



BUILDING CHANGES

Impact Report 2020 – 2026

Building on Progress. Focused on the Future.

From the Executive Director

Dear friends,

It is my great pleasure to share Building Changes' 2020-2026 Impact Report. The work reflected in this report represents the dedication, creativity, and compassion of an incredible community of partners, advocates, staff, funders, and people with lived experience. Together, we are advancing solutions that help prevent and interrupt homelessness, support educational stability, and create stronger systems for youth and families across Washington.

I joined Building Changes eight years ago, motivated by a passion to expand equitable approaches to homelessness in our state. When I stepped into the role of Executive Director last year, I recognized that while we have accomplished so much, there is still more work ahead. There are over 42,000 youth in Washington experiencing homelessness, and over 60 percent are youth of color. These numbers represent real people who have been let down by systems meant to protect them.

This is a crisis we can solve if we all work together.

Our impact report is proof of what's possible when we all align around a shared purpose: that everyone has a safe, stable place to call home. Thank you for being part of these efforts and for believing in a future where youth and families have the opportunity to thrive.



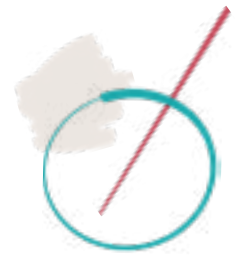
With gratitude,

Mehret Tekle-Awarun

Mehret Tekle-Awarun
Executive Director



Celebrating Meaningful Progress



Building Changes works to transform the systems and structures that lead to and perpetuate homelessness. We administer grant funding for direct service organizations, leverage evidence-based learnings to drive innovation, coordinate within and across sectors, and advocate for policies that create lasting change. Here are a few of our programs making a significant impact in Washington State.

Funding Administration and Technical Assistance

Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Fund (HPDF)*

HPDF provides flexible financial assistance to divert youth and young adults ages 12 to 24 experiencing a housing crisis away from the homelessness response system. The program has been highly successful since its launch and now operates in 10 Washington counties.

From 2020 to 2025

2,713

Households were served, with an average cost of **\$1,683** per household, a more cost-efficient intervention compared to traditional housing programs.

Clients consistently described HPDF as

transformative

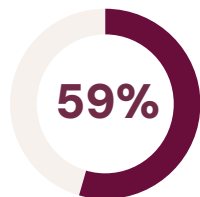
in helping them achieve housing stability.

**Reporting period: August 2020 – December 2025*

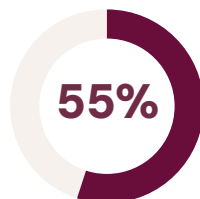
Washington's Homeless Student Stability Program (HSSP)*

HSSP is a first-of-its-kind initiative that connects schools and housing providers to support students experiencing homelessness.

876 Households and **3,035** individuals were served.



59% of households exited to permanent housing.



55% of households increased their housing stability.

**Reporting period: July 2022 – May 2025*

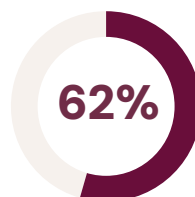


Washington Youth & Families Fund (WYFF)*

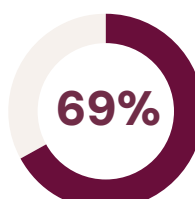
WYFF invests in organizations and tribes that have built trust in their communities and can nimbly and effectively assist youth and families with culturally appropriate services.



159 Clients from 152 households exited WYFF.



62% Were BIPOC.



69% of clients exited into permanent housing.

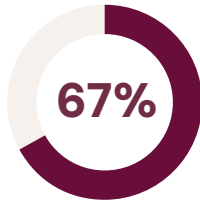
**Reporting period: October 2022 – June 2025*

Youth Diversion Infrastructure Project (YDIP)*

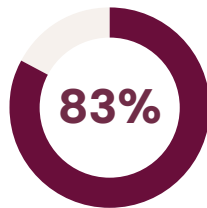
YDIP is designed to prevent homelessness among youth and young adults under the age of 25 who are exiting systems of care and facing an immediate housing crisis.

693

Households were served at an average cost of \$1,872 per household, a cost far less than other housing interventions.



of clients were over 18, with the largest proportion (32%) exiting the child welfare/foster care system.



of clients tracked remained stably housed after being served by YDIP.

**Reporting period: February 2023 – August 2025*

Legislative Advocacy

Building Changes advanced big victories for students in recent Legislative Sessions.

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|-------------|--|
| 2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Passage of SHB 2594 to codify McKinney-Vento protections for students experiencing homelessness in Washington StateContinued funding for the Homeless Student Stability Education Program (HSSeP) |
| 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Retention of funding for HSSP & WYFFIncrease of \$4 million for ongoing HPDF funding, which helped set the stage for the recovery of HSSeP funding |
| 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Increased HSSP funding from \$4.5 million to \$9 million |
| 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Creation of YDIP program through HB 1905 |

Knowledge Sharing

Building Changes develops tools and resources to support our partners in serving youth and families experiencing homelessness.



Developed the “Students Experiencing Homelessness in Washington’s K–12 Public Schools 2016–2023” report to reveal academic disparities and systemic inequities faced by unhoused students, elevate the urgent need for additional funding and policy action, and offer data-driven, community-informed solutions rooted in equity.

10
Training
Events

+

4
Community
Practice Events

+

2
Training
Series

Conducted for grantees, partners, and collaborators to share learnings about how to implement and scale effective strategies.

Launched the BE3 Coalition with the goal of building economic and educational equity for Washington students and families

Launched the “Beyond the Numbers” webinar series to share how community-driven insights, data, and partnerships can drive real systems change

Preparing for the Future

There is still work to be done to ensure that children, youth, and families have access to safe, stable housing. In addition to our existing programs, Building Changes is developing several key initiatives to advance our mission over the next three years, including:

Strengthening Organizational Capacity

Building Changes continues to strengthen our organizational capacity to deepen our impact and expand our reach. We are building out our team to facilitate shared leadership, foster greater collaboration and innovation, and position the organization for long-term sustainability.

Centering Community-Led Solutions

Preventing family homelessness requires coordinated systems that reflect the realities families face, including poverty, racial inequities, immigration barriers, behavioral health needs, and limited access to culturally responsive services. Prevention is most effective when housing, education, healthcare, and community organizations work together to support diverse family structures. By centering community-led, healing-focused approaches and flexible housing supports, families can achieve greater stability, resilience, and long-term well-being.

Investing in Targeted Prevention for Youth Ages 13–24

Preventing youth and young adult homelessness requires addressing family instability, systems involvement, economic insecurity, behavioral health, and identity-based discrimination. Early, youth-centered interventions — including family stabilization, culturally responsive support, education and workforce connections, and healing-focused services — can prevent long-term homelessness and poverty. Coordinated community partnerships help young people remain connected to safe housing, supportive relationships, and pathways toward lifelong stability and opportunity.

Economic Justice is Housing Justice: A Systems Change Initiative to End Homelessness

Building Changes is working to bridge housing and economic opportunity by aligning public systems for lasting stability, driving upstream policy reform, shifting power to communities most impacted, and changing the narrative about homelessness.

With Appreciation

Building Changes is proud to partner with donors and supporters who are helping to accelerate innovation and shape smarter, more equitable systems.



Office of
Homeless Youth



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.

We invite you to join us in taking transformative action. Please reach out to Mehret Tekle-Awarun at Mehret.Tekle@buildingchanges.org to learn more.

Visit us at buildingchanges.org

Special thanks to Flying Crow Creative for bringing our impact report to life.