



# 2018 Progress Report



At least 13,000 young people in Washington state are without a safe and stable place to call home. Instead of studying for tomorrow's test, they are worrying about where they will sleep tonight or if the place they are crashing today will be an option tomorrow. Their basic safety and immediate future are uncertain. This is unacceptable. But together, we can change this.

The Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) is committed to ensuring that all young people have a safe and stable home and the support they need to grow into healthy adulthood and live fulfilling lives. In December of 2016, the Office of Homeless Youth delivered a [report to the Governor and Legislature](#) outlining policy, funding, and practice solutions to prevent and end youth homelessness. The report was developed in collaboration with the OHY Advisory Committee, young people who have experienced homelessness, service providers, stakeholders, and informed by listening sessions held across the state. The recommendations in the report are a roadmap for the actions the state needs to take to ensure that no young person has to spend a single night without a safe, stable home. In less than two years since those recommendations were issued, much progress has been made. The 2018 Progress Report outlines the actions that have been taken to ensure the safety, security, and success of young people.

Washington state has a strong movement of leaders, funders, and young people working together to end youth and young adult homelessness. The power of that movement is reflected in the actions that have been taken in recent years.

While progress has been made, much work remains. Washington state must remain steadfast in its commitment to prevent and end youth homelessness.

*Note: True progress should be measured by outcome data rather than outputs and process measures, however, limits on data collection have impeded accurate measurement of outcomes. Additionally, while some actions have immediate impact, others will require time to show results and should be measured over a longer period of time.*

NEAR TERM ACTION AGENDA

GOAL	STRATEGY	ACTION ON STRATEGIES
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>STABLE HOUSING</b></p>	<p><b>PREVENT EXITS INTO HOMELESSNESS FOR YOUTH INVOLVED IN PUBLIC SYSTEMS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <a href="#">Interagency Workgroup on Youth Homelessness</a> was established in 2017 to engage 16 state agencies in the collective goal to prevent and end youth homelessness, and in particular, to prevent youth from exiting public systems into homelessness.</li> <li>• The OHY and Raikes Foundation have partnered to provide \$700,000 in funding for <i>Innovation Grants to Prevent Youth from Exiting Public Systems into Homelessness</i>. Grants have been awarded to six entities in Kitsap, King, and Pierce counties to test innovative approaches that ensure housing stability for 12 months after youth exit the juvenile justice, criminal justice system, or child welfare system. (Jan 1, 2018- June 30, 2019).</li> <li>• <a href="#">A dashboard has been created by RDA</a> to measure the housing status of youth exiting foster care, behavioral health, and criminal justice systems.</li> <li>• A Way Home Washington is conducting an analysis of youth and young adult exits from the behavioral health system into homelessness. (Report release in Fall 2018).</li> <li>• The SAJE Center is conducting a research project, funded in-part by the OHY, to identify risk factors for homelessness among youth involved in the juvenile justice system and will develop an early identification assessment tool.</li> </ul>

GOAL	STRATEGY	ACTION ON STRATEGIES
<b>STABLE HOUSING</b>	<b>PREVENT EXITS INTO HOMELESSNESS FOR YOUTH INVOLVED IN PUBLIC SYSTEMS (CONTINUED)</b>	<p><b>Policy Improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSB 6560 (2018) sets a goal that by 2021, youth discharged from public systems of care will be exited into safe and stable housing. Requires DCYF and OHY to submit a plan to the legislature and governor by December 31, 2019 on actions needed to achieve the goal. The legislation also requires low-cost IDs to be issued to individuals being released from a juvenile rehabilitation facility or institution.</li> <li>• SHB 1867 (2017) Expands options for enrollment in Extended Foster Care (EFC), allowing youth who have received EFC to re-enroll one additional time after exiting. This bill also requires WSIPP to conduct a study on the outcomes for youth who have received EFC.</li> <li>• SSB 6222 (2018) Expands access to Extended Foster Care by removing the requirement that non-minor dependents have to be in foster care at age 18 to be eligible; increases eligibility age from 19 to 21; allows young people to enter and leave the program as needed up to age 21.</li> <li>• The 2018 Supplemental Budget provided \$539,000 for Juvenile Rehabilitation to provide housing services to clients released from incarceration into the community.</li> </ul>
<b>STABLE HOUSING</b>	<b>EXPAND OUTREACH EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY AND ENGAGE HOMELESS YYA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$800,000 in additional funding for Street Youth Services (SYS) was added in 2016 Supplemental Budget (total SYS funding is approximately \$2.6 mil/ biennium).</li> </ul>

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<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>STABLE HOUSING</b></p>	<p><b>EXPAND HOUSING OPTIONS THAT MEET THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF YYA AND COMMUNITIES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2015, funding has been expanded by \$5.25 m/ biennium for HOPE and Crisis Residential Center programs.</li> <li>• \$2.4 m/biennium in additional appropriations since 2015 have been used to launch new shelter and housing programs that serve young adults age 18-24.</li> <li>• SHB 2440 (2016) authorized host homes as a model to provide housing and stability to youth and young adults. This model is a promising approach for small and rural communities.</li> <li>• OHY released a <a href="#">report</a> on research and recommendations for Host Home programs (2017).</li> <li>• A Way Home WA establishes a host home coalition (2018).</li> <li>• A Way Home Washington, with the Office of Homeless Youth as a partner, is set to launch the Anchor Communities Initiative to end youth and young adult homelessness in four communities by 2022.</li> <li>• Washington state receives federal Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project awards totaling \$12.5 million in three Continuums of Care: King County, Snohomish County, and 23 rural counties in the Balance of State.</li> </ul>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>FAMILY RECONCILIATION</b></p>	<p><b>IMPROVE AND EXPAND FAMILY RECONCILIATION SERVICES TO SUPPORT YOUTH RETURNING HOME</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OHY added \$800,000 to shelter and housing programs to integrate family reconciliation and/or behavioral health services (2018).</li> <li>• OHY is supporting the King County Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program project, the Youth Engagement Team, which helps youth and families either reunify immediately or access short term housing while services are being delivered (2018)</li> </ul>

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<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>FAMILY RECONCILIATION</b></p>	<p><b>PROVIDE CRISIS INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION SERVICES TO FAMILIES AND YOUTH</b></p> <p><b>STRENGTHEN SUPPORTS FOR OLDER ADOLESCENTS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OHY launched a “Youth In Crisis Subcommittee” to engage a broad set of stakeholders to develop a crisis intervention/ youth homelessness prevention strategy. Through this process, the Family in Need of Services (FINS) proposal was developed, to provide case management and services to families in crisis through the juvenile court system. HB 2870/ SB 6467 were introduced in 2018 legislative session but did not advance, however, the 2018 Supplemental Budget requires OHY and DCYF to develop recommendations on the public system response to families and youth in crisis who are seeking services to address family conflict. Recommendations due by Dec 15, 2018.</li> <li>• SSHB 2449 (2016), SSHB 1170 (2017) Established community truancy boards to provide intervention and services to divert youth from detention due to truancy.</li> </ul>
	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>PERMANENT CONNECTIONS</b></p>	<p><b>PROMOTE HEALTHY ADULT CONNECTIONS</b></p>
<p><b>INCREASE CONTINUITY OF CASE MANAGEMENT</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Options to enroll in Extended Foster Care were expanded in 2017 and 2018.</li> </ul>

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<b>EDUCATION &amp; EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR HOMELESS STUDENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeless Student Stability Program was funded again in the 2017-19 biennium with \$2 million to both Commerce and OSPI to administer a program to identify homeless students and connect them to housing and services.</li> <li>• SSB 5241 (2017) Requires school districts to have procedures that help on-time graduation of homeless students; requires schools to grant partial credit for coursework completed and consolidate partial credit, unresolved, or incomplete coursework.</li> <li>• The 2018 Supplemental Budget directs OHY, along with DCYF, OSPI, WSAC, and a nonprofit coalition to convene a work group that will create a plan for homeless youth and youth in foster care to achieve educational equity with their peers was funded again in the 2017-19 biennium by 2027. A report is due to the legislature by Dec 17, 2018.</li> </ul>
	<b>HELP HOMELESS YOUTH TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD OBTAIN INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Youth Villages Lifeset program gives young adults the support and guidance they need to transition to healthy adulthood. This approach has been implemented in King County and is ripe for expansion.</li> </ul>

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<b>EDUCATION &amp; EMPLOYMENT</b>	<p><b>CONNECT YYA TO WORK-BASED LEARNING AND INTERNSHIPS THAT LEAD TO EMPLOYMENT</b></p> <p><b>SUPPORT HOMELESS STUDENTS IN ACCESSING AND SUCCEEDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION</b></p>	<p>2SSB 6274 (2018) Establishes the Passport to Careers program, which includes the Passport to College Promise program and the Passport to Apprenticeship Opportunities program for unaccompanied homeless youth and former foster youth.</p>
	<p><b>PROVIDE SUPPORTS THAT MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YYA TO GET AND KEEP A JOB</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SB 5382 (2017) Reduces the cost of an ID for homeless youth under age 18.</li> <li>• SSB 6560 (2018) Reduces the cost of an ID for youth exiting a juvenile rehabilitation facility.</li> </ul>
<b>SOCIAL &amp; EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING</b>	<p><b>IMPROVE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OHY/Commerce and the Division of Behavioral Health Services partnered on a SAMHSA grant to connect youth and young adults to behavioral health services.</li> <li>• OHY provided \$800,000 in funding to shelter and housing programs to integrate family reconciliation and/or behavioral health services (2018).</li> </ul>

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<b>SOCIAL &amp; EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING</b>	<b>IMPROVE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver approved to test new and innovative ways to provide health care, including supportive housing.</li> </ul>
	<b>SUPPORT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN PROGRAMS AND SERVICES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth advocates who have experienced homelessness are partners in the work of OHY. The OHY meets quarterly with youth advocates and involves young people regularly in decisions related to program and policy change, funding decisions, and service delivery.</li> </ul>
<b>CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES</b>	<b>EQUITABLE OUTCOMES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Center for Children and Youth Justice is <a href="#">piloting protocols</a> for safe and affirming care of LGBTQ youth in foster care and the juvenile justice system. This provides an opportunity to learn and potentially adopt service protocols in youth homelessness programs.</li> <li>• The NW Network conducted a <a href="#">needs assessment of youth of color</a>, which includes recommendations to strengthen available resources and continue building capacity to address and prevent disproportionate rates of homelessness for youth of color.</li> <li>• OHY services/shelter expanded into new communities since 2015: Skagit, Pend Orielle, Island, Kitsap, Walla Walla, Benton-Franklin, Cowlitz, Pierce, South King County.</li> <li>• The legislature has directed that educational gaps be closed between homeless and foster youth and their peers as well as disparities between racial and ethnic groups.</li> </ul>



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<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES</b></p>	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE FUNDING</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OHY’s budget gets included in Commerce’s base budget, rather than through proviso which provides predictability and stability in funding year over year, and allows for flexibility in allocating funds to best meet emerging needs 2017-19 budget.</li> <li>• E2SHB 1570 (2018) permanently secures and increases the document recording fee, providing a sustainable revenue source for homelessness and housing programs.</li> <li>• Since 2015, funding for housing and services for homeless youth and young adults has been expanded from \$6 million to \$12 million per year.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>DATA QUALITY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB 1630 (2018) allows minors to provide written consent to share their personally identifying information. This allows Commerce to provide a more reliable count of homeless youth to track outcomes of homeless youth programs.</li> <li>• OHY is in the process of implementing performance measures into OHY program contracts to ensure accountability and effectiveness in moving youth and young adults into safe and stable housing.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>SKILLED WORKFORCE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OHY requires competency in best practices of trauma-informed care, harm reduction, positive youth development; OHY is in the process of making trainings available to program staff.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>SHARED STATEWIDE GOALS AND OUTCOMES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <a href="#">Interagency Workgroup on Youth Homelessness</a> was established in 2017; the group is currently working on action plans related to education and employment, health and well-being, and youth involved in systems of care.</li> </ul>

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<b>CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE SERVICES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESSHB 2578 (2018) prohibits housing discrimination based on source of income.</li> </ul>

### Glossary of acronyms

- **DCYF** - Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- **EFC** - Extended Foster Care
- **OHY** - Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection
- **OSPI** - The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- **RDA** - Research and Data Analysis (DSHS)
- **SAJE Center** - Center for the Study and Advancement of Justice Effectiveness
- **WSAC** - Washington Student Achievement Council
- **WSIPP** - Washington State Institute for Public Policy
- **YYA** - Youth and young adults