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[BuildingChanges.org](http://BuildingChanges.org)

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

# Senior Strategy Specialist, Education & Housing Grant Portfolios

Building Changes seeks an experienced Senior Strategy Specialist to manage grantmaking and capacity building portfolios. This position will provide project management, technical assistance, training, facilitation of group processes, and relationship management with the goal of improving services and support for families, students, and youth & young adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness.

This position will be involved in various Building Changes projects within our Practice Innovation team. The goal of Building Changes' Practice Innovation work is to improve education and housing outcomes for students and YYA experiencing homelessness by securing adequate and sustainable resources and capacity for the education and housing systems, facilitating leadership buy-in and cross-system collaboration, and holding those systems accountable to advance racially equitable and culturally responsive policies, practices, and community partnerships.

### About Building Changes

#### 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.

#### Racial Equity Statement

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.

#### Values

Building Changes' work is grounded in these core values: Equity, People, Partnerships, and Integrity.

For more information, visit [BuildingChanges.org](http://BuildingChanges.org)

*Building Changes believes every member of our staff deserves a full family living wage, and we are proud to be a [Certified Leading Living Wage For US \(Plus\) Employer](#).*



**Job responsibilities:**

- Provide technical assistance, training, and capacity building to [Homelessness Student Stability Program](#) (HSSP) and [Washington Youth & Family Fund](#) (WYFF) grantees.
- Provide opportunities for targeted training on Diversion strategies to resolve housing crises/homelessness and support the creation and implementation of effective school/housing partnerships with clear roles and responsibilities, including engagement with coordinated entry and racial equity in services design and implementation (on-going).
- Monitor and track HSSP and WYFF YYA grant implementation and outcomes, including quantitative and qualitative data reports and contract compliance.
- Develop and manage relationships with school staff (including McKinney-Vento staff, student support staff, and school district leadership) and community-based nonprofit/social services agencies across Washington State.
- Foster connections with state and national partners focused on YYA homelessness and housing instability; prevention and Diversion for YYA transitions from systems of care; the continuum of housing services for unaccompanied and runaway and homeless youth; closing the opportunity gap and post-secondary access, etc.
- Work in partnership with the Director of Practice Innovation and representatives from the state Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in support of HSSP, Homeless Student Stability education Program (HSSeP), and WYFF program implementation, and to advance OHY youth and young adult prevention strategies.
- Work closely with Building Changes' Policy team to inform advocacy efforts for students and YYA experiencing housing crisis and homelessness.
- Work in partnership with Building Changes' Research and Evaluation and Communications teams to collect, distill, and share learnings on various topics including student, family, and YYA homelessness, racial disproportionality and disparity, educational outcomes, systems change and cross-sector work.

**The successful candidate will have a combination of the following skills and experience:**

- A commitment to Racial Equity and to centering their work and professional relationships in these practices. Candidates must be open and dedicated to a personal and collective journey to live into Building Changes' commitment to become an anti-racist and anti-oppressive organization.
- A sharp equity lens and comfort and/or fluency participating in conversations around equity.
- Passion for advocating for students and YYA experiencing housing crisis and homelessness and a commitment to improving and changing structures and systems that perpetuate harm for this population.
- At least three to five years of experience working within or alongside the homeless response system, including community-based organizations; the child welfare and/or juvenile legal system; support services embedded in school districts or behavioral health agencies; governing bodies like county-based Continuums of Care or Educational School Districts; and other related institutions. \*
- Demonstrated experience implementing strategies to address institutional racism.
- A foundational understanding of the root causes of YYA housing crisis and housing instability, particularly the role of systems' involvement and the systemic barriers young people face in accessing services and resources necessary for housing stability.
- A foundational understanding of diverse local, state, and federal funding mechanisms, planning processes, and trends related to homeless and special needs housing and services.
- Knowledge of McKinney-Vento law and services.

- Understanding of the definitional misalignment of McKinney-Vento and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD) categories of homelessness.
- Demonstrated experience fostering collaboration and working across different systems such as the homeless response system, the child welfare and/or juvenile legal system, workforce development, and education system.
- Project management experience, including managing complex relationships and processes.
- Meeting and training facilitation experience, including demonstrated skills in group processes.
- Demonstrated experience building and fostering collaboration and working across or at the intersection of different systems such as homelessness, education, and post high school pathways.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills and ability to communicate effectively with varied audiences, verbally, in writing etc.
- This position requires some local and statewide travel across Washington State.

*\*Note: In our effort to conduct an inclusive search for qualified candidates, this position does not require an advanced degree. Educational attainment will be considered along with lived and other experiences.*

**This position reports to the Director of Practice Innovation. While Building Changes is currently employing a hybrid work model, our office is based in Seattle, and applicants must be willing to travel to sites across Washington State.**

**The salary for this position is \$77,500. We offer excellent health, time off, retirement and other benefits. To apply, please email cover letter and resume to: [HR@buildingchanges.org](mailto:HR@buildingchanges.org) – Subject: [Senior Strategy Specialist](#).**

Building Changes is an Equal Opportunity Employer with a strong organizational commitment to building a diverse workforce. Individuals identifying as Black, Indigenous, people of color, having lived experience with homelessness, and/or LGBTQ+ are strongly encouraged to apply.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are more than just words to Building Changes; they are the practices that guide how we operate as an organization, how we do our work, and how we interact with each other, our partners, and communities at large. We believe that to achieve our mission of advancing equitable responses to homelessness, our organization and workplace must represent people from all identities, backgrounds, experiences, abilities, and perspectives. Therefore, we encourage interested candidates from diverse backgrounds to apply for open positions, even if they are not certain they meet every expectation of the role.