



# Homeless Student Stability Program(HSSP)

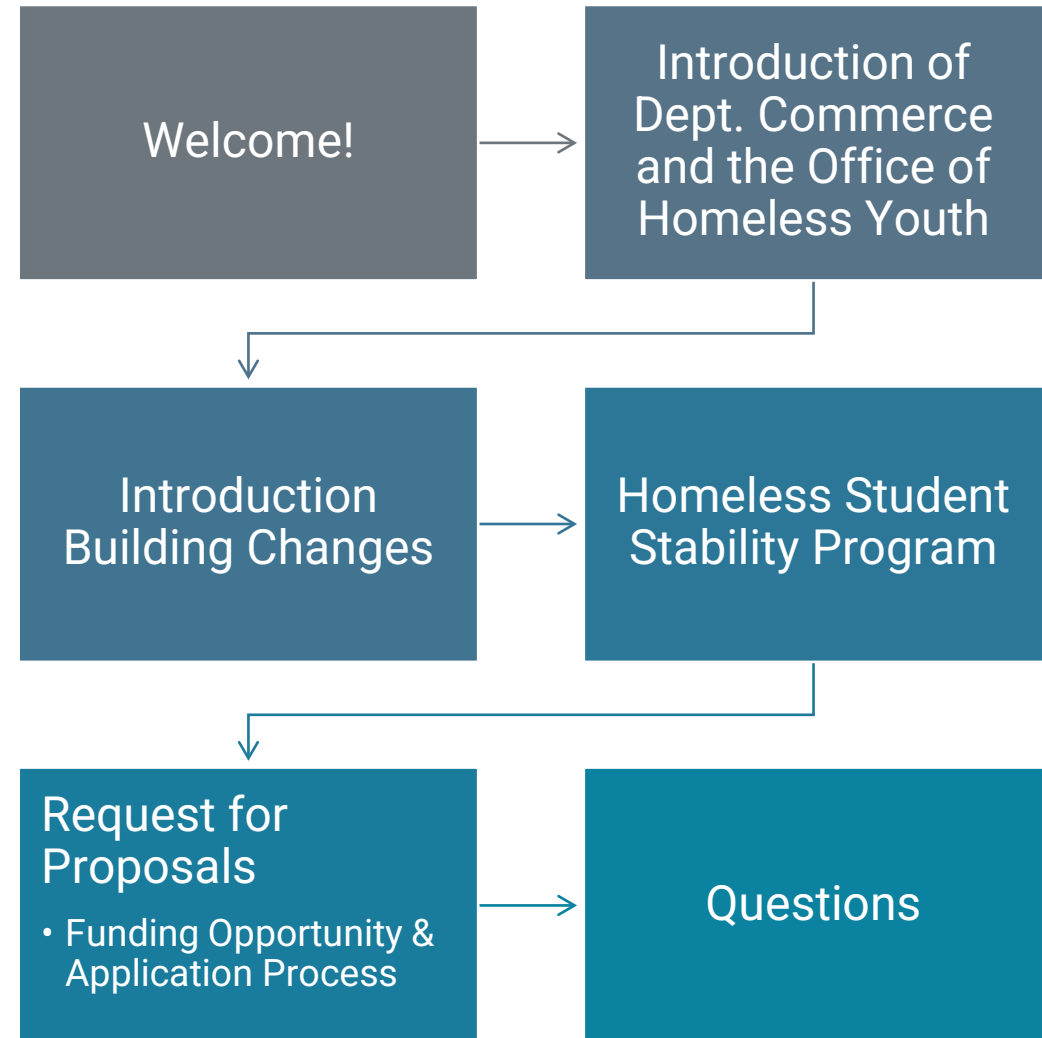
## FY24-25 RFP Bidders' Webinar

*Mehret Tekle-Awarun & Jonathan Houston - Building Changes*

*Gina Thompson – Office of Homeless Youth*



# Agenda





A photograph of a narrow, gravelly path winding through a dense forest. The scene is misty, with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a warm, golden glow. The path is covered in fallen leaves and small stones. The trees are tall and thin, with some evergreens and some deciduous trees showing autumn foliage. The overall atmosphere is serene and quiet.

## ***Tribal Land Acknowledgement***

*We would like to  
acknowledge the Indigenous  
people who have stewarded  
this land since time  
immemorial and who still  
inhabit the area today.*

*Building Changes sits  
uninvited on the ancestral  
land of the Duwamish and  
Coast Salish People.*



# Learning goals for this webinar



Competitive Procurement Process



Housing Student  
Stability Program  
Procurement Overview

Application  
Eligibility  
Program Requirements &  
Technical assistance



Best Practices



RFP Coordinator Contact Information



Q/A





# Office of Homeless Youth (OHY)



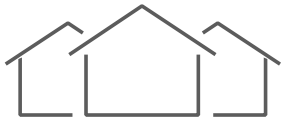
Established in 2015 through the Homeless Youth Act (2SSB 5404) to lead policy, funding, and practice efforts within the state system for addressing five (5) key components:

- Stable Housing
- Family Reconciliation
- Permanent Connections
- Education & Employment
- Social & Emotional Well-Being

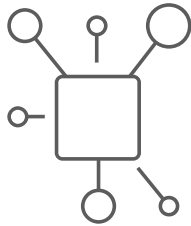


# We strengthen communities

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**HOUSING  
HOMELESSNESS**



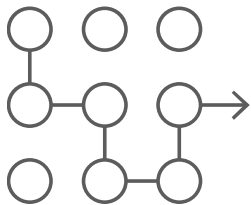
**INFRASTRUCTURE**



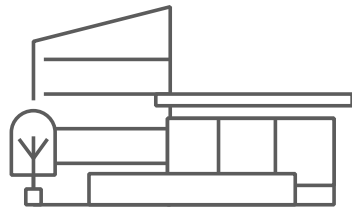
**BUSINESS  
ASSISTANCE**



**ENERGY**



**PLANNING**



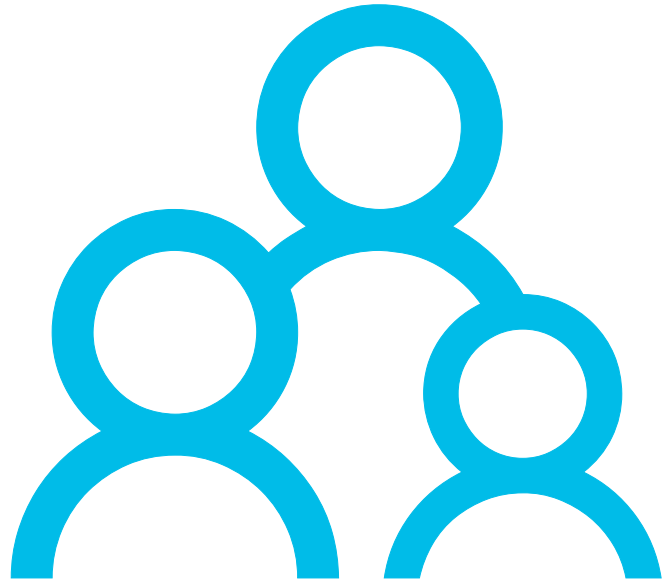
**COMMUNITY FACILITIES**



**CRIME VICTIMS &  
PUBLIC SAFETY**



**COMMUNITY  
SERVICES**



## Guiding Vision

Every family and youth in Washington State has the individualized support they need so that no young person has to spend a single night without a safe and stable home. Every community has services that are equitable, accessible, effective, responsive, and coordinated.



## **Vision**

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

## **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.

## **Values**

- Equity
- Partnerships
- People
- Integrity





## Our Statement on Racial Equity

- At Building Changes, we seek to hold ourselves accountable for addressing racism and discrimination. Black, Indigenous, and people of color disproportionately experience homelessness due to historical and systemic racism. We cannot address homelessness without addressing racism at its roots and the trauma it continues to perpetuate. We set universal goals to end homelessness and pursue targeted solutions to achieve these goals.
- Our racial equity work does not stop there. We are committed to building an internal culture that challenges racism within our organization.





# Homeless Student Stability Program

Established in 2016 to provide educational stability by promoting housing stability to students in the public K-12 system and their families experiencing homelessness, this includes unaccompanied youth.

Chapter RCW 43.185C  
Homeless Housing and  
Assistance authorizes these  
funds and RCW 43.185C.340  
establishes the HSSP grant.



# The Homeless Student Stability Program (HSSP) intends to fund organizations to



- Provide housing navigation, housing resources, and/or housing stability supports to alleviate and end housing crisis for students, unaccompanied youth and/or young adults, and families in the K-12 public school system.
- Develop partnerships with one or more school buildings and/or school districts and/or educational service districts in order to create, implement, and/or expand collaborative strategies between housing and education partners to promote housing and educational stability.
- Provide ways to engage and connect students, unaccompanied youth and/or young adults, and families with education enrichment activities and supports, including but not limited to tutoring, life skills, economic mobility, entrepreneurship, afterschool programming, attendance supports, and school/district community events
- Develop and implement evidence-informed strategies to address racial inequities among students and families experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth, in the K-12 public school system.



# School-Housing Partnership

HSSP and Homeless Student Support Education Program (HSSeP through OSPI) funds are administered by two agencies to create partnerships between housing support services and school districts:

- The goal of the programs is to encourage the development of collaborative strategies between housing and education partners.
- Work towards improve collaborations with school building and districts
- Improve services for Unaccompanied Youth experiencing homelessness.
- Need to expand or improve identification, enrollment and services.
- Housing support should aim to link students and families with stable housing located in the student's school district.

**If your housing is unstable  
and you must move,  
your school can stay the same**



Original design produced for the Longview School District with support from Building Changes and the Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds (OEEO).





# HSSEP Grant Recipients (2022-2024 Cohort)

Bellingham

Bethel

Clover Park

Coupeville

Everett

Evergreen

Highline

Kelso

Marysville

Mount  
Adams

North  
Thurston

Sequim

South  
Whidbey

Spokane

Tacoma

Wenatchee

Woodland





# HSSEP Expansion Grant Recipients (2023-2024 Cohort)

Aberdeen	Anacortes	Battle Ground	Central Kitsap	Edmonds	Ephrata	Federal Way
Ferndale	Granite Falls	Impact Public Schools	La Center	La Conner	Lake Washington	Lamont
Medical Lake	Mount Baker	Mount Vernon	Mukilteo	Medical Lake	Mount Baker	Mount Vernon
Mukilteo	Naches	Oak Harbor	Orondo	Pioneer	Puyallup	Ridgefield
Riverside	Rochester	Seattle	Shelton	South Bend	South Kitsap	Summit Sierra
		Tumwater	Yakima			



# Household Eligibility

Households served by the program must include at least one student enrolled in the public K-12 system and be:

- Meet the definition of homelessness as defined by McKinney-Vento, including unaccompanied youth.
- At or below 50% of area median income at time of program entry.
- The entire household must be considered for eligibility determination and services.



# Program Requirements

- Reporting and Evaluation
  - Program data must be entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
  - Reporting must include a narrative that describes the partnership with the school(s) or school district(s) and the quantity and types of supports offered to promote academic learning
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- HSSP Contract Template
  - Terms and Conditions
  - Insurance





# Request for Proposals

Application process



# Eligible Applicants



Local Governments



Local Housing  
Authorities



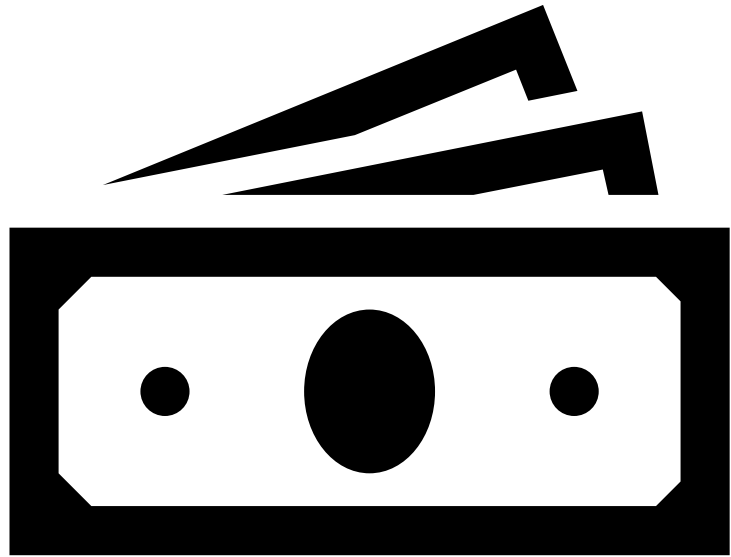
Nonprofit Community or  
Neighborhood-Based  
Organizations



Federally Recognized  
Indian Tribes in the  
State of WA



Regional or Statewide  
Nonprofit Housing  
Assistance  
Organizations



# Funding Opportunity

- Performance Period:
  - January 15, 2024 - June 30, 2025
- Funding is dependent upon legislative appropriations
  - \$1,455,800
- Individual projects to be budgeted up to, but no more than \$200,000 for the grant period,



# Estimated Schedule of Procurement Activities

Issue Request for Proposals	<b>Wednesday, October 25, 2023</b>
Question & Answer Period	<b>Friday, October 27, through Friday, November 10, 2023</b>
Bidders' Webinar	<b>Thursday, November 9, 2023</b>
Answers to Q&A and Bidders' Webinar Recording Posted on Building Changes Website	<b>Wednesday, November 15, 2023</b>
Applications Due	<b>Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time</b>
Community Review Panel	<b>Wednesday, December 6, through Sunday, December 17, 2023</b>
Community Review Panel Decision Meeting	<b>Wednesday, December 20, 2023</b>
"Apparent Successful Bidders" Notified of Awards and Email Notifications Sent to Unsuccessful Proposers	<b>Friday, December 22, 2023</b>
Window for Appeal Process	<b>Tuesday, December 26, 2023, through Tuesday, January 9, 2024</b>
Hold Debriefing Conferences (if requested)	<b>Tuesday, December 26, 2023, through Tuesday, January 9, 2024</b>
Negotiate Contract	<b>Tuesday, December 26, 2023, through Tuesday, January 9, 2024</b>
Contract Start Date	<b>Monday, January 15, 2024</b>

- All communication regarding the RFP must only be via email [HSSP@buildingchanges.org](mailto:HSSP@buildingchanges.org)



## Proposal Checklist:

### ☐ Funding Application

- Applicant Information
- Subgrantee Information (if applicable)
- Attached letter of support from applicable school(s), school district(s), or educational service district
- References (up to three required)

### ☐ Universal and Program Questions

- Must be completed by all applicants.
- **Must adhere to 250-word limit per response to each question.**
- Video submission (optional)\*

### ☐ Required Exhibits (A, B, C, D, E)

- Signatures may be scanned or electronic where required.
- Exhibit A: Certifications and Assurances (attached below)
- Exhibit B: Diverse Business and Inclusion Plan (attached below)
- Exhibit C: Workers Rights Certification (attached below)
- Exhibit D: Prior Business/Employees with Washington State (attached below)
- Exhibit E: Budget Proposal (download and complete spreadsheet posted at [bit.ly/2024-hssp-funding](https://bit.ly/2024-hssp-funding))



**UNIVERSAL QUESTIONS (REQUIRED, SCORED: 60 POINTS)**

All questions must be answered, and scoring will be based on points noted below. 250-word limit per response to each question.

1. Describe how your organization meets the needs of students, unaccompanied youth and/or young adults, and families who are experiencing homelessness or unstably housed. <b>(5 points)</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) (including Asian, Black, Indigenous, Middle Eastern, Pacific Islander, multi-racial, Hispanic/Latinx and other non-white populations), and LGBTQ2IA+ young people, students, and families are overrepresented in homeless populations and underserved in housing and education systems. How would you use this funding to serve each of these communities equitably? Please be specific. <b>(10 points)</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
3. What strategies and actions do you currently utilize to advance racial equity within your organization? <b>(10 points)</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
4. How have you incorporated youth, student, and/or family voice throughout development and implementation of services, including but not limited to current/former participants, staff with lived experience, family or community advisory boards, and Youth Action Boards? How do you avoid tokenizing lived experts? <b>(10 points)</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
5. Describe a time that your organization received critical feedback from a young person, student, or family in your program, how and when you responded, and any changes to policies, procedures, or practices that occurred because of it? <b>(7 points)</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
6. How does your organization and/or program adapt and accommodate to ensure holistic services are provided to young people, students, and families, especially those who experience barriers due to disabilities; behavioral health limited English proficiency; surviving domestic, sexual, or family violence; or juvenile justice system involvement? <b>(10 points)</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
7. What actions are you taking to hire, invest in, and retain staff at all levels that are reflective of the population(s) you serve? <b>(8 points)</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>If responding to the above questions via video, please insert Vimeo or YouTube link here. Video submission response to all Universal Questions must be no longer than 14 minutes total.</b> Click or tap here to enter text.







## Community Review Panel Breakdown

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The following weighting will be assigned to the proposal for evaluation purposes:

- Ensuing equity
- School partnership
- Organization and staffing
- Program design and budget
- Geographic diversity across the state





# Ensuing Equity

- Implementing community-informed strategies to address disproportionality, opportunity gaps and other systemic inequities that negatively impact students experiencing homelessness including students of color.
- Improve access to underserved/disproportionally impacted populations such as BIPOC, LGBTQ2, and individuals living with disabilities
- Increasing the capacity and support for Unaccompanied Youth experiencing homelessness.



# Building Changes Appeal

- Grounds for an Appeal: Applicants may only submit an appeal on the following grounds: Failure by Building Changes to follow procedures outlined in this 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 from December 26, 2023, through January 9, 2024.
- How to Submit an Appeal: Building Changes must receive all appeals in writing during the window for appeal from December 26, 2023, through January 9, 2024. 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.

# Procurement Best Practices



Read procurement and Q&A documents



For assistance completing this application, please contact the RFP Consultant Jonathan Houston



Submit Proposals with  
"HSSP RFP" in the subject line to:  
[HSSP@buildingchanges.org](mailto:HSSP@buildingchanges.org)



# QUESTIONS

