



# 2022 Request for Proposals for Projects Serving Youth & Young Adults

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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:



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.

## Overview

This strategy is designed to address the needs of unaccompanied Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and Lesbian, Gay, Trans, Bisexual, Queer/Questioning, and Two-Spirit (LGTBQ2+) young people, specifically ages 16–21. These young people face multiple barriers to housing depending on their age, dependency statuses, and experiences with racism, heterosexism, cis-sexism, ableism, and other forms of discrimination. They are often not included in decisions about their own lives, may not have knowledge about their housing options, and may develop mistrust for our public systems of care. These factors contribute to higher rates of homelessness and housing instability for many of these young people compared to their peers.<sup>1</sup>

Our goal is to improve housing stability for young people by putting resources toward increasing awareness and understanding of housing options that affirm all identities and experience. Affirming housing options provide safety and stability. They support and enrich young people’s racial/ethnic backgrounds and cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, national origins, religious beliefs, abilities, and neurodiversities. They also promote independence and stability by considering young people’s individual goals and development.

Our strategy will:

- Center youth-choice.
- Apply flexible assistance and Diversion principles.
- Coordinate housing and legal aid support.
- Expand young people’s network of support.

Our primary outcomes are:

- Safe and stable housing, including “*safe in-between housing options.*”
- Resolution of legal issues that impact dependency and housing status.<sup>2</sup>
- Increased self-efficacy skills for young people that include improved communication, conflict resolution, and ability to build a safe, affirming environment for themselves.
- An expanded network of support for young people that promotes meaningful skill development opportunities, physical and mental health, and/or cultural/identity enrichment.

## Funding Opportunity

In 2022, Building Changes will make available approximately **\$1,520,000** in funding for projects that support this strategy. Eligible applicants include housing and social service agencies, nonprofit community-based organizations, local housing authorities, public development authorities, federally recognized tribes, and culturally-specific/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.

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<sup>1</sup> Washington State Department of Commerce, Office of Homeless Youth. “Prevention of Youth Homelessness: Preliminary Strategic Plan,” (January 2021): [https://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/PreventingYouthHomelessnessReport\\_2021.pdf](https://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/PreventingYouthHomelessnessReport_2021.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> There is a national movement to understand how poverty can look like neglect, resulting in removals from children from their caretakers, parents, and communities. Read more about how the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families defines “dependency” and other FAQs about the rights of children and families here: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-welfare-system/cps>

Unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ youth deserve support navigating dependency processes and making informed decisions to establish safe and stable housing as they transition into adulthood.<sup>3</sup>

### *Experiences and barriers of unaccompanied young people transitioning into adulthood*

Unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people are at high risk of housing instability and homelessness during and after their transition into adulthood for complicated reasons. These youth are often blocked from accessing services, health care, and housing without a parent or guardian's consent. For youth who overcome this barrier, services may terminate once they turn 18 years old, regardless of their ongoing needs or progress in gaining stability.

Furthermore, dependency processes are difficult to navigate, time-intensive, and can prolong housing instability. BIPOC youth involved in the court and child welfare system face unique challenges in obtaining home placements that are safe and affirming to their identities. Rates of family placements for many BIPOC teenagers are typically lower.<sup>4</sup> Licensing requirements and legal processes can delay and/or interrupt kinship care or "informal host homes" housing options that these young people have already established within their community.<sup>5 6</sup>

**These are the safe in-between housing options with extended family members and close, familial relationships that unaccompanied youth, particularly BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people, rely on.**

For unaccompanied BIPOC and LGTBQ2+ youth, navigating dependency processes and systems may reinforce negative experiences of structural racism and discrimination. These experiences are stressful, traumatic, and may impact how they perceive and understand their options, interact with child welfare staff, resolve conflict, and manage trauma. These young people need adults to ally with and serve as thought-partners who will work with them to gain housing stability as they transition into adulthood.

### *Why target options to unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people transitioning into adulthood*

Centering safety is important for all young people experiencing homelessness. **However, focusing on safety alone is insufficient when responding to the diverse needs of unaccompanied young people working toward housing stability.** The Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) asserts that root causes of youth homelessness are a combination of the following:

- Structural factors outside young people's control, such as racism, historical trauma, or the lack of affordable housing.
- Gaps in the system of support intended to help families and youth.
- Individualized or relational experiences like family conflict, non-acceptance of gender and/or sexual identity in a home, or undiagnosed or untreated behavioral health issues.

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<sup>3</sup> The term "unaccompanied" generally refers to youth experiencing homelessness while not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. This RFP will use this definition as it is congruent with the [RCW 43.330.702](#).

<sup>4</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation. "Keeping Kids in Families: Trends in U.S. Foster Care Placement," (April 2019): <https://www.aecf.org/resources/keeping-kids-in-families#:~:text=Using%20data%20from%20all%2050,progress%20eludes%20teens%20in%20care>

<sup>5</sup> Host Homes are generally regarded as a promising intervention, especially for BIPOC & LGBTQ2+ young people. In Washington, there is no central coordinating body for Host Homes. This Washington State Department of Commerce report provides a comprehensive landscape of host homes in the state, and critical areas to develop best practices: "Research and Recommendations on Host Home Programs" (July 2017): <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Commerce-Host-Homes-Report-2017.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families. "Families and Youth in Crisis," (April 2019): <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/FamiliesYouthinCrisis2019.pdf>

**Unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people experience structural, familial, and systemic challenges that can influence how they seek for help and stability.** <sup>7</sup>

Youth programs across sectors are observing the principles of healing-centered engagement that acknowledge and affirm young people's experiences and perceptions of trauma and healing, power and liberation, and familial relationships within communities.<sup>8</sup> Better, culturally-responsive solutions for establishing safe and stable housing for unaccompanied transition-age BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ youth must also start there.

### *Connecting to statewide youth and young adult homelessness prevention and intervention efforts*

Finally, in Washington State, BIPOC youth and young adults exiting public systems of care (e.g., child welfare, juvenile rehabilitation, and behavioral health in-patient institutions) are at disproportionately high risk of experiencing homelessness upon exit.<sup>9</sup> While our state is dedicating concerted efforts into supporting these young people, more attention is needed *before* systems are involved and they are passed through the revolving doors of public systems of care, court, and homelessness.

Our focus on supporting unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people transitioning into adulthood with the following strategy will enhance current work in reunification, successful system of care exits, and emergency housing services in a targeted way.

## Strategy

This funding opportunity will support interventions, awareness, and activities that will improve housing stability for young people. **By putting resources toward increasing these types of services, we hope that more young people will be able to access housing options, including safe in-between housing, that affirm all identities and experience. The focus population is intended to be unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people who are 16–21 years old.**

We are not pre-determining specific programs or approaches, as this is emerging work is intended to be tailored to each community. Instead, competitive applicants will need to demonstrate competence and commitment to meeting four strategic objectives:

- Centering youth-choice.
- Applying flexible assistance and Diversion principles.
- Coordinated housing and legal aid support.
- Expanding young people's network of support.

**These strategic objectives are outlined in further detail below, and relevant suggested activities are specified in the Appendix.**

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<sup>7</sup> Washington State Department of Commerce, Office of Homeless Youth. "Prevention of Youth Homelessness: Preliminary Strategic Plan," (January 2021): [https://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/PreventingYouthHomelessnessReport\\_2021.pdf](https://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/PreventingYouthHomelessnessReport_2021.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> For more background, see: Ginwright, Shawn, Ph.D. "The Future of Healing: Shifting from Trauma Informed Care to Healing Centered Engagement," *Medium* (May 2018): <https://ginwright.medium.com/the-future-of-healing-shifting-from-trauma-informed-care-to-healing-centered-engagement-634f557ce69c>

<sup>9</sup> Washington State Department of Commerce, Office of Homeless Youth. "Improving Stability for Youth Exiting Systems of Care," (January 2020): <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Youth-Exiting-Systems-of-Care.pdf>

### *Objective 1: Centering choice for transition-age unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ youth*

Our strategy supports centering youth-choice in areas of crisis resolution, trauma/healing, and family/community relationships, particularly for unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people ages 16–21. Efforts should prioritize helping young people understand their housing options and make informed choices, especially in decisions and processes that involve seeking parental/guardian consent, addressing conflict, working toward reunification, finding and accessing services, and making *safe in-between housing options* viable.

- **Safe in-between housing options for youth who are 12–17 years old** are safe, non-exploitative, nurturing, and affirming home settings with relatives or trusted adults in young people’s network (i.e., “kinship care” or “informal host homes”).
- **Safe in-between housing options for young adults 18 years old or older** are safe, non-exploitative, nurturing, and affirming temporary housing arrangements with peers, partners, relatives and or trusted adults in young people’s network, which can include doubled-up and couch-surfing.

Competitive applicants will describe efforts to support goal setting with young people in determining long-term housing stability through reunification, working toward emancipation, or working to make *safe, in-between housing options* into permanent housing.

Racially equitable and culturally-competent services are a primary foundation of this objective. Applicants recognize the impact of historical and current harm caused by institutions and public systems of care on BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ communities.

### *Objective 2: Providing flexible financial assistance and Diversion to support permanent housing for BIPOC/LGBTQ2+*

When unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people become a legal adult at 18 years old, they face new challenges in finding safe and stable housing. While they can sign for a lease, they must compete in a scarce housing market without a rental history or credit, and with fewer financial resources and adult supports than their peers.

This objective is specifically intended for applicants to apply Diversion principles and flexible assistance to support young people working toward long-term housing stability. By using Diversion practices, such as promoting problem solving and goal setting, applicants can support young people to obtain housing stability, pay rent, contribute to household costs, and explore possibilities of making *safe in-between housing option* permanent. In addition to Diversion, continuous coaching for young people would help them learn how to set and respect expectations and boundaries in shared housing. If temporary housing options are the only available alternative, flexible funding can be used to address barriers that young people may face in pursuit of obtaining permanent housing via Coordinated Entry, local public housing authorities and vouchers, transitional housing, or on the private market.

**This objective is best suited for young people currently involved in the dependency process and turning 18 years old, young people who are currently in temporary housing situations such as “informal host homes” or kinship care, and/or young people who are already receiving Diversion services through their local Coordinated Entry.**

### *Objective 3: Coordinating housing and legal aid support*

Getting consent for services can be a significant barrier for unaccompanied youth. Young people surviving outside without a parent or guardian can be charged with a status offense which may lead to negative

interactions with law enforcement or the court system. As one advocate put it, “every unaccompanied youth has a legal issue.” Barriers to housing stability and legal issues are often intertwined. For BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ youth, outstanding legal issues can affect dependency and guardianship hearings, behavioral health evaluations and risk assessments, and safety-assessments to consent for services.

This objective is intended for applicants to coordinate efforts in navigating legal needs, changing dependency statuses, and housing options. This navigation will address emergent challenges and opportunities related to their housing stability, as well as respond and adjust to the goals and needs of young people. Specific consideration should be dedicated to the potential impact of bias and institutional racism embedded in courts and our child welfare system.

Competitive applications will describe how services will address overlapping areas of housing stability and legal needs by supporting coordination between finding housing and providing legal aid, expanding services accordingly, and/or partnering or continuing partnerships with legal aid/advocacy efforts.

#### *Objective 4: Expanding a network of healing-centered support*

Unaccompanied young people interact with several agencies and institutions that provide a variety of services, such as educational support, cultural/identity enrichment, counseling and therapy, maternal health and family planning services, gender-affirming care, and employment support.

This “extended system of care” is vital for young people to build their skills and confidence in navigating systems and building self-efficacy to achieve their personal goals and to stay safe. Additionally, these agencies and institutions are natural points-of-contact and referral sources for unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ youth transitioning into adulthood. Furthermore, these organizations consist of a support network that is ready to assist young people with establishing *safe in-between housing options*, safety-planning, and accessing educational or employment resources.

Promising strategies will describe creative efforts to collaborate or build upon partnerships with community-based organizations that can promote healing-centered approaches to goal-setting, safety-planning, conflict-resolution, and communication skills to support young people transitioning into adulthood.

**Competitive applications will emphasize how these partnerships add capacity and build a trusted, confidential space responsive to the unique experiences of BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ youth navigating dependency processes, reunification, and/or establishing sustainable relationships with others in safe in-between housing options.**

#### *What Does Success Look Like?*

We consider it a success when resources are put toward increasing awareness and understanding of housing options that affirm all identities and experience for young people. **Affirming housing options are safe and stable; support and enrich young people’s racial/ethnic background and culture, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religious beliefs, ability, and neurodiversity; and promote independence and stability according to young people’s goals and development.**

- **Housing stability** will be measured by exits to permanent, transitional, or safe, temporary housing with family or friends.
- **Affirming housing options** will be measured by increased feelings of safety and belonging upon exit.
- **Increasing understanding and choice** will be measured by young people who have accessed legal services, mental and/or physical health services, family planning, childcare, and educational/employment services and opportunities.



- **Promoting independence and stability according to young people’s goals and development** will be measured by young people’s identification of goals and feelings of progress towards those goals.

### *Addressing Disparities*

Racial equity is a key organizational value for Building Changes. We advocate for the needs of marginalized populations to improve equity outcomes. While we recognize that racial and ethnic disparities will vary in different parts of the state, data shows that people of color are disproportionately affected by homelessness. We also know that BIPOC young people are overrepresented in the criminal, legal, and child welfare systems.<sup>10</sup>

By focusing on unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people, we are applying a targeted universalism approach.<sup>11</sup> As mentioned in the introduction, BIPOC young people hold multiple identities, including LGBTQ2+ and gender identities, abilities, and nationalities/ethnicities. The goal of using targeted universalism is to apply strategies that will change policies and practices that affect outcomes for the most marginalized populations so that everyone in communities can thrive. The four strategic objectives described above are intended to address areas where unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people do not have options nor have tailored support. This can include support with obtaining housing stability, working through dependency issues, and cultivating positive youth development.<sup>12</sup>

### *Learning Goal and Technical Assistance*

Building Changes aims to learn which services and programs’ designs improve housing stability for youth and young adults, particularly unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people navigating the dependency process and interacting with our public systems of care. Demographic information and the measures identified above will be used to track these learnings via the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Grantees are also expected to participate as a cohort in learning circles and complete narrative and financial reports.

Selected grantees will be encouraged to develop a collaborative working relationship with their local Coordinated Entry partner to share project learnings as well as support coordination between our public systems of care to better serve youth and young adults, particularly unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people.

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

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<sup>10</sup> Martin, Megan MSW, and Connelly, Dana Dean Ph.D. “Achieving Racial Equity: Child Welfare Policy Strategies to Improve Outcomes for Children of Color,” *Center for the Study of Social Policy* (2015): <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/achieving-racial-equity-child-welfare-policy-strategies-improve-outcomes-children-color.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Othering & Belonging Institute. “Targeted Universalism: Policy & Practice,” (May 2019): <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/targeteduniversalism>

<sup>12</sup> Lantos, Hannah, Allen, Tiffany, Abdi, Fadumo M. *et al.* “Integrating Positive Youth Development and Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Approaches Across the Child Welfare and Justice Systems,” (January 25, 2022): <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/integrating-positive-youth-development-and-racial-equity-inclusion-and-belonging-approaches-across-the-child-welfare-and-justice-systems>

## 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 led by and staffed by persons of color that primarily serve communities of color are encouraged to apply, even if not currently delivering homeless and housing services. If selected as a grantee, Building Changes will provide training and technical assistance.**

### *Target Population*

Youth and young adults (12–24 years old) who are unaccompanied and/or experiencing homelessness, with a focus on unaccompanied Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and Lesbian, Gay, Trans, Bisexual, Queer/Questioning, and Two-Spirit (LGTBQ2+) young people who are 16–21 years old.

“Unaccompanied” is defined as a youth experiencing homelessness while not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Additionally, youth and young adults experiencing homelessness *may* include:

- Young people lacking an adequate, fixed or safe nighttime residence (including couch-surfing/doubled-up).
- Young people exiting juvenile detention, jail, prison foster care, mental health crisis centers, or drug rehabilitation centers into homelessness.
- “Runaway” youth.
- Parenting/pregnant youth and young adults.
- Survivors of domestic violence
- Emancipated minors.

### *Geography*

Organizations and agencies across Washington State are invited to apply. Applicants are encouraged to use data in their application to demonstrate need for more resources to serve youth and young adults, particularly unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people, in their community.

## Expectations for Funded Projects

### *Outcomes and Evaluation*

- Expected outputs include:
  - Exits to permanent housing.
  - Exits to safe temporary housing with family or friends.
- Other outputs tracked include:
  - Use of flexible funding.
  - Connections to services such as, legal services, mental and/or physical health services, family planning, childcare, and educational/employment services.
- Outcomes measured and compared to baseline include:

- The number/percentage of exits to permanent housing.
- The number/percentage of increased incomes.
- The number/percentage of young people who exit with increased connectedness.
- The number/percentage of young people who exit with increased feelings of safety.
- Length of time accessing services.

Grantees will be evaluated based on feedback from clients and from regularly reported data submitted to Building Changes by grantees.

## 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](mailto: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*

The initial review will be completed by Building Changes staff. 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 on the following criteria (percentages indicate the weight each category will have in the review process):

**1. Program Design Description (30%):**

- a) Applicant has clear understanding of the strategic objectives and the role their organization/agency can play in supporting young people to establish housing stability while navigating dependency processes and/or public systems of care.
- b) Applicant demonstrates alignment between the project's goals and the organization or agency's goals to advance support for youth that will help them meet their needs in their community.
- c) Project has realistic goals and plans to dedicate staff capacity and organizational resources to fulfill the objectives of WYFF.
- d) Project has a clear plan to identify, connect with, and engage with unaccompanied young people, particularly unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people.
- e) Project specifies efforts to involve young people, particularly those who are BIPOC and LGBTQ2+, in the development, implementation, and improvement processes of programs' designs.

**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 young people in their community.
- b) Applicant provides racial equity goals that could be achieved through services and activities in their project.
- c) Applicant demonstrates existing or current commitment to advance racial equity practices and priorities, such as efforts to ensure that staff and organizational leadership reflect the demographics of the young people being served, training and ongoing assessment of services, and strategies to solicit feedback from participants to create more racially equitable services.

**3. Community Partnership and Capacity (20%):**

- a) Applicant demonstrates a strong understanding that promoting choices and informed decision-making are effective approaches that can support unaccompanied young people, particularly those who are BIPOC and LGBTQ2+, as they establish housing stability.
- b) Project has a clear plan to promote choices and informed decision-making for young people, particularly those who are unaccompanied, BIPOC, and LGBTQ2+
- c) Applicant demonstrates that their organization or agency currently has, or can proficiently build, relationships with local courts, child welfare agencies, such as Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) or Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR), behavioral health agencies, juvenile jails, law enforcement, and/or adult correction facilities to support young people, particularly those who are unaccompanied, BIPOC, and LGBTQ2+.
- d) Applicant demonstrates that their organization or agency currently has, or can proficiently develop, relationships with agencies and/or institutions that can support goal setting, safety-planning, conflict-resolution, and/or other self-efficacy skills with young people, particularly those who are unaccompanied, BIPOC, and LGBTQ2+.

**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

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

## Appendix

Relevant suggested activities for each strategy can be found below.

### **1. *Centering choice for transition-age unaccompanied BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ youth***

- Conduct outreach, identify, and meet with young people who are unaccompanied through:
  - Building relationships and referral processes with agencies and institutions that interact with unaccompanied young people, such as local McKinney-Vento Liaisons, regional DCYF offices/services, and juvenile court officials.
  - Thoughtful outreach efforts to young people that demonstrate transparency and the ability to provide voluntary support and service.
  - Facilitating “in-reach” strategies that are easy and accessible for young people to self-refer, including but not limited to, social media platforms, call/text, and website access.
- Establish trust by building a safe, warm, responsive, and caring environment for young people, particularly through connecting in settings and times that work best for them.
- Ongoing training and technical assistance to develop and maintain racially equitable programs, practices, and organizational change efforts.
- Ongoing training and education on the experiences of LGBTQ2+ young people, and the impact of cis-sexism, transphobia, and gender-based violence.
- Increase representation of BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ staff and efforts to change policy and practices that prevent, exclude, or discourage participation of BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ young people.

### **2. *Providing flexible financial assistance and Diversion approaches that support BIPOC/LGBTQ2+ to establish permanent housing***

- Use the Diversion approach to creatively ensure young people have a safe place to sleep each night, including:
  - Supporting young people to establish informal host-homes, kinship care, or other *safe in-between housing options*.
- Provide an appropriate level of support for young people around accessing and navigating the Coordinated Entry (CE) system by:
  - Building partnerships with local CE providers and learning processes and procedures required to meet the needs of young people.
  - Supporting, advocating, and preparing young people with the knowledge to navigate the CE system, including vulnerability assessments.
  - Ensuring young people are referral ready and have necessary identification documents.
- Youth-centered coaching to support young people in establishing and maintaining informal host-homes, kinship care, or other *safe in-between housing options* by:
  - Coaching young people in establishing and navigating boundaries and expectations within shared housing situations.
- Connect and support young people with accessing available vouchers and housing assistance programs, such as the [Family Unification Program \(FUP\)](#) and [Foster Youth to Independence Initiative \(FYI\)](#).
- Connect and support young people in accessing mainstream basic needs benefits, such as cash assistance, food assistance, local and federal public benefits, healthcare and medical services, parenting classes, and childcare.

### **3. *Coordinating housing and legal aid support***

- Support young people in tracking, preparing for, and participating in legal processes related to [Child in Need of Services \(CHINS\) and At-Risk Youth \(ARY\) petitions](#), shelter care hearings, and/or behavioral health evaluations, and risk assessments.
- Provide information and support young people in legal processes related to establishing minor guardianships, family reconciliation and reunification, emancipation, transferring their probation to another community, and/or navigating eligibility for Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) status.
- Help young people build a strong foundation for adulthood by providing support with clearing evictions and debt, sealing juvenile records, and getting access to personal identification and other documents necessary for accessing services and housing.

### **4. *Expanding a network of healing-centered support***

- Build a referral infrastructure with community-based organizations who may be interacting with unaccompanied youth.
- Purchase cell phones, laptops, and hot spots for young people to create sustainable connectivity.
- Provide connections to meaningful skill development opportunities that align with self-identified interests and passions, including but not limited to, employment and education possibilities by:
  - Dedicating flexible assistance to support participation of these opportunities.
- Build partnerships with community-based organizations that can support young people in culturally-responsive services, such as:
  - Safety-planning when permanent housing options are not available.
  - Custody-related court processes like dependency hearings, reunification, and Family Reconciliation Services.