

Priorities identified by the Washington Coalition of Homeless Youth Advocacy (WACHYA)

Note: This is not intended to be a draft WACHYA agenda for 2017

Stable Housing

1. Allow consent to provide personally identifiable information to HMIS for youth under 18
2. Remove document recording fee sunset, and reduce the proportion that is given to landlords (tied for second)
3. Provide more funding for developmentally appropriate housing options and supports, including housing for 18-24 year-olds, and host homes (tied for second)
4. Prevent source of income discrimination (close third)

Education and Employment

1. Expand the definition of “basic education” to include youth experiencing homelessness (tied for first)
2. “Ban the Box” (tied for first)
3. Flexible funding and more state funds to develop a continuum of vocational programming

Family Reconciliation and Permanent Connections

1. Expand phases I and II of Family Reconciliation Services
2. Create criteria to “rule out” when families should be reconciled, instead of leaving discretionary decisions to social workers, case managers, and other service providers

Mental Health, Chemical Dependency, and Social-Emotional Well-Being

1. Fund mental health staff embedded in homeless services to tier youth and young adults and connect them to ongoing services
2. Provide treatment “on demand”

Prevent Discharge to Homelessness from State Systems of Care

1. Extend the 72-hour reporting requirements – modeled after the OHY policy
2. Hold systems accountable
3. Change the age to opt into foster care (close third)