

Washington Youth & Families Fund (WYFF)

Budget Request: Additional \$6M

Created by the legislature in 2004, WYFF is a public-private fund that supports youth and families experiencing homelessness in Washington State. WYFF relies heavily on public dollars, but leverages those dollars to bring in private dollars. Building Changes administers the fund, awarding grants and providing technical assistance to organizations and tribes across the state. To date, we have awarded \$62.7M to 122 grantees, including 2 tribes, across 26 counties.

In partnership with WYFF grantees, Building Changes uses data, research, and promising practices to develop, implement, and advance strategies that help youth and families move out of homelessness. Strategies are developed with input from people with lived experiences and iterated based on learnings from previous WYFF grants.

In 2022, we awarded \$3M to 6 organizations out of a total request of \$37.5M from 57 organizations. Our new round of youth grants focus on legal aid, skill development, and increasing support networks for youth experiencing homelessness, especially BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth. Our new family grants focus on addressing racial healing and trauma and their impacts on housing and homelessness. Diversion, flexible funding, and targeted universalism are core components of both grant strategies.

Request: Improve housing outcomes for youth and families experiencing homelessness by investing an additional \$6M in this effective program.

WYFF Investment to Support Youth & Families Experiencing Homelessness

- *Current Funding Level:* \$4 million
- **2023-25 Budget Request:** **\$6 million (additional)**
- *Total Requested WYFF Funding Level:* \$10 million

An additional \$6M would be used to:

- Increase the number of grants allocated and better meet the needs of communities
- Increase programmatic staffing capacity
- Support BIPOC and LGTBQ communities that are overrepresented in homeless populations
- Support organizations and populations that are often not prioritized or eligible for other homeless and housing programs
- Support flexible, collaborative, data-driven strategies to address crises across geographic areas

