouraging deep interconnectedness and interdependence of themselves and those around them, participants will better their well-being, self-knowledge, and self-love.²²

What Does Success Look Like?

Success is achieved when families experiencing homelessness can obtain stable housing. Flexible funding can be used to achieve housing stability and to resolve housing crises by means of Rapid Re-Housing, Diversion, or motel/hotel assistance. Other types of success can look like:

- Successful exits to permanent housing.
- Increased confidence in maintaining stable housing.

¹⁴ Magee, Rhonda V. *The Inner Work of Racial Justice the Inner Work of Racial Justice: Healing Ourselves and Transforming Our Communities through Mindfulness*. Talcher Perigee (2019).

¹⁵ Free resource for pre-recorded meditations: <https://www.audiodharma.org/>

¹⁶ Positive Psychology. "Embodiment Practices: How to Heal through Movement," (2022): <https://positivepsychology.com/embodiment-philosophy-practices/>

¹⁷Where I am from Project: <https://iamfromproject.com/about/>

¹⁸ Napawan, Anna. *Happiness Workbook: A CBT-Based Guide to Foster Positivity and Embrace Joy*. Rockridge Press (2021).

¹⁹ Menakem, Resmaa. *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*. Penguin Books (2021).

²⁰ For more information on Somatic Experiencing, visit Peter, Levine PHD: <https://traumahealing.org/>

²¹ Van der Kolk, Bessel A. *The Body Keeps the Score: Mind, Brain and Body in the Transformation of Trauma*. Penguin Books (2015).

²²Mitchell, Sherri. *Sacred Instructions: Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit-Based Change*. North Atlantic Books (2018).

- Families satisfied with their housing resolutions.
- Increased sense of safety and stability.

Healing services are considered successful when organizations and tribes develop programs that are reported as helpful and useful by their participants. Participants should report the following for programs to be successful:

- Increased connection to cultural roots, identity, and/or ancestors.
- Increased sense of belonging and interconnectedness to self.
- Increased sense of positive self-regard, self-love, and self-knowledge.
- Increased knowledge that systemic oppression can impact individuals, the collective experience, and well-being.
- Increased self-awareness of body, mind, and spirit.
- Increased knowledge and information on historical and racial trauma.
- Increased awareness of healing and care opportunities.

Learning Goal and Technical Assistance

Building Changes aims to learn which programs centered on healing services will improve housing stability for families. We are particularly interested in learning more about programs that are rooted in cultural identity and those that are led and serving BIPOC communities. Demographic information and the measures identified will be used to track learnings about housing stability using information via Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Grantees are also expected to participate as a cohort in Learning Circles and complete narrative and financial reports.

Building Changes will provide technical assistance and training to grantees in accessing and using HMIS as needed, as well as support making connections with local Coordinated Entry partners.

Selected grantees will be encouraged to develop a collaborative working relationship with their local Coordinated Entry partners to share project learnings and to help create more equitable services for overrepresented BIPOC families experiencing homelessness.

Evaluation

Healing services is a new type of intervention in homelessness support services. This project aims to understand which healing services can be an essential part of the homelessness recovery process, particularly for families experiencing homelessness.

We will measure which healing services are requested, attended, and described as helpful by both participants and service providers. In doing so, we can learn which services should be further funded and integrated in the homelessness support field. All measures will be disaggregated by race/ethnicity and other factors where possible. Successful programs will capture program attendance and feedback through survey results from participants.

Application Information

Eligible Applicants

Nonprofit community or neighborhood-based organizations, regional/statewide nonprofit housing assistance organizations, federally recognized tribes, local housing authorities, and public development authorities are invited to apply.

Culturally-specific organizations or smaller organizations that are led and staffed by persons of color and primarily serving communities of color are encouraged to apply, even if organizations not currently delivering homeless and housing services. If selected as a grantee, Building Changes will provide training and technical assistance.

Target Population

- Families enrolled in or receiving housing services such as Rapid Re-Housing, Diversion, or receiving assistance to temporarily stay in hotels/motels.
- Families experiencing homelessness.
- Families at risk of homelessness.
- Families interested in healing services.

Geography

Organizations and agencies across Washington State are invited to apply. Applicants are encouraged to use data in their application to demonstrate that there is a greater need for resources to support BIPOC families in their community.

Expectations for Funded Projects

Outcomes and Evaluation

- Expected outputs include:
 - Exits to permanent housing.
 - Families reporting confidence in maintaining stable housing.
 - Families reporting satisfaction with housing outcomes, including feelings of safety and stability.
- Other outputs tracked include:
 - Use of flexible funding.
 - Participation in healing services such as:
 - Program enrollment numbers.
 - Attendance numbers.
 - Satisfaction results received from surveys.
 - Informational interview results.
- Outcomes measured and compared to baseline include:
 - The number/percentage of exits to permanent housing.
 - The number/percentage of families enrolled in healing services.
 - The number/percentage of families who exit to permanent housing with increased feelings of cultural identity, community connectedness, sense of belonging, and well-being.
 - The number/percentage of families who exit to permanent housing with increased feelings of personal growth and self-awareness.
 - Length of time accessing services.

Grantees will be evaluated on clients' experience via feedback loop and periodic data reporting.

Submission Instructions

Proposal Submission

Please submit one (1) copy of the application that includes: application narrative, budget worksheets, and supplemental materials.

Completed applications should be sent to Building Changes:

- **Via email:** WYFF@BuildingChanges.org

Please note the following when preparing to submit a proposal:

- Facsimile (fax) copies will **not** be accepted.
- All submittals must be received by **4:00 pm on Monday, May 2, 2022**, in order to be considered.
- Proposals that do not arrive at the specified email address by the submission deadline will not be accepted.
- Proposals that do not follow the specified format and/or meet the submission requirements will not be reviewed.
- **All electronic copies of your application's narrative and budget worksheet must be in PDF or other non-editable format.**

Evaluation and Selection Process

This RFP process is competitive. Once applications are submitted, they will go through the process listed below.

Initial Application Review

Building Changes staff will complete the initial review. Applications will be checked to determine if they were received by the deadline and to make sure they contain all required elements.

Panel Review of Applications

Proposals will be reviewed by an *ad hoc Review and Selection Committee* appointed by Building Changes. The Review and Selection Committee may be comprised of Building Changes staff and external stakeholders and community members with subject matter and/or lived expertise.

Applications will be read and evaluated by the following criteria (percentages indicate the weight each category will have in the review process):

1. Program Design Description (30%):

- a) Applicant has a clear understanding of trauma and its connection to homelessness and the role their organization/agency can play in supporting families heal and establish housing stability. Applicant will also describe the impact their project will make on the lives of families experiencing homelessness.
- b) Applicant presents a strong program design/proposal with underlying objectives that connects families to healing services and stable housing.
 - i) Applicant has a strong understanding of the resources that will be needed to achieve programmatic success. This can include consideration of the facilitators' expertise, culturally relevant healing services, and a clear plan to engage families.
 - ii) Applicant describes housing support services they currently provide, as well as a plans on how they will use flexible funding to enhance these services.

- c) Applicant has thought through project design by identifying potential implementation challenges and offers forethought on how to overcome them.
- d) Applicant has a clear understanding of what internal resource assets are available within the organization, as well as what additional resources (including training) are needed to deliver housing and healing support services.
- e) Applicant offers a realistic plan on which data can be collected.

2. Racial Equity Focus (30%):

- a) Applicant demonstrates a strong understanding that structural racism and discrimination are root causes of homelessness and housing instability for families in their community. Applicant provides demographic information and analysis on family homelessness in their community and describes the impacts racism and discrimination has on the families they currently serve.
- b) Applicant describes the organizational racial equity goals and priorities that could be achieved through services and activities offered in their project. Applicant demonstrates commitment to advance racial equity practices and priorities, including efforts to ensure that staff and organizational leadership reflect the demographics of the people being served, offering training and ongoing assessments to provide equitable services, and strategies to solicit feedback from participants to improve on programs.

3. Community Partnership & Capacity (20%):

- a) Applicant meaningfully shares what housing and healing means to their organization's mission and scope. The response highlights how project aligns, supports, or enhances the organization/agency's goals.
- b) Applicant provides information on current housing support practices at their organization/agency and describes how families experience/navigate them. Applicants will also describe potential areas for improvement and explain gaps in existing services. Applicant provides information on their partnership with HMIS or Coordinated Entry.
- c) Applicant describes relevant partnerships that the organization or agency currently has with cultural leaders, racial equity practitioners, trauma-informed facilitators, and people with lived experience ready to assist this project. If an existing relationship doesn't exist with partners, the applicant will describe ways they will build relationships with the groups mentioned above.
- d) Applicant has identified key staff that will lead the projects and deliver housing and healing support services. They can include external partners to help fill roles or hire to fill new positions.

4. Project Timeline (10%):

- a) Project has a realistic timeline for implementation of relevant programming.

5. Application Budget (10%):

- a) Project budget reflects realistic costs.
- b) Budget narrative makes a clear and compelling case for how the project budget will help meet the intended outcomes.
- c) Budget narrative reflects planning for project sustainability beyond the grant term.

WYFF has an obligation to fund programs throughout the state; geography will be considered as an element of the overall selection process.

Notification

Once the review and selection process is completed, Building Changes staff will make final funding recommendations to the Building Changes Board of Directors, taking into consideration all activities and criteria

outlined above. Executive directors of applicant agencies will be notified regarding the status of their funding award in June 2022. Project contracts are expected to begin July 2022.

Applicant Selection and Awards Timeline

Wednesday, March 16, 2022	Application materials made available
Tuesday, March 29, 2022	Application Q&A Virtual Meeting
Monday, May 2, 2022	Proposals due to Building Changes by 4:00 pm
Week of May 30, 2022	Interviews with finalists
Friday, June 3, 2022	Notify grantees of award
June 30–July 15, 2022	Contracts in place with grantees

Details of Q&A Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 10:30 am–12:00 pm	<p>Please register for Washington Youth & Families Fund RFP Q&A by clicking the link below.</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqd-mtqDMsG9WKB05cgSCAyOtcXximAp4g</p> <p>After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Zoom webinar.</p>
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Questions can be submitted via email by Thursday, March 24 to WYFF@BuildingChanges.org.

Appeal Process

Grounds for an Appeal

Applicants may only submit an appeal on the following grounds:

Failure by Building Changes to follow procedures outlined in the 2022 Request for Proposal; and/or discrimination or conflict of interest on the part of a rater.

When to Submit an Appeal

Appeals will be considered only at the time an applicant is notified they will not be moving to the interview phase of the selection process.

How to Submit an Appeal

Building Changes must receive all appeals in writing within five business days of applicant receipt of notification that they will not be moving to the interview phase of the selection process. Appeals will be reviewed by the Managing Director of Programs.

Appeals must be emailed to the Managing Director of Programs, Liza Burell, at Liza.Burell@BuildingChanges.org. Applicants should indicate the grounds for their appeal and a short description of why they are appealing.

Review of an Appeal

All materials (application, score sheets, reviewer comments, supplemental materials) pertaining to the applicant along with the appeal letter will be reviewed by the Managing Director of Programs, who has the authority to have a new reviewer read and consider the application. Building Changes will have 10 business days to review the materials and provide a written decision back to the applicant.