



Department of Commerce
Innovation is in our nature.

Homelessness in Washington State

Annual Report on the Homeless Grant Programs

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Report to the Legislature
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Washington State Department of Commerce

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Executive Summary

This annual report on Washington State homeless housing programs provides a comprehensive overview of the state's integrated approach to reducing homelessness. The Department of Commerce (Commerce) reports on program goals, performance outcomes, and makes recommendations for sustaining and improving services necessary to continue reducing homelessness in the state. The document fulfills reporting requirements under [RCW 43.185C](#) regarding the use of state and local document recording fees, and the Consolidated Homeless Grant, the Independent Youth Housing, and Housing and Essential Needs programs.

Homelessness Has Declined Since 2006

Data-driven investments have reduced overall statewide homelessness by 29 percent since 2006, including a large decline in unsheltered family homelessness (down 74 percent) and a more modest decline in the incidence of unsheltered individuals (down 5 percent). These gains were achieved despite an increase in unemployment-driven poverty, large overall social service cuts, and increasing housing costs.

Progress in reducing homelessness resulted primarily from the 2006 Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act, which increased investments in short-term housing assistance, performance data collection, coordination, and accountability.

Funding Source Essential to Reducing Homelessness

Almost half of the short-term housing for people facing homelessness – \$42 million per year – depends on document recording fees. Short-term assistance includes emergency shelter, rent assistance, and transitional housing.

Under current law, the document-recording fee that supports homelessness reduction efforts will decline 62.5 percent by 2017.

Revenue generated by the fees supports community-based non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, and local governments under the guidance of local housing plans. Community organizations and local governments, primarily counties, would probably not be able to backfill a loss of these fees, resulting in the closure of emergency shelters, transitional housing, and the end of short-term rent assistance.

Legislative Recommendations

In a large percentage of cases, homelessness is a temporary situation caused by general societal or economic factors, or individual conditions such as health issues, employability, or family disruption. To become stably housed, the majority of people facing homelessness need short-term help with rent and deposits. Most people who receive short-term rent assistance will never again need help with rent.

Document recording fee revenue funds homeless services that have resulted in a 29 percent decrease in homelessness generally, and 74 percent decrease in unsheltered family homelessness since 2006. Removing the fee sunset in [RCW 36.22.179](#) (June 30, 2017) will allow our continued progress in ending homelessness.

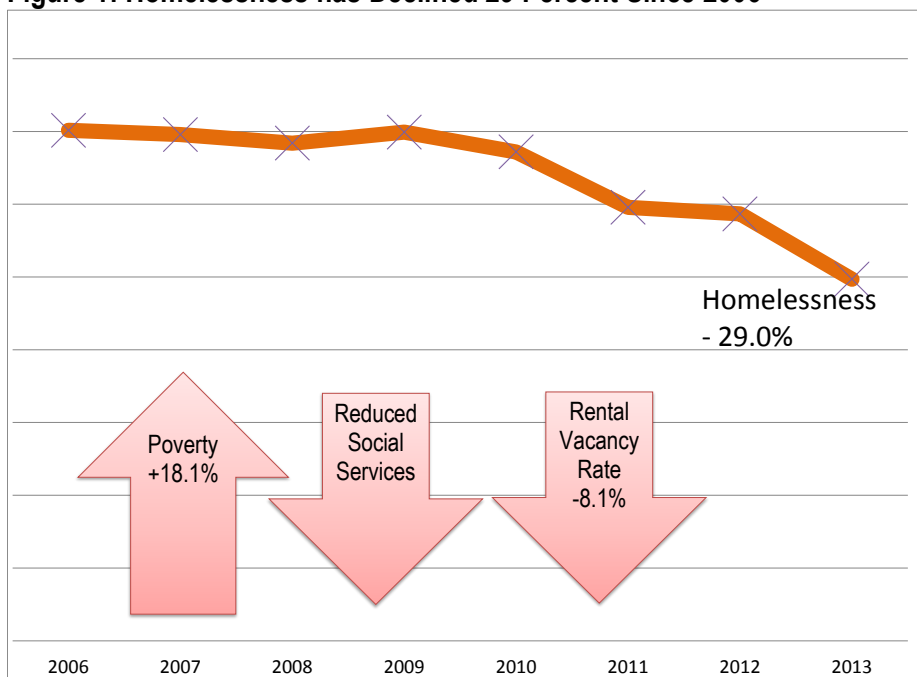
Commerce also recommends simplifying the document recording fee structure, which would reduce the administrative burden on local county auditors and Commerce.

2013 Annual Report on Homelessness

Investments are Paying Off

Data-driven housing investments and system reforms have reduced the incidence of homelessness by 29 percent since 2006. This improvement occurred despite an 18 percent increase in poverty,¹ an 8 percent decline in vacancy rates,² and large cuts to the overall social safety net. From 2006 to 2012 inflation-adjusted rents have increased 14 percent while median wages declined 3.9 percent.^{3, 4}

Figure 1: Homelessness has Declined 29 Percent Since 2006



Scheduled Funding Reduction

Under current law, recording fees that help fund homeless programs will decrease in 2015 and 2017, resulting in a 62.5 percent decline in state and local homeless fee funding. Funds from document recording fees are the biggest single source of homeless funding in our state. This fee is scheduled to decline from \$40 to \$30 in Fiscal Year 2016 and down to \$10 in Fiscal Year 2017.

¹ 2006 and 2012 Census Bureau American Community Survey Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months.

² 2006 and 2012 Census Bureau American Community Survey Selected Housing Characteristics.

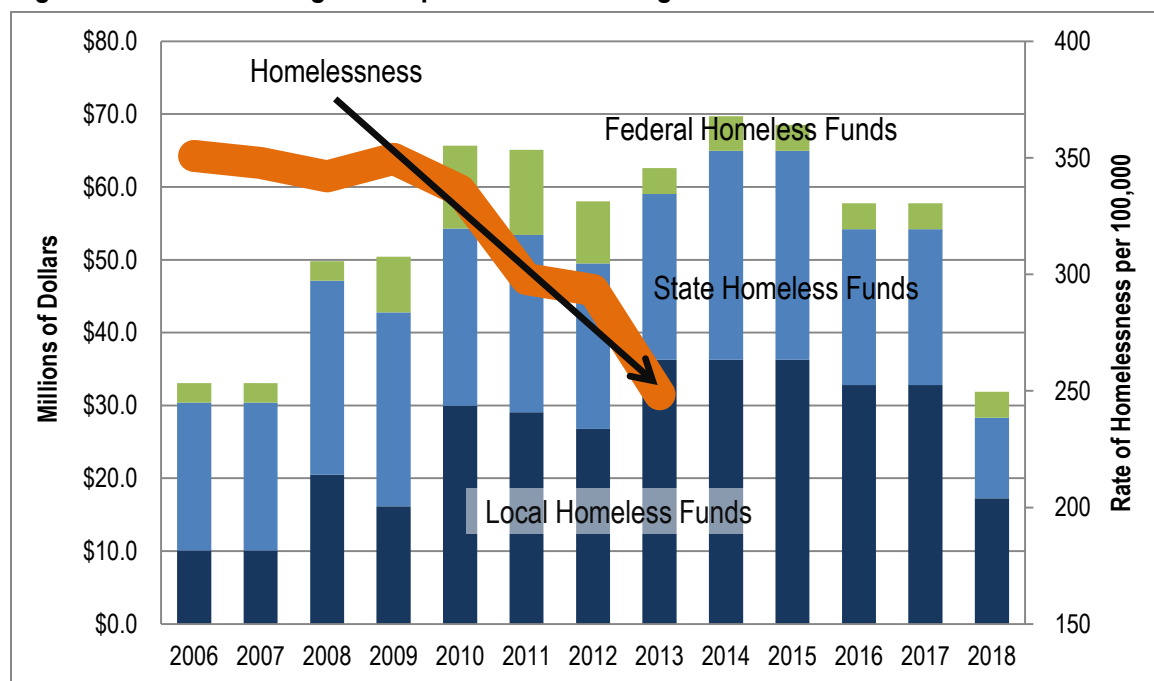
³ 2006 and 2012 Washington Center for Real Estate Research, Washington Apartment Market; adjusted for inflation using U.S. Department of Labor Consumer Price Index CPI-U.

⁴ 2006 and 2012 Census Bureau American Community Survey Median Income in the Past 12 Months; adjusted for inflation using U.S. Department of Labor Consumer Price Index CPI-U.

Funding Reduction Will Impact Local Governments

Counties are the primary recipients of document recording fee funds. Counties directly receive 66 percent of the funds to provide homeless services; the other 34 percent are contracted to counties through Commerce. Fee revenue is 49 percent of homeless funding in the state from all sources, including private donations, federal funding, local government funding, and other state funding. For the smallest 10 counties, document recording fees support 61 percent of the funds for homeless services. In larger counties, document recording fees represent 35 percent of homeless funding.

Figure 2: Continued Progress Dependent on Funding



Despite a legacy of underemployment and stagnant wages from the recent economic crisis, the return of relative economic stability and stable funding provides an opportunity to build on the success of our state's progress to reduce homelessness.

Changes That Have Made a Difference

Expanding Flexibility and Reducing Administrative Burden

In 2011, the five primary homeless housing programs were streamlined into a single Consolidated Homeless Grant. This reduced the number of redundant contracts and subcontracts by more than 60 percent and aligned contract rules while adhering to the policies of the underlying funding sources. This consolidation also freed housing providers from redundant rules and accounting.

Incentivizing Performance

The Consolidated Homeless Grant added incentive payments to what were previously exclusively formula-based funding programs. The incentives encourage a focus on people facing homelessness who are:

- Disabled and chronically homeless.
- Youth exiting foster care.
- Discharged from psychiatric hospitals, jails, prisons, and regular hospitals.

In 2014, incentives will be added to reward reducing the rate of return to homelessness after exit from foster care and for reducing the number of days people spend homeless. These new incentives align with the new federal Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act measures of community performance.

Increasing Feedback and Accountability

Data plays an increasing role in how resources are deployed. The Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce), in partnership with housing providers and local funding agencies, continues to hone how performance is measured and how that information is distributed.

A quarterly Web-based performance dashboard provides state and local policymakers timely information on program-specific outputs, such as numbers served, and outcomes, such as rates of return to homelessness. In addition to the quarterly reports produced by Commerce, Homeless Management Information Service (HMIS) users now have access to an easy-to-run dashboard (September 2013) that can be used at the county, agency, or individual program level.

Housing providers and local governments can also access aggregate information on the characteristics of those served by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and housing providers via a Web interface. Users can run queries against this system to see the relationships in their communities between the people they serve and those served by DSHS with programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and food assistance.

Commerce and its partners on the Interagency Council on Homelessness supplement the program-specific data produced by the HMIS with rigorous research on the effectiveness of specific programs. This includes comparing the success of those served versus a matched sample of similar people who were not provided homeless housing assistance. Highlights of this enhanced research include:

- Rapid re-housing increases the employment and income of those served versus a carefully matched group that were not provided assistance.⁵

⁵ <http://publications.rda.dshs.wa.gov/1470/>.

- Although homeless programs serve many youth exiting out of foster care, some still fall into homelessness.⁶
- The Housing and Essential Needs Program reduces housing instability by 18 percent, and prison incarceration 86 percent versus the former cash program.⁷

Twelve research and evaluation reports have been published by [DSHS Research and Data Analysis](#) through the partnership established by Commerce and the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Data-driven Expansion in Temporary Housing

In the face of budget shortfalls, social service programs have been significantly reduced in the past seven years. Increased spending on homeless housing has offset a relatively small portion of these reductions. Although overall job-loss driven poverty has increased in both the state and nation, Washington State's relatively modest investments in homeless housing have reduced homelessness.

Document recording fees are the largest source of funding for homeless housing, 91 percent of which is operated by faith-based or community non-profit organizations. Recording fees account for 49 percent of the emergency shelter, transitional housing, and temporary rent budgets (accounting for all sources: private, federal, and other local government funds).

In general, rural homeless housing budgets are more reliant on fees than in more urban areas (61 percent of rural homeless project budgets are fee supported, versus 35 percent of urban homeless project budgets). A loss of recording fees endangers these projects.

Temporary Assistance to Move into Private-Market Housing

A small portion of the people served by Washington's homeless housing system require ongoing subsidized housing and support services to remain housed, due to severe and persistent mental health and other illnesses that prevent them from working. About 27 percent of those successfully exiting to permanent housing go to subsidized housing. Housing built by the state Housing Trust Fund is critical for this population, who need ongoing assistance in buildings appropriate to their needs. The remaining 73 percent of this population exit to unsubsidized private-market housing.

To become stably housed, the majority of people facing homelessness need short-term help with rent and deposits so they can move into an unsubsidized private-market rental. Most people who receive short-term rent assistance will never again need help with rent.

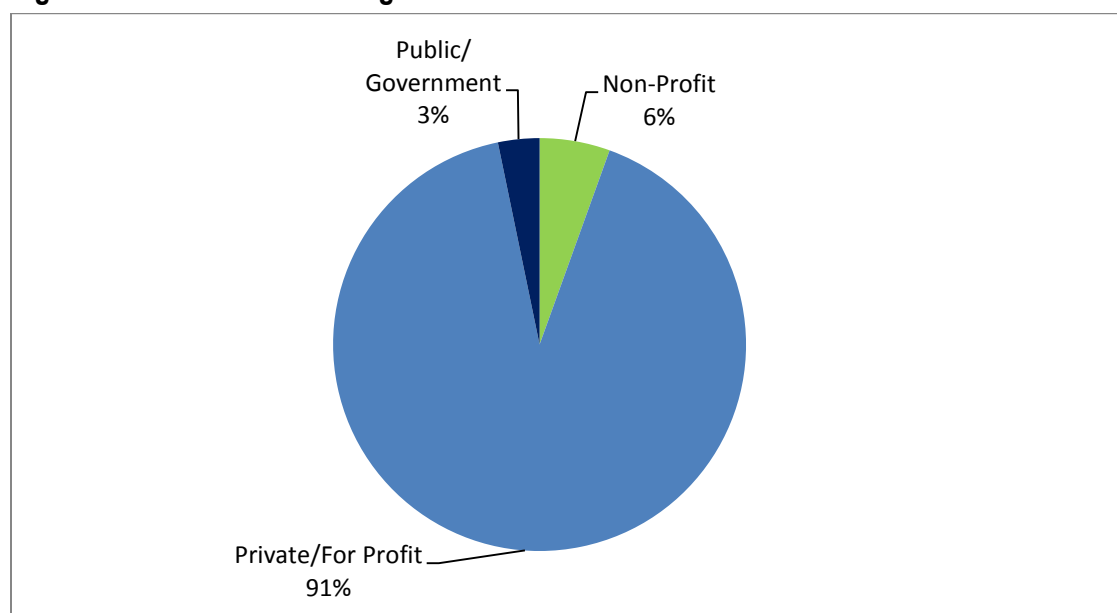
⁶ <http://publications.rda.dshs.wa.gov/1489/>.

⁷ <http://publications.rda.dshs.wa.gov/1476/>.

Helping people move into private-market rental housing is central to the success of these efforts. More than 60 percent of state and local document recording fees pay for projects relying on rented or leased housing.

Additionally, 91 percent of the state and local document recording fees that are used for temporary rent assistance are provided to landlords in the private market. Three percent are provided to public landlords, and 6 percent are provided to landlords in the non-profit market.

Figure 3: Document Recording Fees Benefit Private Landlords



In an effort to build on the success of using of private-market housing rentals to house people facing homelessness, Commerce, in cooperation with local stakeholders, launched a statewide housing locator website that connects landlords with low-income people seeking housing. HousingSearchNW.org allows landlords to easily list available rental units, and potential tenants can search the listing using multiple criteria. Beyond facilitating efficient linking of available tenants to available units, the website can be used by local governments to fulfill their obligation under RCW 43.185C to maintain a list of available private-market units that is provided to tenants receiving document recording fee supported rent assistance. The locator has the capacity to be repurposed in the event of a disaster to re-house displaced people

Next Steps to Build on Successes

Rapid Re-housing: The Ending Family Homelessness Initiative

In March 2013, Governor Inslee directed the Commerce and DSHS to cooperate on a new initiative to address family homelessness. In the first phase of the Ending Family Homelessness

Initiative, five communities were provided resources to rapidly re-house homeless enrollees in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

The first phase is testing how best to quickly move families out of relatively expensive emergency shelters and into private-market housing that can serve as a permanent and stable base from which to build their skills and employment income. Data has shown that rapidly moving people into permanent housing is at least as effective as traditional shelter or transitional housing at maintaining long-term housing stability – and is more cost effective.⁸

As part of the initiative, Commerce and DSHS linked local housing providers into the TANF case management system (E-Jas), allowing formal referrals and the addition of housing stability in TANF participant Individual Responsibility Plans.

Strategy: In January 2014, the initiative will be expanded to every community in the state using \$5 million of Home Security Account Funds. Results from the first phase will be used by the member agencies of the Interagency Council on Homelessness to refine the initiative with the goal of expanding this strategy to homeless families in general and other people facing homelessness.

Converting Transitional Housing to Permanent Supportive Housing

Rapid re-housing is at least as effective as other temporary housing at maintaining housing stability for most people facing homelessness, and is more cost effective. However, people with severe and persistent disabilities such as mental illness, require permanent housing and intensive support to stay housed.

Although the primary strategy continues to be adding new units of permanent supportive housing through new construction and rehabilitation, this effort can be supplemented by converting some existing transitional housing to permanent supportive housing.

Strategy: In 2014, Commerce will be working with existing transitional housing projects and their associated funders to convert at least 10 percent of existing transitional housing to permanent supportive housing or rapid re-housing. Issues to resolve include:

- Modification of capital loan agreements with the state Housing Trust Fund and other public funders.
- Existing operating subsidies.
- Identification of mental health and other services necessary to make the projects successful.

⁸ <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/rapid-re-housing-successfully-ending-family-homelessness>.

Finding Solid Ground to Get Back on Track

Paula's parents had always taught her to work hard, take care of herself, and never ask for help. When her husband lost his job a year ago, she had to leave the community college in Whatcom County where she had been studying for a degree in accounting. Both she and her husband took jobs wherever possible, but despite their efforts they were unable to pay their rent. Paula, her husband, and their two girls, ages eight and 14, were evicted and homeless.

Paula was concerned that enrolling in TANF would be an intrusive and difficult experience, so she went to the Opportunity Council to ask for information and resources. She was encouraged to apply for TANF so that her family could benefit from the Ending Family Homelessness program beginning that May. Within six weeks, they were in an apartment.

With the rent assistance from the program and support from their case managers, Paula's family found the solid ground they needed to get back on track. As a result of stable housing, Paula's husband soon found full-time employment and Paula re-enrolled in the accounting program. She wants to set a good example for her children and show them the path to building a better life through education and hard work. She looks forward to starting her classes again and sitting down at the dinner table in the evenings to do homework with her girls.

Expanding Coordinated Intake and Assessment

In 2010, Commerce announced the intention of requiring communities to implement coordinated intake systems by 2014 as a condition of receiving state homeless funding. In 2012, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development also made implementation of coordinated intake a condition of federal funding.

Tenants of coordinated intake include:

- A clear pathway for requesting housing assistance (i.e., a centralized call-in number, or a no-wrong-door approach with a consistent application process).
- Consistent evidence-based criteria used communitywide to assess housing need and determine the type and amount of housing assistance provided (can vary by population and the specific needs of a household).

Prior to the requirement, many communities were already implementing coordinated intake approaches. As of 2013, formal coordinated intake has been at least partially implemented in Clallam, Clark, King, Whatcom, Kitsap, Spokane, Lewis, and Pierce counties. Other small communities with one or a handful of housing providers already have housing systems that fulfill the requirement.

Strategy: Commerce will provide technical assistance, based on previous successes, to communities that need additional help meeting the requirement, so that every community is on the path to compliance in 2014.

Lead the Vulnerable Families Partnership

Commerce won a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to improve alignment of housing, homeless, and anti-poverty policies that serve families. This effort began last winter and will end in July 2015. The partnership will encourage the most efficient use of resources and further an integrated approach to assist vulnerable families and children at risk of homelessness and long-term poverty.

The Vulnerable Families Partnership includes DSHS, the Governor's Office, Commerce, and Building Changes (a nonprofit focused on ending family homelessness). The Gates Foundation grant funds positions at DSHS, the Governor's Office, and Commerce.

The Vulnerable Families Partnership will:

- Develop an inventory of current and historical initiatives, programs, and projects serving families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Utilize data to establish indicators of reductions in family homelessness and improvements in family self-sufficiency and well-being.
- Establish relationships with public and private entities serving vulnerable families.
- Identify policy and program gaps in services to vulnerable families.
- Convene a Vulnerable Families Leadership Committee to provide action, advocacy, resource alignment, and political support.
- Implement activities that target reductions in family homelessness and family self-sufficiency and well-being.

The Vulnerable Families Partnership has been improving outcomes for other new or ongoing efforts, such as the Ending Family Homelessness Initiative, coordinated intake and assessment, and conversion of transitional housing to permanent supportive housing. Part of this grant is also funding the Affordable Housing Needs Study which will be complete in 2015.

Strategy: State and local partners will cooperate to identify systems improvements that can improve outcomes for vulnerable families and children at risk of homelessness and long-term poverty.

Maximize Leverage of the Affordable Care Act

Addressing the health needs of people facing homelessness is critical to their long-term housing stability and increasing their income.

Strategy: To aid in the maximum leverage of health care resources for people facing homelessness, Commerce and DSHS will actively measure enrollment in Medicaid of people connected to the homeless housing system using HMIS data and cross-matches with other state utilization data. Commerce and state and local partners will actively work to increase enrollment of populations in areas that are not fully leveraging this resource.

Support the Affordable Housing Needs Study

The Governor-appointed Affordable Housing Advisory Board is leading an effort to create a replicable affordable housing needs study for our state. The Housing Needs Study will yield a written report and a methodology that Commerce can use to update the research and future reports. The research will include a rental supply analysis, an inventory analysis, a homeownership analysis, and a needs assessment. The statewide analysis will include data for all counties and aggregate data statewide. It will include data on a range of income levels from zero to 120 percent of area median income. Special needs populations to be surveyed will include families with children, the homeless, seniors, and domestic violence victims.

Strategy: Commerce awarded a competitive contract to Mullin & Lonergan to conduct this research. Commerce and an array of public and private funders have come together to fund this effort. The study will be complete by 2015.

Use of Document Recording Fees

[RCW 43.185C.240](#) requires that Commerce report data on use of document recording fees. Tables 1 through 5 meet those statutory requirements.

Table 1: Summary of Costs by Housing Type

	Cost per Person Housed	People Housed with Recording Fees	State and Local Recording Fee Expenditures	Other Funds Expenditures (Private, Federal, and Other Local)
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$10,404	1,441	\$ 4,848,789	\$10,143,252
Transitional Housing	\$4,104	3,155	\$ 3,419,965	\$ 9,529,171
Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re Housing	\$1,502	8,026	\$10,032,382	\$ 2,020,095
Emergency Shelter	\$1,291	18,337	\$ 6,889,658	\$16,783,013

Table 2: Summary of Performance by Housing Type

	Exiting to Permanent Housing	Return to Homeless Housing One Year After Exit to Permanent Housing (2011 to 2012)
Transitional Housing	59.3%	8.2%
Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re Housing	65.5%	6.1%
Emergency Shelter	14.0%	13.7%

Table 3: Document Recording Fees Expenditures Calendar Year 2012 (RCW 36.22.178, .179, .1791)

	Operating Expenditures								Capital Construction	TOTAL State and Local Fee Expenditures	Non-fee Funds Leveraged by Document Recording Fees	TOTAL Fee and Leveraged Spending
	Affordable Permanent Housing	Emergency Shelter	Homeless Prevention/ Rapid Re-housing	Permanent Housing	Permanent Supportive Housing	Services Only	Transitional Housing	Performance Data Collection and Coordinated Intake				
Adams	-	58,682	11,000					8,961	-	78,643	-	78,643
Asotin		25,417	38,178	-					-	63,596	-	63,596
Benton-Franklin	18,464	415,269		-	70,650	60,001	56,284	10,655	-	1,066,503	370,570	1,437,073
Chelan-Douglas	-	75,154	82,460	-	-	98,852	209,552	118,386	328,536	912,940	573,800	1,486,740
Clallam	20,000	141,500	257,300	-	-	35,000	13,000		28,000	494,800	1,299,150	1,793,950
Clark	-	807,760	854,851	-	122,491	429,931	123,800	245,994	-	2,584,827	2,479,406	5,064,233
Columbia-Garfield	-	2,732	59,345		-				-	62,077	-	62,077
Cowlitz		155,796	108,436	16,242	-	39,552	125,000	16,414	70,000	531,440	823,405	1,354,845
Ferry	-	15,000	2,651			-	7,770	13,328	190,000	228,749	26,313	255,062
Grant	-	136,500	136,850	-		218,000	61,011		-	552,361	49,199	601,560
Grays Harbor		119,078	66,752					31,756	-	217,586	-	217,586
Island	-	35,648	174,712	-	-	44,471	25,821		149,388	430,041	42,317	472,358
Jefferson	-	270,783	-	-	64,467		-		-	335,250	26,808	362,058
King	3,052,120	839,831	2,777,348	1,980,469	2,191,917	237,990	1,154,290	540,286	2,491,918	15,266,168	14,891,357	30,157,525
Kitsap	276,004	312,314	198,192	62,811	41,808	42,394	192,719	176,881	-	1,303,123	875,184	2,178,306
Kittitas	-	47,150	136,575	-			-		-	183,725	-	183,725
Klickitat	-	46,245	33,155	-	-		10,000	6,712	-	96,112	126,410	222,523
Lewis		155,307	122,157		68,110	66,136	5,000	12,673	-	429,383	365,814	795,197
Lincoln	-	3,281	13,941	-		5,026		25,303	-	47,551	-	47,551
Mason		175,833	112,379	-		31,160	25,786		-	345,158	428,568	773,727
Okanogan		53,090	96,274	-	55,383		9,125	17,955	25,000	256,827	358,762	615,589

Table 3 (continued): Document Recording Fees Expenditures Calendar Year 2012

	Operating Expenditures								Capital Construction	TOTAL State and Local Fee Expenditures	Non-fee Funds Leveraged by Document Recording Fees	TOTAL Fee and Leveraged Spending
	Affordable Permanent Housing	Emergency Shelter	Homeless Prevention/ Rapid Re-housing	Permanent Housing	Permanent Supportive Housing	Services Only	Transitional Housing	Performance Data Collection and Coordinated Intake				
Pacific		38,538	76,623	25,000					-	140,161	41,022	181,183
Pend Oreille	-	59,616	3,594			56,000	4,011		-	123,221	13,688	136,909
Pierce	396,600	449,160	450,826	83,432	1,005,083	1,049,410	338,772	449,922	340,193	4,563,398	2,733,323	7,296,721
San Juan	-		15,035	74,585					-	89,620	1,075	90,695
Skagit	34,912	421,608	196,945	-	48,807	43,240	62,232	11,182	643,810	1,462,737	1,209,699	2,672,436
Skamania	-	22,500	6,569	-			22,500	1,464	-	53,033	6,749	59,782
Snohomish	-	440,031	581,260	35,193	632,698	604,313	398,751	86,356	-	2,778,600	8,642,925	11,421,526
Spokane City	-	326,360	168,703	18,542	84,958	176,381	221,210	5,091	10,367	1,011,612	5,750,335	6,761,947
Spokane County		221,180	994,016	-	13,912	12,802		44,014	200,981	1,486,905	15,337	1,502,242
Stevens		88,491	39,933	28,448		-	-		-	156,872	23,709	180,581
Thurston	-	245,563	964,504	-	-	265,258	31,944		48,461	1,555,730	-	1,555,730
Wahkiakum	-	18,891	17,287						-	36,178	-	36,178
Walla Walla		101,717	121,439	2,500	25,400	3,912	52,047	7,236	51,747	365,997	1,167,647	1,533,644
Whatcom	-	157,665	234,449	126,754	423,106	367,241	153,778	45,235	-	1,508,228	1,648,488	3,156,716
Whitman		24,669	67,964	28,026		-	-	13,773	-	134,432	-	134,432
Yakima		381,299	375,498	-	-	99,455	115,563	43,093	-	1,014,909	84,000	1,098,909
Grand Total	3,798,100	6,889,658	10,032,382	2,482,002	4,848,789	3,986,525	3,419,965	1,932,670	4,578,401	41,968,492	44,075,059	86,043,551

Table 4: Use of State and Local Document Recording Fees by Project Housing Source

	Rent – Private For Profit Landlord	Rent – Non-Profit Landlord	Rent – Public Landlord
Adams	\$69,682		-
Asotin	\$44,295	-	-
Benton-Franklin	\$690,781	\$9,405	\$6,270
Chelan-Douglas	\$173,993	\$20,171	-
Clallam	\$288,960	\$25,230	\$50,460
Clark	\$1,713,855	-	-
Columbia-Garfield	\$60,345	-	-
Cowlitz	\$246,822	-	-
Ferry	\$19,066	-	\$6,355
Grant	\$278,567	-	-
Grays Harbor	\$86,536	\$9,536	-
Island	\$198,686	-	-
Jefferson	\$197,007	-	-
King	\$6,281,673	\$309,000	\$44,143
Kitsap	\$648,478	-	\$177,529
Kittitas	\$126,128	-	\$10,448
Klickitat	\$57,840	-	\$5,316
Lewis	\$159,556	\$11,660	\$23,319
Lincoln	\$13,941	-	-
Mason	\$112,379	-	-
Okanogan	\$136,394	-	\$15,155
Pacific	\$113,891	-	\$16,270
Pend Oreille	\$4,196	-	-
Pierce	\$1,495,293	\$48,050	-
San Juan	\$84,981	-	-
Skagit	\$342,896	-	-
Skamania	\$48,662	\$2,907	-
Snohomish	\$1,495,381	-	-
Spokane County	\$1,144,086	\$119,117	-
Stevens	\$35,940	\$3,993	-
Thurston	\$1,128,265	-	-
Wahkiakum	\$36,178	-	-
Walla Walla	\$270,027	-	-
Whatcom	\$933,063	\$28,788	-
Whitman	\$79,040	\$13,593	-
Yakima	\$563,716	-	-
Total	\$19,380,597	\$601,450	\$355,265

**Table 5: Number Served with State and Local Document Recording Fees
by Project Housing Source – 2012**

	Rent – Private For Profit Landlord	Rent – Non-Profit Landlord	Rent – Public Landlord
Adams	16		-
Asotin	112	-	-
Benton-Franklin	308	10	7
	-	-	-
Chelan-Douglas	233	47	-
Clallam	812	107	215
Clark	800	-	-
Columbia-Garfield	121	-	-
Cowlitz	169	-	-
Ferry	3	-	1
Grant	140	-	-
Grays Harbor	138	17	-
Island	318	-	-
Jefferson	28	-	-
King	5,536	151	22
Kitsap	361	-	102
Kittitas	14	-	2
Klickitat	72	-	7
Lewis	379	26	52
Lincoln	12	-	-
Mason	81	-	-
Okanogan	65	-	7
Pacific	73	-	10
Pend Oreille	26	-	-
Pierce	373	13	-
San Juan	27	-	-
Skagit	348	-	-
Skamania	14	1	-
Snohomish	1,030	-	-
Spokane County	539	53	-
Stevens	84	9	-
Thurston	761	-	-
Wahkiakum	34	-	-
Walla Walla	938	-	-
Whatcom	791	51	-
Whitman	203	43	-
Yakima	827	-	-
Total	15,785	529	423

Housing and Essential Needs Program

Mitigating Effects of Social Service Cuts, Reducing Housing Instability

The Housing and Essential Needs Program pays rent directly to landlords for over 4,000 individuals each month who are:

- Unable to work due to a temporary disability (as determined by DSHS).
- Homeless or at imminent documented risk of becoming homeless.

The program also provides essential needs (i.e., toiletries, bus tokens) for people with a temporary disability.

Services are provided via a network of local faith-based organizations, community non-profits, and local governments. The program successfully leverages the long-standing network of local providers with experience working with local landlords and managing rent assistance programs.

The program was created in 2011 with a portion of the funds saved when a cash grant program (Disability Lifeline – Unemployable) was ended as part of an overall budget reduction.

The Housing and Essential Needs Program helped mitigate elimination of the cash grant, and led to an 18 percent reduction in housing instability among those served versus the cash grant program. Participants were also 86 less likely to become incarcerated in prison than a similar enrolled cohort served with cash assistance.

The following fulfills reporting requirements under [RCW 43.185C.220](#).

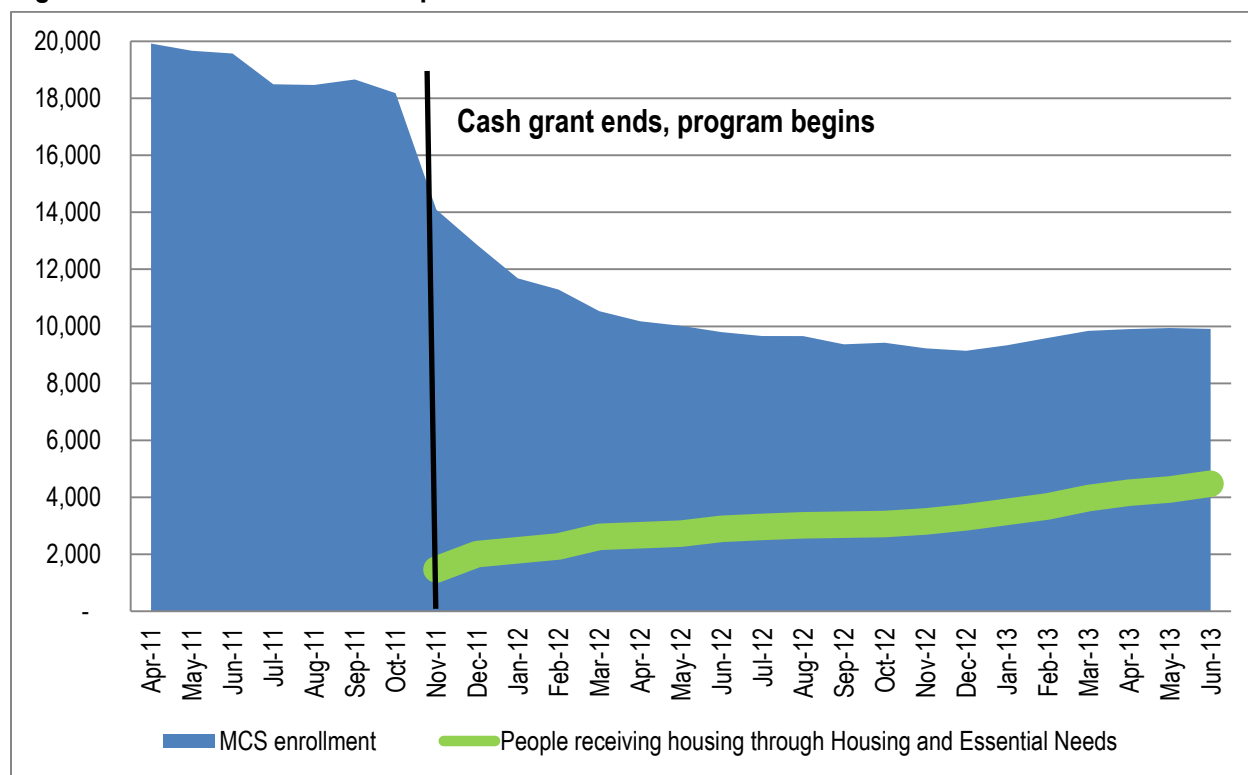
Table 6: SFY 2013 Housing and Essential Needs Spending

	SFY 2013 Spending
Rent Assistance and Operations	\$20,439,249
Essential Needs	\$1,739,250
Local Administration	\$1,138,610
Commerce Administration	\$ 357,476
TOTAL	\$23,674,585

To be eligible for rent assistance from the program, a person must be determined to be disabled and unable to work for at least 90 days by DSHS, and must be either homeless or have written documented evidence of imminent homelessness (i.e., an eviction notice). Those determined to be disabled are enrolled in the DSHS Medical Care Services (MCS) program, and about 45 percent of people enrolled in MCS have applied for and been determined eligible for rent assistance.

As of July 2013, the program spends on average \$524 per month per person provided housing.

Figure 4: MCS Enrollees vs. Recipients of Rent Assistance



Back to Health, Work After Temporary Assistance

David was living a normal life, working a steady job, and paying his rent and bills every month. He was also spending time with his children, caring for his mother, and serving the community as a volunteer fire fighter. On July 12, 2012, David was diagnosed with cancer and his diagnosis “stopped everything.” He could no longer work, making it impossible to pay his bills or his rent. Housing and Essential Needs provided five months of rent and utility assistance. Without the assistance of the program and the essential needs that the program supplies, David would have been without rent, without transportation, and struggling to afford basic needs. David had several surgeries and went through chemotherapy and is now cancer free. He is able to work full-time as a personal trainer and is also working toward becoming a full-time fire fighter.

Table 7: Housing and Essential Needs by County – Fiscal Year 2013

	Expenditures	Rent Assistance Distinct Recipients⁹	Essential Needs Cumulative Recipients¹⁰
Statewide Totals	\$ 46,058,458	8,859	51,377
Adams	\$ 3,224	1	6
Asotin	\$ 60,120	17	51
Benton-Franklin	\$ 559,579	258	996
Chelan-Douglas	\$ 206,320	107	213
Clallam-Jefferson	\$ 355,067	114	374
Clark	\$ 1,092,503	436	1,116
Columbia	\$ 30,581	8	1,565
Cowlitz	\$ 676,447	292	29
Ferry	\$ 13,287	7	40
Grant	\$ 208,324	98	334
Grays Harbor	\$ 876,207	326	1,671
Island	\$ 29,310	14	104
King	\$ 8,354,793	2,605	18,585
Kitsap	\$ 889,539	415	2,598
Kittitas	\$ 117,721	33	73
Klickitat	\$ 63,083	35	100
Lewis	\$ 425,506	200	1142
Lincoln	\$ 24,212	10	48
Mason	\$ 396,741	184	651
Okanogan	\$ 87,570	38	219
Pacific	\$ 118,836	66	193
Pend Oreille	\$ 22,330	15	50
Pierce	\$ 1,742,004	835	6,317
San Juan	\$ 7,875	5	5
Skagit	\$ 315,035	141	233
Skamania	\$ 67,465	42	99
Snohomish	\$ 1,717,763	541	2,401
Spokane	\$ 2,122,325	1,012	5,882
Stevens	\$ 80,710	37	255
Thurston	\$ 1,077,588	378	1,269
Wahkiakum	\$ 3,098	2	2
Walla Walla	\$ 102,010	57	189

⁹ Use of HMIS allows an unduplicated count of individuals served with housing support.

¹⁰ A recipient may be counted more than once if they returned for essential needs support – HMIS is not in use for essential needs.

Table 7: Housing and Essential Needs by County – Fiscal Year 2013 (continued)

	Expenditures	Rents Assistance Distinct Recipients	Cumulative Recipients
Whatcom	\$ 889,007	268	2,278
Whitman	\$ 5,172	3	22
Yakima	\$ 575,760	259	2,067

Ninety-two percent of the individuals who are eligible have received housing support funded by the program. To date, 8 percent (1,029 out of 12,404) of the individuals who are eligible to receive housing support and have requested housing support from the housing needs provider in their community, did not receive housing support because they were not determined to be homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.

Independent Youth Housing Program

The Independent Youth Housing Program (IYHP), codified in 2007 ([RCW 43.63A.305](#)), provides rent assistance and case management to youth ages 18 to 23 who have exited the state dependency system. The program was appropriated \$1.8 million from the state Home Security Fund during the 2011-13 Biennium.

The success of IYHP is measured using the homeless management information system (HMIS) and includes the following outcomes reported as required under [RCW 43.63A.311](#).

Table 8: Statewide Outcomes¹¹ for IYHP: Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013)

People Enrolled	72
People Served	151
People Exited	71
Households Exited	58
Average length of program participation of exited participants	457 Days
Exited to a stable housing situation (with or without subsidy)	47 (81.0%)
Exited to a subsidized stable housing situation	1
Exited to an unsubsidized stable housing situation	46 (97.8%)
Exited to any other (unstable) housing situation	28
Exited with increased income	30 (51.7%)
Exited with income 200% above federal poverty level	1
Exited with increased education	35 (60.0%)
Exited with increased employment	29 (50.0%)
Exited with increased life skills	32 (55.0%)
Exited with decreased use of state funded services	26 (45.0%)

DSHS also measures the decreases in the percentage of youth aging out of the state dependency system each year that are eligible for state assistance. The DSHS report to Commerce regarding the decreases in percentage of youth aging out of the state dependency system is included in Appendix A.

¹¹ Appendix B provides a county-by-county breakdown of the participant outcomes for IYHP.

Housing Assistance, Skills Training Leads to Career Job

Jasmine J. is a 22- year-old participant in the Independent Youth Housing Program. She has been actively receiving case management and other resources through the program, and has been in stable housing since early 2012. In July 2013, Jasmine successfully completed the Year-Up program, which helps young adults gain real life work experience (internships) as well as classroom work and college credit. While at Year-Up, Jasmine interned with T-Mobile's information technology department. Following a successful experience at T-Mobile and completion of her internship, Jasmine is now working for the Starbucks corporate information technology department. While many would consider this a career job, Jasmine still aspires to go back to college and eventually get her master's degree or PhD.

Measuring Success

The concept for the Independent Youth Housing Program was that providing housing assistance would result in an immediate reduction in the use of other state services. Although investments in youth exiting foster care may reduce long-term dependence, in the short-term the program does not reduce the use of state services.

The challenges faced by youth leaving foster care are many. Youth who enter adulthood from foster care are unlikely to have family members who can act as a safety net. Community and government services are their safety net. In an effort to prepare youth for transition to adulthood, DSHS Children's Administration assists youth for their transition from foster care and educates them on available state and federal resources.

Consolidated Homeless Grant

The Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) includes funding governed by the Transitional Housing Operating and Rent ([RCW 43.185C.210](#)) and other appropriations from the state Home Security Fund.

The grant funding supports temporary housing in every county in Washington State through a network of local non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, and local governments. CHG funds complement local document recording fees and private donations to support the system of emergency shelters, transitional housing, and temporary rent assistance for people facing homelessness.

The success of CHG is measured using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and annual expenditure information.

Table 9: Outcomes and Increases in Housing Stability and Self-sufficiency

	Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-housing	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Permanent Supportive Housing or Services Only
Households Enrolled	3,153	3,330	577	49
Households Served	3,554	13,645	909	62
Households Exited	2,861	12,112	488	11
Average length of program participation of exited participants	71 Days	48 Days	227 Days	NA
Exited to a stable housing situation (with or without subsidy)	2,190 (76.5 %)	1,543 (12.7 %)	291 (59.6 %)	NA
Exited to a subsidized stable housing situation	501	456	125	NA
Exited to an unsubsidized stable housing situation	1,689 (77.1 %)	1,087 (70.4 %)	166 (57 %)	NA
Exited to any other housing situation	671	10,569	197	NA
Exited with increased income	303 (10.5 %)	846 (6.9 %)	140 (28.6 %)	NA
Exited with income 200% above federal poverty level	122	118	6	NA

Table 10: Financial Performance of CHG Funded Programs

	Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing
Cost Per Person	\$492.33	\$987.40	\$2,688.94
Cost Per Bed Night	\$41.77	\$21.41	\$15.68

Quality, Completeness, and Timeliness of HMIS Data

All state, local, and federally funded programs are submitting data at least monthly to Commerce using HMIS. Contractors are assessed monthly for timeliness, completeness, and quality via the state homeless assistance fiscal procedures.

Participant satisfaction is measured by encouraging exiting program participants to voluntarily submit information via an online survey regarding program satisfaction. Recent years have seen a decline in the numbers of participants electing to submit a satisfaction survey, and in calendar year 2012 we received zero participant surveys. A plan to assess participant satisfaction in state funded homeless programs is currently under development and we expect to implement a participant satisfaction assessment tool no later than January 1, 2014.

Federal 811 Program

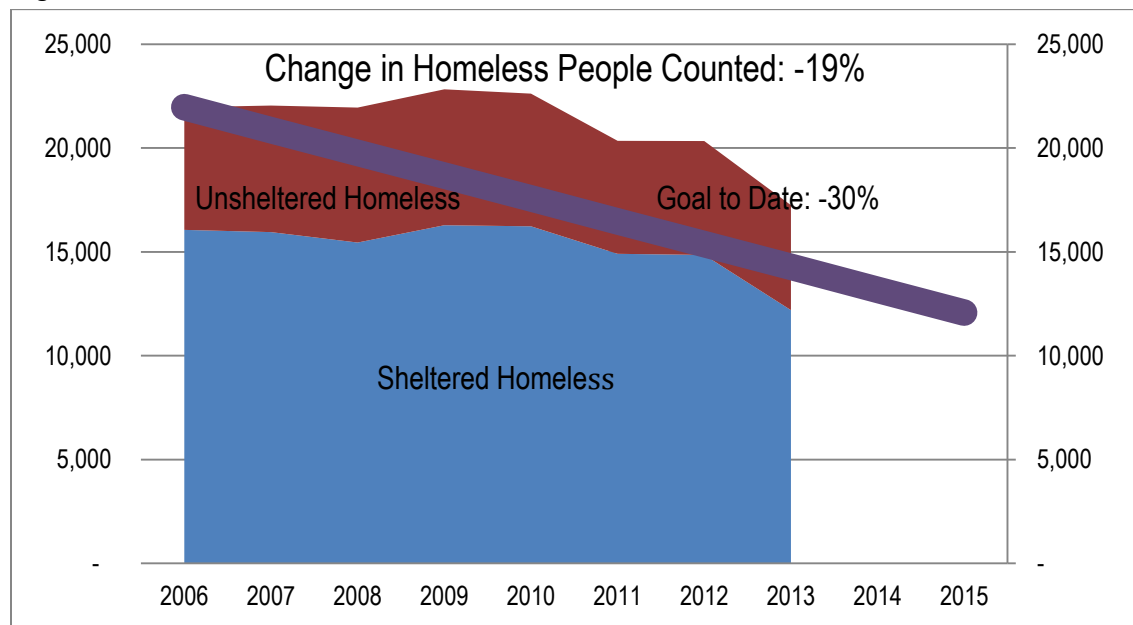
In February of 2013, Commerce was one of 13 states to receive a competitive award of nearly \$5.6 million in HUD Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Demonstration (PRAD) funds. The 811 PRAD program will provide project-based rental assistance to 275 units targeted to non-elderly disabled households for a period of five years (with annual renewals thereafter based upon congressional appropriations).

Affordable housing projects funded through the Housing Trust Fund or the Washington State Housing Finance Commission are eligible to apply for project-based Section 811 PRAD vouchers. Commerce expects that 811 PRAD vouchers will ensure that low-income households can maintain affordable housing, and that project owners can stabilize cash flows and provide overall viability of the affordable housing stock in the state.

Point-in-Time Results

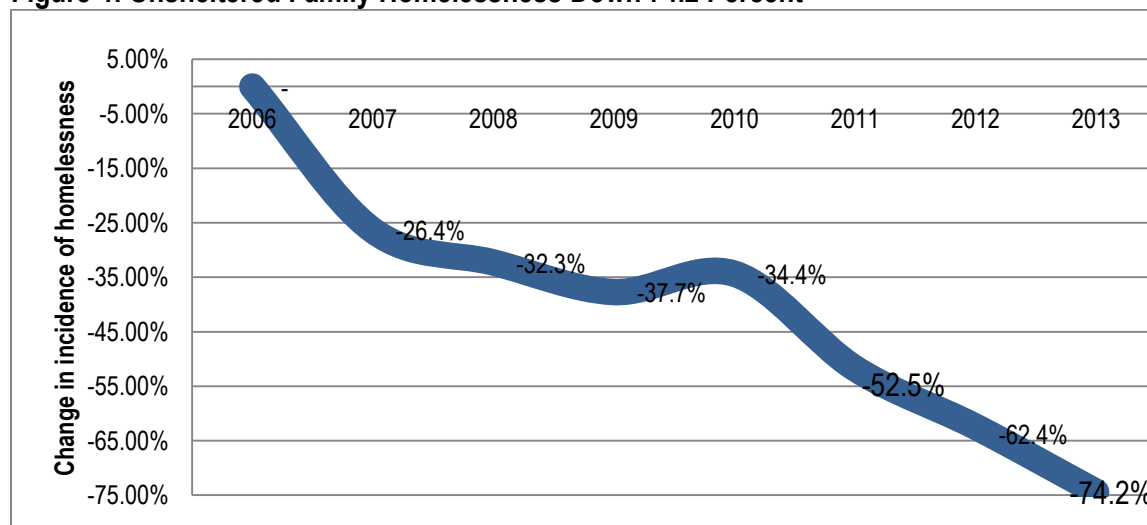
The overall incidence of homelessness has declined by 29 percent since 2006 as determined by the point-in-time count of homeless persons conducted during one day every January as required by [RCW 43.185C.030](#). The Homeless Act of 2006 set of goal of reducing the count of homeless persons by 50 percent by 2015. From 2006-2013, the count of homeless persons dropped 19 percent, a rate not sufficient to meet the 50 percent reduction goal by 2015.

Figure 3: Not on Pace to Meet the 2015 Goal



Significant progress (-74.2 percent) has been made reducing homelessness of families with minor children (136 counted as unsheltered), but only modest progress has been made reducing homelessness among single people (-5 percent)

Figure 4: Unsheltered Family Homelessness Down 74.2 Percent



The following tables are the results of the Point-in-Time Count performed on January 24, 2013.

Table 11: 2013 Point-In-Time State Total

Household Type		Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven	Total Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL
HH with adults and children	HH	607	1,446	0	2,053	133	2,186
	persons	1,940	4,739	0	6,679	463	7,142
HH with only children	HH	59	45	0	104	31	135
	persons	60	54	0	114	31	145
HH without children	HH	3,955	1,867	54	5,876	4,395	10,271
	persons	3,976	1,889	54	5,919	4,549	10,468
TOTAL	HH	4,621	3,358	54	8,033	4,559	12,592
	persons	5,976	6,682	54	12,712	5,043	17,755
	persons under 18	1,222	2,537	0	3,759	280	4,039
	persons 18-24	443	777	0	1,220	349	1,569
	persons over 24	4,311	3,368	54	7,733	4,414	12,147
Subpopulations	CH Individuals				951	974	1,925
	CH Families				37	73	110
	CH Persons in Families				117	177	294
	Veterans				1,058	260	1,318
	Female Veterans				86	15	101
	Severely Mentally Ill Adults				1,467	718	2,185
	Chronic Substance Abuse Adults				1,085	498	1,583
	Persons with HIV/AIDS Adults				82	12	94

HH = head of household

CH = chronically homeless

Table 12: Washington State Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons – January 2013

County	Sheltered			
	HH w/out minors	HH with minors	HH with only minors	TOTAL
	Persons	Persons	Persons	Persons
Adams	0	2	0	2
Asotin	0	0	0	0
Benton-Franklin	58	20	0	78
Chelan-Douglas	123	114	2	239
Cllallam	74	154	1	229
Clark	167	317	29	513
Columbia	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	103	142	0	245
Ferry	5	11	0	16
Garfield	0	1	0	1
Grant	25	39	0	64
Grays Harbor	54	33	0	87
Island	10	26	0	36
Jefferson	38	19	0	57
King	3,214	3,120	36	6,370
Kitsap	86	90	0	176
Kittitas	5	12	0	17
Klickitat	4	17	0	21
Lewis	39	19	0	58
Lincoln	1	2	0	3
Mason	18	81	0	99
Okanogan	17	0	0	17
Pacific	0	5	0	5
Pend Oreille	1	6	0	7
Pierce	422	761	0	1,183
San Juan	0	0	0	0
Skagit	21	70	0	91
Skamania	1	10	0	11
Snohomish	283	302	18	603
Spokane	531	423	16	970
Stevens	1	8	0	9
Thurston	161	268	5	434
Wahkiakum	2	3	0	5
Walla Walla	63	36	2	101
Whatcom	182	189	5	376
Whitman	13	60	0	73
Yakima	197	319	0	516
TOTAL	5,919	6,679	114	12,712

Unsheltered			
HH w/out minors	HH with minors	HH with only minors	TOTAL
Persons	Persons	Persons	Persons
2	15	0	17
2	3	0	5
50	14	0	64
62	4	0	66
32	6	0	38
154	34	2	190
1	0	0	1
69	8	0	77
3	0	0	3
0	0	0	0
41	9	0	50
43	0	0	43
33	56	1	90
14	27	0	41
2,717	0	19	2,736
43	21	0	64
0	0	0	0
8	3	0	11
40	30	0	70
0	0	0	0
73	52	0	125
5	10	0	15
87	75	0	162
0	0	0	0
117	3	0	120
21	4	1	26
65	15	0	80
0	0	0	0
317	25	2	344
54	5	1	60
32	11	0	43
225	3	2	230
6	1	0	7
20	5	0	25
166	24	2	192
1	0	0	1
46	0	1	47
4,549	463	31	5,043

Table 12 (continued): Washington State Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons – January 2013

County	TOTAL Homeless (sheltered and unsheltered)			
	HH w/out minors	HH with minors	HH with only minors	TOTAL
	Persons	Persons	Persons	Persons
Adams	2	17	0	19
Asotin	2	3	0	5
Benton-Franklin	108	34	0	142
Chelan-Douglas	185	118	2	305
Clallam	106	160	1	267
Clark	321	351	31	703
Columbia	1	0	0	1
Cowlitz	172	150	0	322
Ferry	8	11	0	19
Garfield	0	1	0	1
Grant	66	48	0	114
Grays Harbor	97	33	0	130
Island	43	82	1	126
Jefferson	52	46	0	98
King	5,931	3,120	55	9,106
Kitsap	129	111	0	240
Kittitas	5	12	0	17
Klickitat	12	20	0	32
Lewis	79	49	0	128
Lincoln	1	2	0	3
Mason	91	133	0	224
Okanogan	22	10	0	32
Pacific	87	80	0	167
Pend Oreille	1	6	0	7
Pierce	539	764	0	1,303
San Juan	21	4	1	26
Skagit	86	85	0	171
Skamania	1	10	0	11
Snohomish	600	327	20	947
Spokane	585	428	17	1,030
Stevens	33	19	0	52
Thurston	386	271	7	664
Wahkiakum	8	4	0	12
Walla Walla	83	41	2	126
Whatcom	348	213	7	568
Whitman	14	60	0	74
Yakima	243	319	1	563
TOTAL	10,468	7,142	145	17,755

Chronically Homeless Individuals		
Emergency Shelter + Safe Haven	Unsheltered	TOTAL
Persons	Persons	Persons
0	0	0
0	0	0
9	23	32
4	10	14
18	9	27
41	40	81
0	0	0
12	27	39
1	0	1
0	0	0
3	10	13
6	16	22
0	1	1
11	4	15
487	367	854
11	7	18
0	0	0
1	0	1
2	16	18
0	0	0
2	21	23
9	1	10
0	14	14
0	0	0
62	69	131
0	2	2
6	21	27
0	0	0
60	98	158
74	12	86
0	6	6
23	102	125
0	0	0
7	5	12
46	76	122
0	0	0
56	17	73
951	974	1,925

Table 13: Change in Point-in-Time Count from 2006 to 2013

County	Sheltered		
	HH w/out minors	HH with minors	TOTAL
	Persons	Persons	Persons
Adams	(32)	(8)	(40)
Asotin	(8)	(6)	(14)
Benton-Franklin	(239)	(375)	(614)
Chelan-Douglas	(3)	(87)	(90)
Clallam	(58)	18	(40)
Clark	(448)	(159)	(607)
Columbia	0	(4)	(4)
Cowlitz	(59)	(20)	(79)
Ferry	1	(2)	(1)
Garfield	0	(4)	(4)
Grant	10	(71)	(61)
Grays Harbor	(66)	(9)	(75)
Island	1	(67)	(66)
Jefferson	(49)	(1)	(50)
King	168	238	406
Kitsap	(68)	(191)	(259)
Kittitas	(21)	(10)	(31)
Klickitat Skamania	(1)	(4)	(5)
Lewis	6	(58)	(52)
Lincoln	(18)	(37)	(55)
Mason	13	17	30
Okanogan	(71)	(54)	(125)
Pacific	(4)	(26)	(30)
Pend Oreille	(2)	(10)	(12)
Pierce	(15)	140	125
San Juan	0	(7)	(7)
Skagit	(197)	(130)	(327)
Snohomish	(275)	(600)	(875)
Spokane	(6)	(97)	(103)
Stevens	(8)	(11)	(19)
Thurston	(14)	129	115
Wahkiakum	(14)	(4)	(18)
Walla Walla	(42)	(64)	(106)
Whatcom	(156)	(122)	(278)
Whitman	(16)	(16)	(32)
Yakima	(27)	84	57
TOTAL	(1,718)	(1,628)	(3,346)

Unsheltered		
HH w/out minors	HH with minors	TOTAL
Persons	Persons	Persons
(19)	(8)	(27)
(9)	3	(6)
14	(9)	5
(21)	(71)	(92)
(146)	(19)	(165)
43	(124)	(81)
(1)	0	(1)
(62)	5	(57)
(2)	(2)	(4)
(1)	0	(1)
41	9	50
(17)	(12)	(29)
15	33	48
(20)	27	7
1,549	(759)	790
(33)	(15)	(48)
(23)	(4)	(27)
4	3	7
4	12	16
(3)	0	(3)
62	(13)	49
(26)	5	(21)
62	54	116
(4)	(17)	(21)
(181)	(39)	(220)
3	(20)	(17)
(78)	(33)	(111)
(384)	(96)	(480)
(382)	(77)	(459)
26	11	37
110	(2)	108
2	1	3
(15)	1	(14)
(3)	11	8
0	0	0
(170)	(51)	(221)
335	(1,196)	(861)

Table 13 (continued): Change in Point-in-Time Count from 2006 to 2013

County	TOTAL Homeless (sheltered and unsheltered)		
	HH w/out minors	HH with minors	TOTAL
	Persons	Persons	Persons
Adams	(51)	(16)	(67)
Asotin	(17)	(3)	(20)
Benton-Franklin	(225)	(384)	(609)
Chelan-Douglas	(24)	(158)	(182)
Clallam	(204)	(1)	(205)
Clark	(405)	(283)	(688)
Columbia	(1)	(4)	(5)
Cowlitz	(121)	(15)	(136)
Ferry	(1)	(4)	(5)
Garfield	(1)	(4)	(5)
Grant	51	(62)	(11)
Grays Harbor	(83)	(21)	(104)
Island	16	(34)	(18)
Jefferson	(69)	26	(43)
King	1717	(521)	1196
Kitsap	(101)	(206)	(307)
Kittitas	(44)	(14)	(58)
Klickitat Skamania	3	(1)	2
Lewis	10	(46)	(36)
Lincoln	(21)	(37)	(58)
Mason	75	4	79
Okanogan	(97)	(49)	(146)
Pacific	58	28	86
Pend Oreille	(6)	(27)	(33)
Pierce	(196)	101	(95)
San Juan	3	(27)	(24)
Skagit	(275)	(163)	(438)
Snohomish	(659)	(696)	(1355)
Spokane	(388)	(174)	(562)
Stevens	18	0	18
Thurston	96	127	223
Wahkiakum	(12)	(3)	(15)
Walla Walla	(57)	(63)	(120)
Whatcom	(159)	(111)	(270)
Whitman	(16)	(16)	(32)
Yakima	(197)	33	(164)
TOTAL	(1,383)	(2,824)	(4,207)

Chronically Homeless Individuals	
Emergency Shelter + Safe Haven	Unsheltered
Persons	Persons
(7)	(6)
(4)	0
(33)	10
(14)	2
(10)	(23)
(65)	(33)
0	0
(5)	15
1	0
(1)	0
(3)	10
(22)	(16)
(6)	(10)
1	(10)
(656)	(334)
(76)	(16)
(7)	(3)
(8)	(1)
(6)	7
(1)	(1)
2	21
0	(2)
(1)	5
0	0
(72)	(64)
0	(3)
(22)	(10)
(113)	(6)
(14)	(25)
0	2
(40)	62
0	(1)
(17)	(3)
(52)	(2)
0	(1)
(37)	(46)
(1,288)	(482)

Recommendations

Seek a Continuation of Document Recording Fees

Document recording fee revenue has funded homeless services that have resulted in a 29 percent decrease in homelessness generally, and 74 percent decrease in unsheltered family homelessness since 2006. By removing the fee sunset in RCW 36.22.179 which expires June 30, 2017, we will be able to continue our state's progress to end homelessness.

Commerce would also like to simplify the fee structure related to document recording fees, which would reduce the administrative burden on local county auditors and Commerce.

Commerce has been hearing concerns about the impact of the sunset from counties and advocates, and has heard concerns from county auditors about the current administrative challenges of RCW 36.22.179.

Strategy: Commerce will work with stakeholders and the Legislature to propose solutions to the built-in decrease in revenue, and administrative difficulties of the current statute during the 2014 legislative session.

Appendix A: DSHS Report

Decreases in the Percentage of Youths Aging Out of the State Dependency System Each Year Who are Eligible for State Assistance.

As a strategy to identify a means by which to measure youth development and stability after aging out of foster care, DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division (RDA) was able to look at youth who aged out of foster care in 2006 and identify, in a 6-year period through 2012, some of the services they had received.

Analyses by the RDA compared risk factors and outcomes for 751 youth who aged out of foster care in 2006 with:

- Youth turning 18 in CY 2006 who received TANF-related Family Medical Coverage in CY 2006.
- Youth turning 18 in CY 2006 who received Children's Medical Coverage in CY 2006.

The Children's Medical coverage group provides Medicaid coverage to children in households with income above TANF program eligibility limits, but below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. These Medicaid medical coverage groups represent most of the state population of children in households at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Limiting the comparison groups to youth who turned age 18 in 2006, there were 8,601 youth in the Family Medical cohort, and 17,990 youth in the Children's Medical cohort.

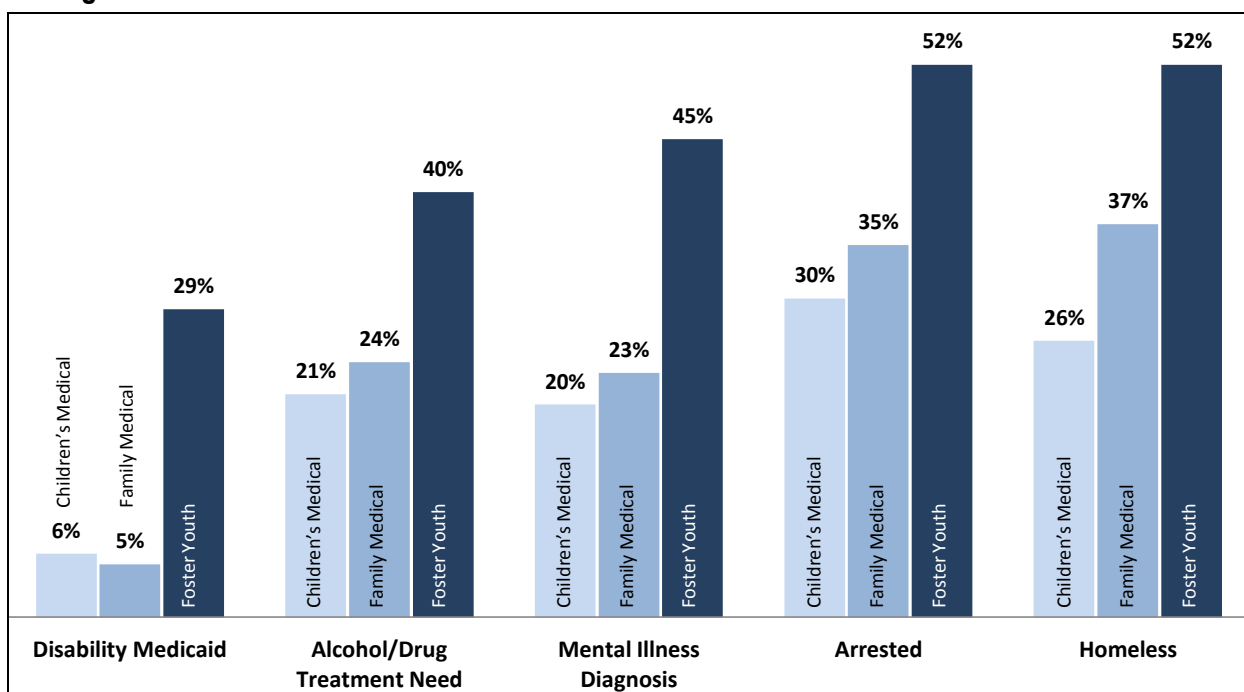
This report examines differences across three groups (foster youth, family medical and children's medical) in several risk factor and outcome areas. These risk factor and outcome areas include enrollment in disability-related medical coverage, indications of alcohol or other drug (AOD) treatment need, indications of mental illness, indications of housing instability or homelessness, and risk of arrest.

- Homelessness and housing instability is measured using living arrangement information in the Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES) that indicates a period of time where the youth was "homeless without housing," "homeless with housing," or living in an emergency shelter. This measure likely understates the true prevalence of housing instability because it is reliably collected only during periods of time where persons receive cash or food assistance.
- Arrest measures are derived from linked Washington State Patrol data. This data does not include all arrests for misdemeanor offenses, and therefore somewhat understates arrest prevalence.
- Mental illness data is derived from medical and mental health claims and encounters in the ProviderOne and legacy MMIS data systems.
- Disability enrollment is derived from the ACES system. Mental illness is the most common primary disabling condition for the youth in these cohorts who become disabled.

- Alcohol or Drug (AOD) treatment need is identified if the youth was arrested for a substance-related offense (e.g., DUI or possession of illegal drugs), diagnosed with a substance use disorder by a clinician during a medical or behavioral health service encounter, or participated in AOD treatment or detoxification services.

The analysis summarized in the chart below shows that across these risk and outcome areas, there is a much higher rate of occurrence among youth aging out of foster care than among youth in the comparison groups.

Figure 5: Selected Risk Factors and Outcomes – Ever Occurring After Emancipation in CY 2006 Through December 2012



This analysis shows:

- 29 percent of foster youth enrolled in disability-related Medicaid coverage at some point after emancipation in CY 2006 through December 2012, compared to only 5 percent of youth in the Family Medical and 6 percent of youth in the Children's Medical comparison groups.
- 40 percent of foster youth had an indication of an AOD treatment need at some point after emancipation in CY 2006 through December 2012, compared to 24 percent of youth in the Family Medical comparison group and 21 percent of youth in the Children's Medical comparison groups.
- 45 percent of foster youth were diagnosed with mental illness in Medicaid-paid service encounters at some point after emancipation in CY 2006 through December 2012, compared to 23 percent of youth in the Family Medical comparison group and 20 percent of youth in the Children's Medical comparison groups.

- 52 percent of foster youth experienced a spell of homelessness or housing instability at some point after emancipation in CY 2006 through December 2012, compared to 35 percent of youth in the Family Medical comparison group and 30 percent of youth in the Children's Medical comparison groups.
- 52 percent of foster youth were arrested at least once at some point after emancipation in CY 2006 through December 2012, compared to 37 percent of youth in the Family Medical comparison group and 26 percent of youth in the Children's Medical comparison groups.

Appendix B: IYHP County-by-County Outcomes

IYHP Outcomes By County

	Benton-Franklin	King	Kittitas	Lewis	Pierce	Spokane	Thurston	Walla Walla	Yakima
Enrolled	6	3	3	3	10	13	24	0	10
Served	8	31	3	7	34	22	28	2	16
Exited	6	6	3	2	14	10	15	2	13
Exited HH Count	3	6	2	2	10	10	13	1	11
LOS	275	684	182	547	688	385	297	379	394
Exited Stable	1	4	3	4	14	4	9	1	7
Exited Subsidized	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Exited Unsubsidized	1	4	3	4	14	4	8	1	7
Exited Other	2	2	0	0	4	6	10	0	4
Exited with Increased Income	0	2	0	2	9	2	8	2	5
Exited with Income 200% Above Federal Poverty Level	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Exited with Increased Education	2	4	1	1	6	6	8	1	7
Exited with Increased Employment	2	3	1	1	6	4	7	1	6
Exited with Increased Life Skills	2	3	1	1	10	1	7	1	6
Exited with Decreased Use of State Funded	1	3	1	1	5	5	6	0	5