

Investments to Reduce Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in King County

Prepared for
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Introduction and Overview

Background: In 2002, local organizations, coalitions, and governments formed the Committee to End Homelessness in King County. This group created a ten year plan to end homelessness in King County. The plan focused on three groups: (1) chronically homeless single adults, (2) families, and (3) youth and young adults. To date, specific strategies have been recommended and implemented on behalf of the first two groups while there is yet no action plan with recommended strategies for youth and young adults.

United Way of King County engaged Heliotrope as an independent consulting team from January to March 2010 to develop recommendations to reduce homelessness among minors (ages 12-17) and young adults (ages 18-25) in King County.

Purpose: Heliotrope prepared investment recommendations to help interested funders address the needs specific to youth and young adults who are homeless in King County. The recommendations also guide investment decisions for United Way of King County's Out of the Rain Impact Council.

Primary audience: Public and private funders with an interest in the well-being of at-risk youth, families, homelessness, and services such as employment, education, and housing may find the recommendations helpful in making funding decisions in those areas.

Content: This document includes recommendations for investment now as well as recommendations for advocacy, planning, and research that can begin now with investments later. In addition to recommendations, this document includes:

- A framework for looking at a collection of services and supports
- A definition of success and the expected outcomes
- Basic demographic data of young people being served and a description of sub-groups
- An explanation of the need for services that fit the stage of brain and social development of youth and young adults.

Basis of recommendations: The recommendations are based on the following:

1. A review and comparison of existing plans to reduce homelessness for a variety of King County populations.
2. Over 30 interviews with key informants and experts in the field of minor and young adult homelessness including providers, funders, advocates, and planners.
3. A review of homeless youth focus group data.
4. A review of over 40 reports that address promising practices and effectiveness of programs to reduce youth and young adult homelessness.
5. An analysis of local quantitative data about minor and young adult homelessness including service and housing needs, current services available, gaps and turnaways, and demographics.
6. A review and synthesis of desired outcomes on the individual, organizational, and system levels.

Definitions of success:

- Young people at risk of homelessness and their families receive assistance to reconcile and ensure a safe home.
- Young people¹ experiencing homelessness are reunified with their families, or gain skills necessary to meet their personal needs (financially, educationally, and physically) in safe and stable housing and prevented from becoming chronically homeless adults.
- Funders, providers and stakeholders identify and respond to the needs of young people experiencing homelessness in an effective, respectful, culturally and developmentally appropriate, and flexible manner.

Five strategies recommended for immediate investment:

- **Maintain and expand outreach and case management services.** Increase outreach and engagement of newly homeless minors and young adults, with services distributed across King County. These efforts may require reallocation of existing funding and adding capacity to match characteristics of the young homeless populations in different parts of the county.
 - \$50,000 annually to reach 40 youth and young adults and provide case management.
- **Provide family reconciliation services.** Family reconciliation and mediation could be offered through drop-in centers, outreach workers, or emergency shelters.
 - \$41,200 annually to serve 50-60 families with youth at risk of being homeless.
- **Expand housing through existing options and funding streams.** Use rent subsidies from housing authorities, subsidized housing, low-income housing, semi-supervised apartments (also known as scattered-site apartments), and other existing options to expand housing for homeless young adults and some older teens. Tap into a mix of funding streams by working with other systems.
 - \$150,000 annually to serve 15 young adults ready to be housed and \$20,000 one-time cost for planning expertise to develop tailored King County housing funding strategy to house young homeless people.
- **Expand access to basic needs by removing legal barriers.** Provide an attorney knowledgeable about legal issues young homeless people face including domestic violence, emancipation and dependency, sealing juvenile records to secure housing and employment, restoring stolen identities, resolving issues with Child Protective Services, securing public benefits, and helping with lease reviews and parenting plans.
 - \$30,000 annually to help 100-155 youth and young adults remove legal barriers to basic needs.
- **Expand existing education and employment training programs.** These programs are aimed at young people without work experience in unstable living environments. Existing programs and apprenticeships could be expanded to serve more youth.
 - \$120,800 to serve 25 youth and young adults with paid internships and education.

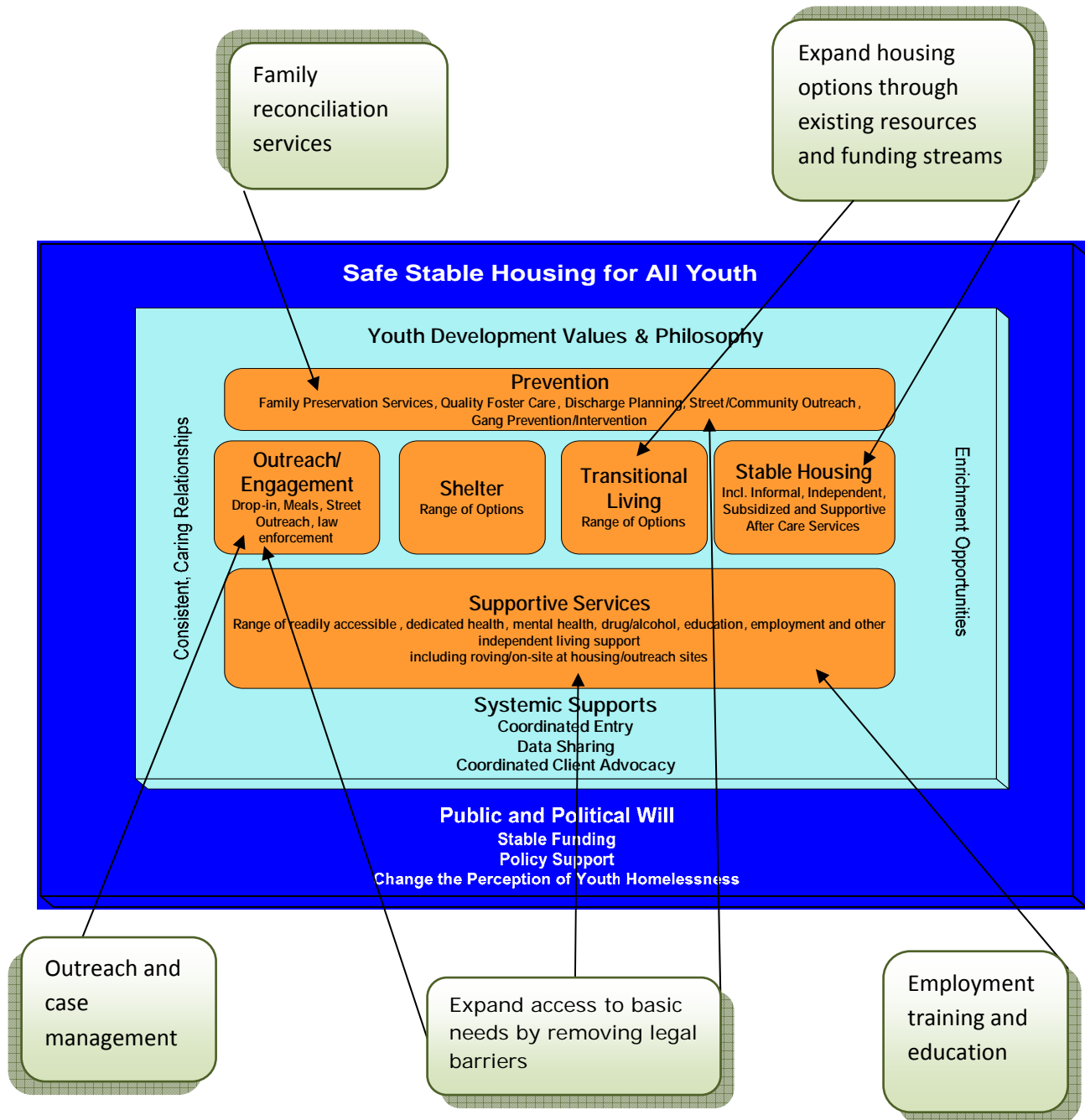
¹ “Young people” refers to minors ages 12-17 and young adults ages 18-25.

Four strategies to assess now and consider for future investment:

- **Evaluate outcomes of all services.** Coordinated outcome planning and tracking is needed for all service types to understand effectiveness and needed adjustments.
- **Assess need for shelter.** Investment in family reconciliation and low barrier housing may reduce need for additional emergency shelter beds. Carefully explore need, space availability, and cost for both the minor and young adult populations.
- **Connect homeless young adults to more existing adult funding streams and services.** These funds and programs include childcare, financial education, and job training.
- **Advocate for policies to proactively house young people (whether connected to or disconnected from other systems).** Proactively arrange housing and services for young adults leaving the foster care and juvenile justice systems as well as young people without previous involvement with any state systems. Progress in this area requires extensive coordination and system change.

Relationship between Recommended Investments and United Way of King County Continuum of Care

Staff at United Way of King County developed a graphic depiction of a system to reduce youth and young adult homelessness. Superimposed on that graphic are the five strategies recommended for immediate investment as they relate to the system to reduce homelessness of young people.



Population Data Tables

How many youth and young adults are homeless?

This simple question has no simple answer.

The one-night homeless count for 2010 of unsheltered homeless people included 17 minors (assumed to be unaccompanied) and 2,742 adults. A national study estimated that individuals aged 18 to 24 make up 12 percent of the adult homeless population.² Using this estimate, there would have been 329 unsheltered young adults in the 2010 one-night homelessness count.

Youth and young adults are estimated to comprise a total of 346 unsheltered young people in 2010. The One Night Count is considered a conservative measure.

For the One Night Count in 2008 (the most recent year for which we were able to attain a full report) 12 unaccompanied minors were in emergency shelters, and 40 were in transitional housing, for a total of 52 sheltered minors. For 2008, 197 young adults ages 18-25 were in emergency shelters, and 421 were in transitional housing, or a total of 618 sheltered young adults. **Youth and young adults comprised a total of 670 sheltered young people in 2008.**

Disparities for Young People of Color. As is true across the country, youth and young adults of color (except for Asian/Pacific Islanders) are highly overrepresented in programs for homeless young people compared to their proportion in the total population. This disparity is even more pronounced among young people served by PRO Youth agencies.

Health Care for the Homeless served a much higher proportion of Native American youth under age 18 than did PRO Youth. However, the relative percentage may be based on a very low number of people.

Ethnicity for Minors Under Age 18	2008 Office of Financial Management: King County, Ages 10-17	2007 PRO Youth Under Age 18	2008 PRO Youth Under Age 18	2008 Health Care for the Homeless Under Age 18	2009 Health Care for the Homeless Under Age 18
African American	8%	27%	31.3%	17%	21%
Asian/Pacific Islander	14%	2%/3%	2%/0.7%	4%	3%
Latino	*	12%	12%	1%	1%
Native American	1%	3%	4%	22%	23%
White	70%	39%	35%	43%	40%
Multiple races	6%	26%	26%	9%	6%
Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Individuals of Hispanic origin are included in the multiple races category.*

² "A national study by Martha Burt (*Helping America's Homeless*) estimated that individuals aged 18 to 24 make up 12 percent of the adult homeless population. Based on these estimates and using the 2007 One Night Count of 8,439 homeless in King County, which is widely considered to be a conservative estimate of homeless prevalence, we can estimate that there are at least 1,013 homeless young adults at a given time in our county." Source: Putnam, M. 2008. Plan to End Young Adult Homelessness in King County. Seattle: Building Changes for the Committee To End Homelessness.

Ethnicity for Young Adults Ages 18-25	2008 Office of Financial Management: King County, Ages 18-24	2007 PRO Youth Age 18 and Above	2008-09 PRO Youth Age 18 and Above	2008 Health Care for the Homeless Age 18 or Above	2009 Health Care for the Homeless Ages 18-25	Safe Harbors Young Adult Shelters/ Transitional Living Programs
African American	7%	27%	31.3%	18%	21%	21.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	17%	2%/3%	2%/0.7%	4%	4%	3.6%
Latino	*	12%	12%	2%	0.9%	9.2%
Native American	1%	3%	4%	11%	10%	5.4%
White	71%	39%	35%	52%	54%	46.3%
Multiple races	5%	26%	26%	7%	6%	4.5%
Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	1%	0.7%	18.9%

**Individuals of Hispanic origin are included in the multiple races category.*

Girls and young women became a larger percent of the young people served by PRO Youth between 2007 and 2008-09. However, females are only about a third of the young adults recorded in the Safe Harbors system as using young adult shelters and transitional housing.

Gender	2008 Office of Financial Management King County, Ages 10-17 and 18-24	2007 PRO Youth Under Age 18	2008-09 PRO Youth Under Age 18	2007 PRO Youth Age 18 or Above	2008-09 PRO Youth Age 18 and Above	Safe Harbors All Individuals	Safe Harbors Young Adult Shelters/ Transitional Living Programs
Male	51%	52.6%	44.4%	52.6%	44.4%	72.3%	65.6%
Female	49%	47%	55%	47%	55%	24.7%	31.3%
Transgender/ Unknown	N/A	0.04%	0.6%	0.04%	0.6%	3.0%	3.1%

See page 19 for further information about the special needs exhibited by youth and young adults served by PRO Youth and their income levels at the time they are served.

Understanding Adolescents and Brain Development

In healthy families, parents and other adults guide the financial, emotional, and psychological development of youth. However, youth homelessness is often a reflection of family dysfunction and breakdown, specifically family conflict, abuse, and disruption. Therefore, many homeless young people will not have the chance to learn about adulthood in a typical setting.

Staff of agencies that serve youth and young adults needs to offer services that fit the stage of development of young people they serve which may be younger than their chronological age. Even young people on a typical developmental path are often not ready to live on their own, much less navigate life on the streets.

Service agencies that serve adults may not understand the needs young people have for guidance and may misinterpret behavior in negative ways rather than recognizing it as appropriate and expected for adolescents and young adults.

During adolescence, while their brains are still being built, most youth are unprepared to take on adult responsibilities, including securing housing, earning a livable income, obtaining an education, and planning for their future.

It is important that funders understand the differences in service patterns between adult and youth/young adult housing needs. Misconceptions about young people (including those on the streets) include:

Myths	Truth
They are rebellious	We are maturing and testing boundaries
They do not like authority	We want relationships with safe, caring, and flexible adults
They are delinquents	We are survivors
They want to live on the street	The street is the safest option we have
They make immature decisions	We are young and inexperienced

Youth are experimenting and mobile and will leave programs and come back. However, this results in more frequent turnover and vacancies than in the adult systems, and can result in lowered or lost funding for some providers serving young people. Service providers and funders need to expect young people to make immature choices and help them learn from them rather than causing them to lose their housing as in the adult model.

It is common for a young person to experience several housing placements before finding a good fit. Affording young people opportunities to experience two or three different living arrangements can sometimes even lead to better outcomes.³

³ M. J. Kroner and A. S. Mares, "Lighthouse Independent Living Program: Characteristics of Youth Served and Their Outcomes at Discharge," *Children and Youth Services Review* (2008): 1–9.

Sub-groups of the Young and Homeless

Below is a table highlighting some of the issues affecting various sub-populations of young people. Successful providers match the needs of these subgroups to appropriate services and know that some young people fit more than one category

<p>Minors</p>	<p>In Washington State and King County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BECCA bill requires providers to contact the police, CPS, or the minor’s parents within 8 hours of contact; this reporting makes it difficult to establish trust with the minor (WA may change this rule to 72 hours for licensed providers). • Minors can stay in licensed facilities only; these may be difficult to locate, expensive, and require high staff ratios. • For minors needing emancipation from their parents or placement elsewhere, initiating dependency procedures is burdensome to providers. • No one “owns” this group; they are discussed alongside young adults but have very different legal logistics.
<p>Young adults</p>	<p>Nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young adults compete with adults (over age 26) for services, housing, and jobs. • Difficult to get hired or to get an apartment without credit, work history, savings or co-signers. • Limited resources if any. • Based on adult models, face high expectations for mature decision making and severe consequences for errors in judgment when they really need housing tied to services to help them mature and become self-sufficient.
<p>Aging out of foster care</p>	<p>Nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who age out of foster care often experience periods of housing instability and homelessness.⁴ • Youth who leave the foster care system are becoming homeless at alarming rates; between 12 percent and 36 percent of former foster youth experience homelessness.⁵ • After leaving foster care, 32 percent of youth reported changing living situations five or more times within two and to four years.⁶ • Older foster youth lack the supports to help them pay a security deposit, sign a lease, furnish a home, and afford monthly rental payments once they exit the system.

⁴ R. White, “Introduction,” *Child Welfare*, vol. LXXXIII, no. 5 (September/October 2004): 389–392.

⁵ R. White, “Introduction,” *Child Welfare*, vol. LXXXIII, no. 5 (September/October 2004): 389–392.

⁶ Casey Family Programs, “Improving Outcomes for Older Youth in Foster Care,” see www.casey.org/NR/rdonlyres/983E5E8DDE21-49A5-BC42-3C137D757FDE/658/WhitePaper_ImprovingOutcomesOlderYouth_FR.pdf.

<p>Leaving juvenile justice or state institutions⁷</p>	<p>Nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile offenders are incarcerated during a key developmental phase of adolescence. • They lack necessary skills to cope with adult responsibilities when released. • Many face unemployment, school re-enrollment challenges, and homelessness upon release. • Plans are rarely in place to support them as they reintegrate back into their family, school, and/or community.
<p>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning⁸</p>	<p>Nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 in 5 homeless youth self-identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (twice as prevalent as in the general population). • LGBTQ youth experience an alarmingly high rate of homelessness when compared to heterosexual youth. • Homeless LGBTQ youth experience higher rates of physical assaults, sexual exploitation, and mental health deterioration than their heterosexual homeless peers. • Once homeless, LGBTQ youth are at higher risk for victimization and experience higher incidents of mental health problems. • LGB homeless youth are also more likely to attempt suicide (62 percent) than their heterosexual homeless peers (29 percent). • LGBTQ homeless youth experience an average of 7.4 more acts of sexual violence toward them than their heterosexual peers.
<p>Physical health issues</p>	<p>Nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minors and young adults may have mental and/or physical health issues that make them vulnerable. • Young adults cannot use public medical programs like Basic Health. • There are long waiting lists for service.
<p>Mental health and Chemical dependency</p>	<p>Nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 percent of homeless youth reported mental health problems in the past year. 50 -56 percent of youth reported mental health problems over their lifetime.⁹ • Unaddressed mental health issues may be an underlying reason for homelessness, may make young people on the street more vulnerable to exploitation and assault, and may lead them to abuse drugs and alcohol. • Drug and alcohol issues must be addressed in order to maintain housing or hold down a job. • Young homeless people may turn to drugs and alcohol to be able to cope with life on the street.

⁷ The Youth Reentry Task Force Back on Track: Supporting Youth Reentry from Out-of-Home Placement to the Community. Prepared by the Youth Reentry Task Force of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition Washington, D.C. 2009.

⁸ A National Approach to Meeting the Needs of LGBTQ Homeless Youth. National Alliance to End Homelessness. April 2009.

⁹ Burt M. R., 2007, June 19

<p>Legal issues</p>	<p>In Washington State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minors need legal help with dependency or emancipation paperwork. • Parenting youth and young adults may need advocacy for involvement with Child Protective Services. • Minors and young adults need advocacy for accessing benefits and domestic violence protections. • Young people with adult records face housing and job discrimination and need help with record sealing.
<p>Prostituted young people</p>	<p>In Seattle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recent study commissioned by the City of Seattle identified 238 children involved in prostitution in the city. The total number, according to the assessment, was likely 300 to 500 kids in the Seattle area.¹⁰ • The prevalence estimate of prostituted minors in Seattle is 300-500.¹¹ • Prostituted minors are often arrested for charges other than prostitution so their prostitution histories may be unknown. <p>Nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than one third of homeless youth engage in survival sex.¹² • 162,000 homeless youth are estimated to be victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the United States.¹³
<p>Survivors of Violence</p>	<p>Nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 percent of runaway and homeless young people have been physically abused.¹⁴ • 17 percent of runaway and homeless young people have been forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member.¹⁵ • Runaway and homeless youth experience rape and assault rates 2 to 3 times higher than the general population of youth.¹⁶ • 66 percent of males and 33 percent of females had been assaulted on the street, and 47 percent of the females had been sexually assaulted according to a sub-sample of homeless youth.¹⁷

¹⁰ Pulkkinen, L (2010). Child prostitution out of shadows in Seattle. Seattle P-I. Retrieved at http://www.seattlepi.com/local/414133_prostitution12.html

¹¹ Boyer, D. (2008). Who pays the price? Assessment of Youth Involvement in Prostitution in Seattle. Seattle, WA

¹² Ray, 2006

¹³ Estes & Weiner, 2001

¹⁴ US Department of Health and Human Services, 1997.

¹⁵ US Department of Health and Human Services, 1997.

¹⁶ Robertson & Toro, 1998

¹⁷ Cauce, et al., 1998

<p>Youth of Color</p>	<p>Nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 percent of homeless young people are people of color with 27 percent being African American and 3 percent being Native American.¹⁸ • Black or African American youth, who comprise 15.4 percent of the US youth population, are disproportionately represented among homeless youth populations.¹⁹ • Black, Latino, and Native American youth are more likely to experience incarceration as compared to White and Asian peers, and thus also more likely to be held back in school as a result of their confinement. This disparity disproportionately affects the number of young people of color entering homelessness.²⁰ <p>A San Francisco Study²¹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 2008 study in San Francisco found that African American youth are more likely to be homeless because of “lack of opportunities for young people and their families: as opposed to white youth fleeing “dysfunctional homes.” • 81 percent of whites reported being literally homeless (living in a place not meant for human habitation such as on the street, in a park, or in a vehicle) in the last month compared to 37 percent of African Americans. • The study also pointed out the role of self-identification and outward expression of being homeless: <i>“In general, white youth seemed to embrace the label of “homelessness” and maintain outward appearances that “looked the part,” including having poor hygiene, tattoos and piercings. African Americans had a very different attitude toward being homeless, with many saying it was shameful and something that should be hidden at all costs, while also emphasizing the importance of appearing financially prosperous.”</i>
<p>Immigrants and Refugees</p>	<p>Nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigrant and refugee youth need help with green cards, work permits, etc. but may not know where to turn. • Some homeless immigrant and refugee youth are undocumented and live on the streets out of fear of arrest or deportation. • Some homeless immigrant and refugee youth may have been trafficked and will need mental health treatment and sponsors for housing.

¹⁸ Office of Applied Studies, 2004

¹⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2006

²⁰ The Color of Homelessness: Why Persons of Color Are Overrepresented Among Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Users in King County & What the Committee to End Homelessness in King County Can Do To Reduce This Problem (2006)

²¹ Schoen. K. (2009). Perceptions and Experiences of Homeless Youth Vary by Race, UCSF Study Shows. February, 1, 2009. <http://news.ucsf.edu/releases/perceptions-and-experiences-of-homeless-youth-vary-by-race-ucsf-study-shows/>

<p>Parenting</p>	<p>Nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 50 percent of street youth have had a pregnancy experience compared to about 33 percent living in shelters and less than 10 percent of household youth.²² • Families that become homeless tend to share certain characteristics: they have <i>extremely</i> low incomes, tend to have young children and be headed by a younger parent, lack strong social networks, and often have poor housing histories or move frequently.²³ • An estimated 6–22 percent of homeless young people are pregnant.²⁴ • 41 percent of homeless young adults 20-24 had their own children.²⁵ • One-third of young mothers who exit shelter are likely to become homeless again within 10 years.²⁶ • 84 percent of families experiencing homelessness are female-headed.²⁷ Younger mothers are more likely to have never worked. • Younger mothers are more likely to have been in foster care as children. • Growing up, younger mothers are more likely to have run away for at least 24 hours. • Young homeless mothers were younger at the time of their first homelessness experience than older homeless mothers (an average of 19.6 years compared to 29.2 years).²⁸ • Homelessness increases the likelihood that families will separate or dissolve.²⁹ • Homeless families have much higher rates of family separation than other low-income families.³⁰
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²²Greene & Ringwalt, 1998

²³Shin, M., Weitzman, B.C., Stojanovic, D. Knickman, J.R., Jimenez, L., Duchon, L., James, S., and Krantz, D.H. 1998. "Predictors of homelessness among families in New York City: From shelter request to housing stability." *American Journal of Public Health*, 88 (11): 1561–1657.

²⁴Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Program Assistance Letter: Understanding the Health Care Needs of Homeless Youth, 2001. Available free at <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/policy/pal0110.htm>.

²⁵Putnam Report for Building Changes.

²⁶Smith N et al. Understanding family homelessness in NYC. Vera Institute of Justice. 2005.

²⁷Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress. (2007). US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. Available at www.huduser.org/Publications/pdf/ahar.pdf

²⁸Strengthening at risk and homeless young mothers: Evaluation Report. (2007-2008). Available at http://www.familyhomelessness.org/sites/default/files/NCFH_StrengthYr1_final.pdf

²⁹<http://www.familyhomelessness.org/node/4>

³⁰Culhane, JF et al. (2003). Prevalence of child welfare services involvement among homeless and low-income mothers: A five year birth cohort study. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 30(3).

Essential Components and Desired Outcomes

The table below outlines the components that a system to end homelessness among young people needs to have so that young people experience the desired positive outcomes and thrive.

Overall Outcomes For Young People

- Fewer homeless youth and young adults
- Hope for a possible positive future
- Reunification of families when appropriate
- Avoid risk amplification

Risk Amplification Model: Youth become at risk of becoming homeless when exposed to noxious and traumatic early environments, including poor parenting practices, inadequate schools and dangerous neighborhoods. Being homeless further amplifies their risk of poor outcomes. Risk is amplified through victimization on the streets, engaging in subsistence strategies (stealing food, prostitution), association with deviant peers and adults, risky sexual behaviors, substance use, and other negative experiences. The greater the number of days on the street and length of homelessness youth experience, the greater the risk amplification to the individual and to the community.

Essential Components ³¹	Description	Positive Outcomes for Young People
1. Prevention: These efforts identify struggling families with young people at risk of becoming homeless long term.	These services include family therapy, reconciliation services, and empowerment of family members so young people remain housed with families (when appropriate).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased safety • Avoid victimization (assaults, prostitution, robbery, etc.)
2. Gateway Connections and Services: These connections and services meet young people's urgent and basic needs by establishing trust and moving them from crisis to accessing a broad range of services.	Gateway services are less structured and formalized and include drop-in centers and street outreach programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulfill basic survival needs • Meet basic hygiene needs • Access public benefits • Build trust • Provide access to additional services
3. House and Stabilize: These events happen through planning with the young person and families, if available and suitable.	These services focus on sheltering young people and engagement to discuss housing options. They include emergency shelters and other short-term placements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased safety • Meet basic hygiene needs • Reduce barriers and encourage entry into appropriate housing linked to services
4. Targeted Supportive Services: These are intentional and intensive services to specific populations or to address specific needs.	These support services include help with alcohol abuse, mental health problems, need for health care, life skills, living with HIV/AIDS, pregnancy and parenting, legal needs, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce harm in use of drugs and alcohol • Strengthen ability to live in safe and stable situation
5. Supporting Transitions to Independence: These services and programs provide longer-term housing options to young people as they transition to independence. Youth and young adults have time to grow up in developmentally appropriate environments.	<p>These services include an array of housing options, education, life skills, employment, youth development, accessing public benefits.</p> <p>Settings can include family homes, group homes, shared homes, supervised apartments, scattered site apartments, and other options.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on strengths • Increased education level • Increased employment/income • Increased life skills (financial literacy, relationship skills, etc.) • Increased connection to appropriate community services • Increased young leadership • More stable housing on path to independence • Increased engagement in community service and recreation activities

³¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2007). *Promising Strategies to End Youth Homelessness: Report to Congress*. National Partnership to End Youth Homelessness. *The Ten Essentials: What Your Community Needs To Do To End Youth Homelessness*.

Desired outcomes are also relevant at the organizational and systems levels.

Overall Outcomes for Provider Organizations

- Increase hiring retention of skilled and culturally competent provider staff.
- Increase effectiveness in case management.
- Increase communication, coordination, and collaboration with each other.
- Measure and report program outcomes in coordinated manner.

Overall Outcomes at the System Level

- Decrease number of homeless minors and young adults.
- Standardize outcome measurements among funders.
- Fortify supports on a service continuum so young people can “graduate” to appropriate housing and services.
- Modify housing options and services in the adult systems to meet developmental needs of young people.
- Engage with other systems for shared responsibility of ending homelessness for young people.

Definitions of Success:

- Young people at risk of homelessness and their families receive assistance to reconcile and ensure a safe home.
- Young people experiencing homelessness are reunified with their families, or gain skills necessary to meet their personal needs (financially, educationally, and physically) in safe and stable housing, and prevented from becoming chronically homeless adults.
- Funders, providers and stakeholders identify and respond to the needs of young people experiencing homelessness in an effective, respectful, culturally and developmentally appropriate, and flexible manner.

Timeline for Recommendations (Immediate and Future)

More detail on each strategy is presented in later sections. The sections are organized by strategies to invest in now and strategies to assess now and possibly invest in later.

Priority	Investment Area	Focus	Years 1-2	Years 3-5	Years 6-7
1	Maintain and expand outreach and case management services. Increase outreach to and engagement of newly homeless minors and young adults with services distributed across King County. These efforts may require reallocation of existing funding and adding capacity to match characteristics of the young homeless populations in different parts of the county.	Minors and young adults	Serve an additional 40 youth and young adults in underserved parts of the county and/or reduce overload on current agencies. <u>\$50,000 to reach 40 youth and young adults and provide case management.</u>	Assess and possibly invest in underserved areas appropriately (for example: expanding mobile outreach across south King County or building a drop-in center in east King County).	Evaluate effectiveness and provide additional investment or further reallocation.
2	Provide family reconciliation services. Family reconciliation and mediation could be offered through drop-in centers, outreach workers, or emergency shelters.	Minors (and young adults when appropriate)	Expand the Project Safe model at Cocoon House into King County to serve 50-60 families <u>\$41,200 to serve 50-60 families with youth at risk of being homeless.</u>	Evaluate effectiveness and need for expansion. Serve additional 50-60 families.	Assess and go to scale.
3	Expand housing through existing options and funding streams. Use rent subsidies from housing authorities, subsidized housing, low-income housing, semi-supervised apartments (also known as scattered-site apartments), and other existing options to expand housing for homeless young adults and some older teens. Tap into a mix of funding streams by working with other systems.	Emancipated minors Young adults	Expand recent project to secure non-time limited apartment housing for 15 young adults in South King County. (2) Uncover new resources to expand housing options through consultation and training. <u>\$150,000 to serve 15 young adults ready to be housed and \$20,000 for planning expertise to develop tailored King County housing funding strategy to house young homeless people.</u>	Evaluate effectiveness and need for expansion.	Assess and go to scale.
4	Expand access to basic needs by removing legal barriers. Provide an attorney knowledgeable about legal issues young homeless people face including domestic violence, emancipation and dependency, sealing juvenile records to secure housing and employment, restoring stolen identities, resolving issues with Child Protective Services, securing public benefits, and helping with lease reviews and parenting plans.	Minors and young adults	Invest in attorney specializing in removing legal barriers to basic needs for homeless young people. <u>\$30,000 to help 150-155 youth and young adults remove legal barriers to basic needs.</u>	Assess and go to scale.	Maintain.

Priority	Investment Area	Focus	Years 1-2	Years 3-5	Years 6-7
5	Evaluate outcomes of all services. Coordinated outcome planning and tracking is needed for all service types to understand effectiveness and needed adjustments.	Agencies and funders serving minors and young adults	Plan and convene funders and providers to develop a coordinated outcome evaluation reflecting models for minors and young adults.	Invest in 3 rd party evaluator to implement coordinated outcome evaluation.	Maintain.
6	Expand existing education and employment training programs. These programs are aimed at young people without work experience in unstable living environments. Existing programs and apprenticeships could be expanded to serve more youth.	Minors of working age and young adults	Serve 25 homeless young people ages 16-21 with education and employment services throughout King County. <u>\$120,800 to serve 25 youth and young adults with paid internships and education.</u>	Assess effectiveness and need for expansion. Create 25 additional slots.	Assess and go to scale.
7	Assess need for shelter. Investment in family reconciliation and low barrier housing may reduce need for additional emergency shelter beds. Carefully explore need, space availability, and cost for both the minor and young adult populations.	Minors and young adults	Assess effect of 15 new Orion shelter beds, youth prostitution program, and additional housing.	Invest if necessary.	Evaluate success of investments in years 1-5 and gauge need.
8	Connect homeless young adults to more existing adult funding streams and services such as childcare, financial education, and job training funds and programs when appropriate.	Young adults	Convene adult providers on collaborative and tailored methods to engage young adults.	Assess and invest in tailored outreach and engagement of underserved young adults.	Evaluate effectiveness.
9	Advocate for policies to proactively house young people (whether connected to and disconnected from other systems). Proactively arrange housing and services for young adults leaving the foster care and juvenile justice systems as well as young people without previous involvement with any state systems. Progress in this area requires extensive coordination and system change.	Minors and young adults	Endorse and participate in existing advocacy and systems integration efforts.	Invest in successful advocacy groups.	Maintain as necessary.

Immediate Investment Recommendations

For the five strategies recommended for investment immediately, the following table outlines each strategy's background, rationale, service statistics, costs, estimated number served, and suggested partners.

Priority # 1 Investment Details for Years 1-2	Rationale for Investment Now	Service Statistics	Estimated Cost	Additional Young People Served	Who needs to be involved																																																																																																																																										
<p><u>Maintain and expand outreach and case management services.</u> Increase outreach and engagement of newly homeless minors and young adults, with services distributed across King County. These efforts may require reallocation of existing funding and add capacity to match characteristics of the young homeless populations in different parts of the county.</p> <p>A substantial portion of the outreach, engagement and case management provided to homeless youth and young adults is provided through a project called PRO-Youth, which includes seven nonprofit agencies.</p> <p>The county wide case management and outreach component includes teams of case workers and peer outreach workers who provide case management, housing search, information and referral, outreach, and follow-up services to homeless youth. Some of those agencies also provide employability services including subsidized work training and job search assistance.</p> <p>PRO-Youth reports reaching youth and young adults across all demographic categories, and those with many special needs.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 722 631 1079"> <thead> <tr> <th>Demographics</th> <th>2007-08</th> <th>2008-09</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Male</td><td>52.6%</td><td>44.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Female</td><td>47%</td><td>55%</td></tr> <tr><td>Transgendered</td><td>.4%</td><td>.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>15-17 years old</td><td>20%</td><td>17%</td></tr> <tr><td>18-22 years old</td><td>80%</td><td>83%</td></tr> <tr><td>Hispanic/Latino</td><td>12%</td><td>12%</td></tr> <tr><td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td><td>3%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Asian</td><td>2%</td><td>.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Black/African American</td><td>27%</td><td>31.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islldr</td><td>3%</td><td>3%</td></tr> <tr><td>White</td><td>39%</td><td>35%</td></tr> <tr><td>Multi-Racial</td><td>26%</td><td>26%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="67 1112 631 1380"> <thead> <tr> <th>Special Needs</th> <th>2007-2008</th> <th>2008-2009</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Mental Health</td><td>21%</td><td>24%</td></tr> <tr><td>Drug Abuse</td><td>18%</td><td>21%</td></tr> <tr><td>Alcohol Abuse</td><td>16%</td><td>18%</td></tr> <tr><td>Domestic Violence</td><td>14%</td><td>15%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>12%</td><td>7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Physical Disability</td><td>4%</td><td>6%</td></tr> <tr><td>Developmental Disability</td><td>5%</td><td>5%</td></tr> <tr><td>HIV/AIDS</td><td>2%</td><td>1%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Total of 220 unduplicated participants with Special Needs in 2008-09; 191 in 07-08</p> <p>There is some risk of this funding being lost as of 11/30/11 due to potential restrictions on use of McKinney-Vento funding for services.</p>	Demographics	2007-08	2008-09	Male	52.6%	44.4%	Female	47%	55%	Transgendered	.4%	.6%	15-17 years old	20%	17%	18-22 years old	80%	83%	Hispanic/Latino	12%	12%	American Indian/Alaska Native	3%	4%	Asian	2%	.7%	Black/African American	27%	31.3%	Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islldr	3%	3%	White	39%	35%	Multi-Racial	26%	26%	Special Needs	2007-2008	2008-2009	Mental Health	21%	24%	Drug Abuse	18%	21%	Alcohol Abuse	16%	18%	Domestic Violence	14%	15%	Other	12%	7%	Physical Disability	4%	6%	Developmental Disability	5%	5%	HIV/AIDS	2%	1%	<p>Current providers are at <i>140% of capacity.</i></p> <p><i>Youth and young adults in some parts of the county are not being reached.</i></p> <p>Underserved areas include south King County, east King County, Shoreline/N. Seattle, South Park/Georgetown, White Center and West Seattle, Capitol Hill and Westlake.</p> <p><i>Known outcomes are promising.</i> However, results are unknown for half to a third of participants for the last 14 years, with a lower percentage of unknowns in the last two years.</p> <p>The PRO-Youth project (funded by federal McKinney-Vento and the City of Seattle) is <i>cost effective.</i> In 2008-09, the agencies served 932 young people, including about 100 that also received employment services, for an <i>average cost of \$1,220 per person.</i> Participating agencies offer mental health, chemical dependency, housing and other services through other programs in their agencies.</p> <p>PRO-Youth provides a <i>forum for regular coordination, training and technical assistance</i> among providers.</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="1473 227 1876 386"> <thead> <tr> <th>Contract Year</th> <th>Youth Served (including carryovers)</th> <th>Entered</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2007-2008</td><td>798</td><td>505</td></tr> <tr><td>2008-2009</td><td>932</td><td>534</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Top 3-Prior Living Situations for PRO Youth Participants at Entry:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 53% evicted from relative and friends home/couch surfing 17% non-housing 17% emergency shelter <table border="1" data-bbox="1473 636 1924 824"> <thead> <tr> <th>Housing at Exit</th> <th>2007-08</th> <th>2008-09</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Permanent Housing</td><td>33%</td><td>41%</td></tr> <tr><td>Transitional Housing</td><td>15%</td><td>17%</td></tr> <tr><td>Institution</td><td>3%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Shelter</td><td>1%</td><td>3%</td></tr> <tr><td>Non-Housing/Other</td><td>4%</td><td>5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Unknown</td><td>44%</td><td>30%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="1473 857 1924 1182"> <thead> <tr> <th>Monthly Income</th> <th>Income at Entry</th> <th>Income at Exit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>No income</td><td>65%</td><td>28%</td></tr> <tr><td>\$1-\$500</td><td>3%</td><td>2%</td></tr> <tr><td>%551-\$250</td><td>5%</td><td>3.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>\$251-\$500</td><td>12.3%</td><td>9%</td></tr> <tr><td>\$501-\$1,000</td><td>10%</td><td>12%</td></tr> <tr><td>\$1,001-\$1,500</td><td>4%</td><td>5%</td></tr> <tr><td>\$1,501-\$2,000</td><td>.5%</td><td>1%</td></tr> <tr><td>\$2,000 +</td><td>.2%</td><td>.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>Unknown (67%-unk+no income)</td><td>-</td><td>39%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="1473 1221 1924 1354"> <thead> <tr> <th>Employment Objectives</th> <th>Goal</th> <th>2007-08</th> <th>2008-09</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>3 New Job Skills</td><td>70%</td><td>86%</td><td>90%</td></tr> <tr><td>Satisfactory Job Skills</td><td>60%</td><td>71%</td><td>82%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Contract Year	Youth Served (including carryovers)	Entered	2007-2008	798	505	2008-2009	932	534	Housing at Exit	2007-08	2008-09	Permanent Housing	33%	41%	Transitional Housing	15%	17%	Institution	3%	4%	Shelter	1%	3%	Non-Housing/Other	4%	5%	Unknown	44%	30%	Monthly Income	Income at Entry	Income at Exit	No income	65%	28%	\$1-\$500	3%	2%	%551-\$250	5%	3.7%	\$251-\$500	12.3%	9%	\$501-\$1,000	10%	12%	\$1,001-\$1,500	4%	5%	\$1,501-\$2,000	.5%	1%	\$2,000 +	.2%	.3%	Unknown (67%-unk+no income)	-	39%	Employment Objectives	Goal	2007-08	2008-09	3 New Job Skills	70%	86%	90%	Satisfactory Job Skills	60%	71%	82%	<p>For \$50,000, agencies could serve an additional 40 youth and young adults in underserved parts of the county, or to reduce overload on current agencies (\$1,200 per person)</p> <p>Might cost up to \$400,000 to provide equitable coverage countywide.</p> <p>Another option is to reallocate existing funds to cover underserved areas that have providers with capacity to manage federal funds</p>	<p>40 youth and young adults</p>	<p>Providers working with minors and young adults who are homeless</p> <p>Providers that address mental health, drug & alcohol abuse, DV, and other needs</p> <p>Funders</p> <p>Employers</p> <p>Educational organizations</p>
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Priority #2 Investment Details for Years 1-2	Rationale for Investment Now	Service Statistics	Estimated Cost	Additional Young People Served	Who needs to be involved
<p><u>Provide family reconciliation services.</u> Family reconciliation and mediation could be offered through drop-in centers, outreach workers, or emergency shelters and help prevent future chronic homelessness.</p> <p>Expand the model Cocoon House Project Safe of Snohomish County into King County. Project Safe provides intervention and support to parents/guardians experiencing difficulties with their teens via phone consultations and educational groups. Parents and guardians receive services to strengthen the family and prevent minors from leaving home.</p> <p><u>Phone Consultation:</u> Parents/guardians engage in a 90-minute phone consultation with a Master’s level therapist specializing in teen behavior. Project Safe helps the parent/guardian develop an action plan that confronts issues underlying symptomatic behaviors and identifies community resources that may be beneficial. Action plans could entail drug/alcohol or mental health assessments for parents and teens, planning special activities with their teen, engaging in self care, strengthening support systems, etc. The therapist then follows up with the parent/guardian to review the action plan and discuss overcoming barriers.</p> <p><u>Psychodynamic parenting workshops:</u> Project Safe also offers educational parenting groups in multiple sessions or as stand-alone classes. This full curriculum helps parents/guardians build a better understanding of teen development and learn strategies for working with teens.</p> <p>Parents/guardians can enter Project Safe via phone consultation or workshops.</p> <p><u>Implementation:</u> Project Safe would hire and train the therapist and provide therapy and administrative services. King County providers and Project Safe would work together to plan how to best refer appropriate families and make local referrals for action plans.</p>	<p>Reconciliation often provides the <i>best outcomes for youth.</i></p> <p><i>Cost effective at \$700-800 a family,</i> compared to an annual cost of \$20,000 for transitional housing with services</p> <p>Project Safe reports <i>promising outcomes.</i></p> <p>If the Becca Bill provisions are changed to 72 hour notification, more youth may head to shelters and the need for reconciliation services may increase.</p> <p><i>Can be implemented quickly.</i> Project Safe has begun a pilot project in Walla Walla County and is interested in serving additional communities.</p> <p>Project Safe has been recognized by the National Alliance to End Homelessness as a <i>best practice for ending teen homelessness.</i></p> <p>There are <i>few family reconciliation services in King County</i> except those provided by the Department of Social and Health Services (for which many families do not qualify and would not choose to use).</p>	<p>2008-2009 clients served:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 278 phone consultations (14% in Spanish). • 54% reported as low income. • 20% living with a disability <p>Outcomes 2008-2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those parents directly referred from Cocoon’s emergency shelter, ~90% of teens avoided shelter stay. <p>Of parents demonstrating change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% reported increase in hope • 80% reported decrease in frustration • 63% reported decrease in perception that teen will leave home • 90% showed decrease in stress • ~ 100% engaging in follow-up call report progress with their action plan <p>Results of a program evaluation demonstrated that families engaged in more teen-focused treatment, family focused treatment, and adult self-care. At the post test (from 6 months to 3 years), teens were engaged in less risky behaviors at a statistically significant level.</p>	<p>Cost per family: \$686-\$824</p> <p>.5 FTE therapist: \$31,131</p> <p>Mileage: \$3,000</p> <p>Team meetings/clinical supervisions/trainings: \$4,869</p> <p>Outreach materials: \$1,000</p> <p>5 psychodynamic workshops (20 participants each): \$1,200</p> <p>Total annual cost: \$41,200</p>	<p>Serve 50-60 King County families with young people at risk of becoming homeless.</p> <p>Services would focus on minors but families with young adults could also participate if appropriate.</p>	<p>Providers working with minors and young adults who are homeless</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Juvenile Justice services</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Libraries</p> <p>DSHS</p>

Priority #3 Investment Details for Years 1-2	Rationale for Investment Now	Service Statistics	Estimated Cost	Additional Young People Served	Who needs to be involved
<p><u>Expand housing options through existing options and funding streams.</u> Use rent subsidies from housing authorities, subsidized housing, low-income housing, semi-supervised apartments (also known as scattered-site apartments), and other existing options to expand housing for homeless young adults and some older teens. Tap into a mix of funding streams by working with other systems.</p> <p>Over a 20 year period, Lighthouse Youth Services, a nonprofit agency in Cincinnati, Ohio, has demonstrated that youth and young adults with many risk factors can live successfully in individual apartments.³² Many in Cincinnati thought this approach was unwise, fraught with liability issues, and adolescent chaos. That has not proven to be the case. Below are two related investments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Immediate new beds.</u> King County Housing Authority has resources to provide non-time limited apartment housing for an additional 15 young adults in South King County, as an expansion of a recent project among Valley Cities, Kent Youth & Family Services and Auburn Youth Resources. The latter two provide the services side of the project, which houses 15 young adults with a variety of challenges. Seattle Housing Authority could have similar resources available. <u>Uncovering new resources.</u> Nonprofits serving homeless youth and young adults in other parts of the country may have higher levels of capacity to maximize all available housing resources and funding streams. King County could benefit from training and technical assistance from the Lighthouse Training Institute to further expand housing options using existing resources and provide expert guidance about the mix and configuration for expansion. 	<p>There is a <i>lack of longer-term housing options</i> for young adults throughout the county.</p> <p>The lack of longer-term housing options for young adults and some older teens <i>reduces the effectiveness of other services</i> they receive.</p> <p><i>Resources are scarce to produce new longer-term units</i> for young adults so new options need to be explored.</p> <p>Building or buying and operating group homes or a complex of apartments is very expensive and faces political and neighborhood opposition.</p> <p>Lighthouse believes that many <i>young people in individual apartments progress as well or better than youth in more structured settings</i> because this is the best way to help them develop survival skills from an internal locus of control in a short period of time. They don't have time to grow up as youth from typical families do.</p> <p>Many <i>youth will reject housing options with too much structure and control</i> and lack of personal space.</p> <p>Young people can choose a location that is convenient and appropriate for them.</p> <p>Lighthouse has served as a model program for communities around the United States. <i>King County can save time, money and stakeholder burnout by benefiting from expert advice.</i></p>	<p>A study of 455 dependent foster youth and delinquent youth who entered the Lighthouse Independent Living Program during 2001-2006 showed promising results.³³</p> <p>On average, clients were admitted shortly before their 18th birthdays and remained in the program for just under ten months. 70% belonged to a racial or ethnic minority, mostly (64%) African-American.</p> <p>At discharge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% completed high school/GED • 31% were employed • 33% were independently housed <p>Clients entering the program at ages 19-20 years showed significantly better outcomes than young clients.</p> <p>Longer stays appear to be related to improved outcomes in employment and independent housing.³⁴</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To provide services for 15 additional apartments in South King County with rental cost paid by the King County Housing Authority <p>Estimated \$10,000 per apartment per year for services = \$150,000 annual cost</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> \$20,000 for consultation, training and technical assistance to expand minor and young adult housing options and related funding streams.³⁵ <p>For technical assistance from Mark Kroner of Lighthouse Training Institute</p>	<p>15 young adults ready to be housed who need substantial services but are capable of living in market housing</p> <p>Until the expert consultation occurs, it is not possible to estimate the number of additional housing options that can be created.</p>	<p>Providers working with minors and young adults who are homeless</p> <p>Juvenile justice services</p> <p>DSHS</p> <p>Stake-holders for learning about housing and funding options</p>

³² Kroner, Mark J. (2007). The role of housing in the transition process of youth and young adults: a twenty-year perspective. New Directions for Youth Development, No. 113, Spring 2007. Published online in Wiley InterScience (www.interscience.wiley.com). DOI 10_1002/yd.201

³³ Kroner, Mark J. and Alvin S. Mares (2009). Lighthouse independent living program: characteristics of youth served and their outcomes at discharge. Children and Youth Services Review 1: 563-571; found at www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth

³⁴ Mark Kroner is working on a 5-year study which preliminarily shows that 55% of "graduates" had permanent housing and showed better results overall than young adults served until age 21.

³⁵ Lighthouse and other advocates were able to change the Ohio state codes to allow scattered sites to be considered a legitimate part of the child welfare system and to license agencies to provide services and monitor youth, rather than preapproving every apartment. Juvenile court personnel had to let go of many controls and disciplinary procedures to allow individual apartment placements. Those steps allowed use of funding streams from those systems to support the range of monitoring and supervision needed.

Priority #4 Investment Details for Years 1-2	Rationale for Investment Now	Service Statistics	Estimated Cost	Additional Young People Served	Who needs to be involved
<p><u>Expand access to basic needs by removing legal barriers.</u> Provide an attorney knowledgeable about legal issues young homeless people face including domestic violence, emancipation and dependency, sealing juvenile records to secure housing and employment, restoring stolen identities, resolving issues with Child Protective Services, securing public benefits, and helping with lease reviews and parenting plans.</p> <p>Street Youth Legal Advocates of Washington (SYLAW). SYLAW is the only agency in Washington State that currently provides direct civil legal representation and assistance specifically for homeless young people ages 13-25. The civil legal issues facing homeless youth are varied: youth may seek emancipation or protection orders in order to escape from abusive families, and they may also need legal assistance with evictions, debt, or public benefits.</p> <p>Current services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing five legal drop-in sites each week at various locations in the U District, Capitol Hill and downtown Seattle to provide legal information and referrals to youth on a variety of matters including housing law, family law, public benefits issues, and warrants. Staffing two Juvenile Record Sealing Clinics each month (one in King County) to help young people seal their juvenile criminal records, which often act as a barrier to housing and stable employment years after these former offenders have paid their debt to society. Providing community presentations: to girls in juvenile detention through Powerful Voices, to homeless youth at the Orion Center, and to foster youth at the Mockingbird Society. 	<p>SYLAW is the <i>lone agency providing direct civil legal representation and assistance specifically for homeless young people ages 13-25</i> in King County.</p> <p>SYLAW services are <i>tailored to the developmental needs of young adults</i> who need legal assistance or representation in order to exit homelessness but may be confused or distrusting. Without legal assistance, those young people would remain on the street.</p> <p>SYLAW is <i>poised to expand its services into east and south King County in the fall of 2010.</i></p> <p>This <i>expansion can leverage an Americorp grant</i>, if a matching grant is made by June 2010. The expansion would almost double SYLAW's capacity to serve young homeless people.</p>	<p>People served (2009)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided legal information and referrals to 138 young people Helped 64 young people seal their juvenile records Provided legal representation for 49 young people. Of those, 19 are no longer homeless/in immediate danger of losing their housing. <p>Demographics of clients (2009)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30% under 18 years old (only one with a legal guardian) Half have at least one child. Of those, six are under 18 Youngest parent is 13 75% female 15% identify as GLBTQ 30% have more than one distinct legal issue <p>Types of cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 family law cases 10 emancipation cases 6 domestic violence protection orders 4 housing issues 3 public benefit disputes 3 credit/debt issues 	<p>By June 2010: \$30,000 to SYLAW (\$23,600 matching grant with Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps to hire attorney to serve South and East King County + \$6,400 for part-time administrative support).</p> <p>Leverage: Strong volunteer base of 10 pro bono attorneys and 40 volunteer law students.</p> <p>Cost per client: Varies by service. \$280-\$1,400 per client.³⁶</p> <p>Current funders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thomas V. Giddens Jr. Foundation Make The Dash Count Foundation Cooper-Levy Trust Norcliffe Foundation OneFamily Foundation The Seattle Foundation Fales Foundation Jeffris Wood Foundation Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (GJJAC) 	<p>Expected to serve an additional 150-155 young people. In detail:</p> <p>Expected to serve an additional 30-50 young people ages 13-25 in need of civil legal services to help them obtain or maintain a safe and secure living environment, educational or work opportunities. Poised to expand legal services to cover South and East King County.</p> <p>Expected to serve an additional 20-30 people in need of record sealing services to help them secure housing and employment.</p> <p>Expected to serve an additional 50-75 young people ages 13-25 at presentations on self-sufficiency, self-advocacy, and knowing their rights.</p>	<p>SYLAW</p> <p>Possible Partners in East or South King County:</p> <p>Youth Eastside Services</p> <p>Auburn Youth Resources</p> <p>Friends of Youth</p> <p>Renton Area Youth and Family Services</p> <p>Kent Youth & Family Services</p>

³⁶ SYLAW is able to help some clients with as little as 10-15 hours of legal work for emancipations, domestic violence protection orders, and writing a demand letter and negotiating a settlement in a housing or consumer law case. Family law cases and consumer, housing and other cases that require more extensive legal research and more than one court hearing can require 50+ hours of legal work for a client.

Priority # 5 Investment Details for Years 1-2	Rationale for Investment Now	Service Statistics	Estimated Cost	Additional Young People Served	Who needs to be involved
<p><u>Expand existing education and employment training programs.</u> These programs are aimed at young people without work experience in unstable living environments. Existing programs and apprenticeships could be expanded to serve more youth.</p> <p>YouthSource offers education and employment programs for youth and young adults ages 16 to 21. YouthSource programs focus on education, employment, and leadership development. They also provide connections to youth programs, community resources for life stabilization, job readiness and placement services, and case management.³⁷</p> <p>Education: YouthSource offers students who have not finished high school the opportunity to learn in a nontraditional setting. In partnership with Renton Technical College, services focus on assisting youth in attaining a GED.</p> <p>Employment: YouthSource employment activities occur along with academic work and include career exploration, and job search, placement, retention, and subsidized wages.</p> <p>Leadership: YouthSource encourages students to develop themselves positively through community/service learning, interpersonal skill development, justice committee/advocacy work, life skills training, public speaking presentations, and a student council.</p>	<p>Education and employment are <i>critical to establishing and sustaining the self-sufficiency</i> of young people exiting homelessness. YouthSource provides them simultaneously.</p> <p>Youth Source <i>provides paid internships for a year</i> (rather than 10 week internships) so that young people can gain work experience and build resumes</p> <p>Youth Source has a strong presence in south King County.</p> <p><i>Could expand services immediately.</i> Infrastructure in place to expand existing program upon receipt of additional funding.</p>	<p>Waitlist of over 100 young people as of March 2010.</p> <p>97% of young people served had dropped out of high school and are now earning a GED.</p> <p>About 2/3 of participants have unstable housing (couch surfing, staying temporarily with a relative, or on the street)</p> <p>Participants served in 2009:</p> <p>567 Enrolled 470 Received Diploma/GED 183 Exited into unsubsidized employment 287 Exited into post secondary/advanced training</p> <p>Average length of participation: 18 months.</p> <p>YouthSource refers ESL students to the Renton Technical College Adult Basic Education Program.</p>	<p>Total: \$120,800 (\$4,832 per participant per year)</p> <p>\$7,500 services (\$300/student: food, clothing, bus tokens, etc.) for participants</p> <p>\$51,300 subsidized wages for participants placed in jobs (up to 240 hours per participant at \$8.55 per hour)</p> <p>\$62,000 one case manager with benefits</p> <p>Instructor for education component included.</p> <p>Funders³⁸: Seattle-King County Workforce Development Council Department of Labor King County Department of Community and Human Services</p>	<p>Serve 25 homeless young people ages 16-21 with education and employment services throughout King County.</p> <p>Client proportion: 40% ages 16-17 60% ages 18-21</p> <p>Future expansion would require an additional caseworker to serve an additional 25 participants and potentially an additional instructor for the education component.</p> <p>Outreach would include identifying people on waiting list who are homeless and taking referrals from agencies serving homeless minors and young adults.</p>	<p>Providers serving young people ages 16-21 seeking employment and GED completion</p> <p>King County Housing Authority</p> <p>Seattle Housing Authority</p> <p>Department of Social and Human Services</p>

³⁷ Youth Source case managers provide help with education, employment, and leadership needs. For young people who are homeless and need mental health treatment, chemical dependency, or housing assistance, the original provider who referred that young person to YouthSource would manage that young person's needs.

³⁸ YouthSource is a King County program rather than a non-profit organization. The Metrocenter at the YMCA offers a Youth Employment and Training program where young people work with an employment specialist to explore career options, set employment goals and design a training and education plan. YouthSource is recommended because education and employment are very closely linked and the paid job placements are available for a year.

Recommendations to Assess Now and Consider for Investment Later

Priority # 5: Evaluate outcomes of all services for homeless young people.

Coordinated outcome planning and tracking for all service types is needed to assess effectiveness and make adjustments.

Focus: Agencies and funders serving homeless minors and young adults.

Rationale: Many providers have multiple funding sources and are being asked to collect different forms of outcome data for each of them. It is currently impossible to review outcomes for the system as a whole on any type of consistent basis. This inconsistency makes decisions about planning and funding difficult to make. In order to seek additional funding within the Committee to End Homelessness and from other private funders, it may be necessary for stakeholders to present an in-depth system assessment and future planning based on solid outcome data.

Proposed approaches

- Coordinate with evaluation being funded by the Raynier Foundation for its large grants to YouthCare and ROOTS.
- Convene major funders and explore interest in joint funding, planning and implementation of an outcome evaluation of both specific programs and the effectiveness of links and coordination among providers.
- Standardize outcome measurements currently required by the United Way of King County and the City of Seattle.

Priority # 7: Assess need for shelter.

Investment in family reconciliation and low barrier housing may reduce need for additional emergency shelter beds. Carefully explore need, space availability, and cost for both the minor and young adult populations.

Focus: Agencies providing emergency shelter beds for minors and/or young adults.

Rationale:

- Several emergency shelter and very low barrier beds have recently been created in King County. It is important to assess if this increased capacity is adequate before creating more beds. However, some beds have been lost to the recovery center for prostituted youth.
- Research indicates that 75 percent of minors return home within a few days and 85 percent return home within a week. Although incomplete, available local data on unduplicated turnaways from shelters serving young people indicate an average of 3-6 young people turned away per night. If increased outreach, engagement, and family reconciliation services are funded, and more young people return home to their families, there could be a decrease in the need for shelter beds.
- National data and initiatives cite transitional housing, rather than shelter beds, as the priority investment areas for decreasing homelessness among young people. Specifically, the campaign to end youth homelessness by housing 50,000 homeless youth, led by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, does not include emergency shelter in its targeted housing solutions.
- If the changes to the Becca Bill are enacted by the Legislature (allowing a 72 hour shelter stay for minors), this may change the need for shelter beds for minors. A more detailed assessment of how this change affects the system is necessary before making investments.
- Among key informants from King County, outreach and transitional housing paired with services typically outranked providing more emergency shelter beds as priority strategies.

Proposed Approaches

- Stakeholders could review the effectiveness of other strategies and reassess the need for shelter beds.
- If Mark Kroner of Lighthouse is engaged to help stakeholders in King County look at the overall existing array of services and housing options for minors and young adults, recommendations may emerge about new ways to look at housing and shelter approaches.
- South King County could benefit from mobile, decentralized outreach to bring young people to shelter. East King County could benefit from creating a drop in shelter.

Priority #8: Connect homeless minors and young adults to funding streams and services for families and adults.

These services and systems include the adult homeless system, job training, adult mental health and substance abuse systems, health care, low-income housing, financial education, public benefits, and others.

Focus: Young adults who are homeless

Rationale: Young people ages 18 to 25 are considered young adults for purposes of the youth and young adult homeless systems. However, people of this age group represent about 80 percent of the people served by the PRO-Youth case management system (ages 15-22), and represent about 84 percent of the people under age 18 and ages 18 to 25 served by Health Care for the Homeless over the past three years. This means that the youth and young adult homeless system, which does not receive funding from the adult homeless system, is primarily serving people who are legally adults.

A priority should be placed on culturally and developmentally appropriate services for programs that serve young adults within the wider adult service arena so that funding streams are more strategically matched.

Proposed approaches

- Immediately contact King County Community Services Division, which is staffing a process funded by the Gates Foundation for King County, to develop a plan to serve homeless families (especially those headed by young parents). Help King County address prevention. Acknowledge how strategies to reduce youth homelessness could also reduce family homelessness.
- Require adult homelessness organizations to provide developmentally appropriate services to young adults ages 18-25 and protect them from victimization. Staff currently serving the 18-25 age group could provide training and consultation. Adult homeless organizations could hire staff with expertise serving the younger population or arrange part of their premises to provide services to young adults in a protected way.
- Refer pregnant and parenting minors and young adults to the family homelessness system if funds are not sufficient to serve them in the youth and young adult homelessness system.
- Develop relationships with other systems serving adults (housing authorities, mental health, health care, job training, etc.) to determine how those systems can make their services accessible and inviting to minors and young adults.

Priority #9: Advocate for policies to proactively house young people whether connected to or disconnected from other systems.

Proactively arrange housing and services for young adults leaving the foster care and juvenile justice systems as well as young people without previous involvement with any state systems. Progress in this area requires extensive coordination and system change.

Focus: Minors would be the primary focus of this strategy, although it would also benefit young adults who are 18 when they leave a juvenile detention facility or services related to foster care.

Rationale: The Juvenile Justice system and Children's Administration within the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services have custody of some minors and young adults who will become homeless immediately or soon after they leave state custody. Those systems should be preparing young people for the transition out of state custody, seeking family reunification where possible, and developing a solid housing plan for young people leaving their systems. Adequate preparation would reduce the burden on the scarce resources for homeless minors and young adults.

For young people who have not been involved in any government systems, schools, faith communities, and other natural support systems would benefit from an education about warning signs and where to call for help.

Proposed approaches

- Attend and encourage other organizations involved in youth and young adult homelessness to attend a symposium on youth involved in multiple systems on May 26, 2010.
- Join Uniting for Youth (former the King County Systems Integration Initiative). This group is a consortium of state and local, public and private-serving agencies that have come together to examine and improve the coordination and integration of services for youth involved in the juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health, education, and other youth-serving systems. This consortium might be a good setting in which to learn more about the DCFS units that address allegations of abuse or neglect among adolescents and how those cases are handled. Some of the participating agencies have indicated a willingness to have an organization representing minor and young adult homelessness join the consortium.
- Provide funding to and support the legislative agendas of advocacy groups, such as the Mockingbird Society, Children's Home Society, and others who advocate for improvements in services and funding for at-risk young people.
- Learn about successful models and creative uses of funding in other states. Casey Family Programs may be able to identify models and help develop strategies to use in King County.

Acknowledgments, Interviewees, and Documents Reviewed

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Key Informants Interviewed

- Eric Anderson, Human Services Department, City of Seattle
- Bill Block, Project Director, Committee to End Homelessness
- Gina Breukelman, Community Investor, Health and Human Services, The Boeing Company
- Joan Campbell, Executive Director, Friends of Youth
- Troy Carter, Executive Director, Sanctuary Art Center
- Lorri Cox, Systems Manager, Chronic Homeless Care, Health Care for the Homeless Network
- Kristine Cunningham, Acting Executive Director, Rising Out of the Shadows (ROOTS)
- Marci Curtin, Human Services Department, City of Seattle
- George Dignan, Work Training Program, King County Department of Community and Human Services, Community Services Division
- Nancy Fairbanks, Director of Prevention Services, Cocoon House
- Debora Gay, Veterans and Community Services, King County Department of Community and Human Services, Community Services Division
- Melinda Giovengo, Executive Director, YouthCare
- Sandy Hart, Department of Social and Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services
- Jeff Hauser, Executive Director, The Raynier Institute and Foundation
- Michael Heinisch, Executive Director, Kent Youth and Family Services
- Jason Johnson, Housing and Human Services Planner, City of Kent
- Grace Kong, Program Manager, YouthSource
- Mark Kroner, Consultant, Lighthouse Training Institute
- Annie Lee, Executive Director, TeamChild
- Lyman Legters, Senior Director, Casey Family Programs
- Pat Lemus, Assistant Division Director, King County Department of Community and Human Services, Community Services Division
- Katie Meyer, Executive Director, Street Youth Legal Advocates of Washington
- Stephen Norman, Executive Director, King County Housing Authority
- Linda Peterson, Director, King County Department of Community and Human Services, Community Services Division
- Terry Pottmeyer, Chief of Program Operations, Friends of Youth
- Brooke Scharnke, Housing Director, Young Adult Services, YMCA
- Lee Selah, Department of Social and Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services
- Elaine Simons, Executive Director, Peace for the Street by Kids from the Streets
- Jennifer Teunon, Program Officer, The Medina Foundation
- Jim Theofelis, Executive Director, The Mockingbird Society
- Ken Thompson, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Sean Walsh, Director, Young Adult Services, YMCA
- David Wertheimer, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
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United Way of King County

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- Lauren McGowan
- David Okimoto
- Neil Powers
- Mary Shaw
- Derek Wentorf
- Kari Hill, Volunteer

Heliotrope Consulting Team

- Nancy Ashley
- Lisa Kagan

Youth Voice

Heliotrope would like to thank the members of the University District Service Providers Alliance Youth Council for sharing their insights and suggestions for better serving young people on the street.

Other sources for youth and young adult voice reviewed include:

- Consumer Advisory Council, Youth and Young Adult Focus Group Notes (2008)
- Donut Dialogue Notes (2009)
- Homeless Youth Summit Summary (2006)
- Needs Evaluation of Street Teens: Seattle, Washington (2000)
- PRO Youth Directors Focus Group; Seattle PRO Youth Focus Group, Auburn Youth Resource Youth Focus Group, Friends of Youth PRO Youth Focus Group (2007)
- South King County Young Adult Housing Planning Committee Young Adult Housing Survey (2007)

A Sampling of Documents Reviewed

- 2008 Annual One Night Count of People who are Homeless in King County, WA (2008)
- A National Approach to Meeting the Needs of LGBTQ Homeless Youth (2009)
- A Plan to End Young Adult Homelessness in King County (2008)
- A Roof Over Every Bed in King County: Our Community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness (2005)
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program. New Funding for Homeless Youth Services and Housing. Guide to Community Planners and Youth Advocates (2009)
- Back on Track: Supporting Youth Reentry from Out-of-Home Placement to the Community(2009)
- Campaign to End Chronic Homelessness (2008)
- Connected by 25: Financing Housing Supports for Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care (2009)
- Creating Solutions to End Youth Homelessness: Federal Policy Campaign to House 50,000 Youth (2010)
- East King County Plan to End Homelessness (2007)
- Ending Family Homelessness through Improved Systems and Stronger Organizations (2008)
- Ending Youth Homelessness Before It Begins: Prevention and Early Intervention Services for Older Adolescents (retrieved 2010)
- Evaluation of Continuums of Care For Homeless People (2002)
- Evaluation of the Downtown Portland Homeless Youth Service Continuum (2001)
- Federal Funding for Youth Housing Programs (2006)
- Foster Youth Transitions to Independence: Options to Improve Program Efficiencies (2010)

- Framing New Policy for Youth Housing: Going to Scale to Meet National Demand (Retrieved 2010)
- Homeless Youth in the United States: Recent Research Findings and Intervention Approaches (2007)
- Homeless Youth National Coalition for the Homeless Fact Sheet #13 (2008)
- Homeless Youth: Research, Intervention, and Policy (1998)
- Housing for Homeless Youth (Retrieved 2010)
- Interagency Council of the Committee to End Homelessness Presentation: A Community Model to End Youth Homelessness (Retrieved 2010)
- Inventory of Homeless Units and Beds: Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and Safe Havens for Persons who are Homeless (2009)
- King County Committee to End Homelessness Coordinated Entry for Housing and Homeless Services (2007)
- King County Consortium 2010 Action Plan: One Year Use of Federal Housing and Community Development Funds (2009)
- Lighthouse independent living program: Characteristics of Youth Served and their Outcomes at Discharge (2008)
- Mapping Homeless Youth Housing by Design and Function: Creating a Continuum of Youth Housing- The Lighthouse Youth Services Transition System of Care (Retrieved 2010)
- Meeting the Health Care Needs of Homeless Youth Through Strategic Partnerships (Retrieved 2010)
- National Network for Youth Unaccompanied Youth Overview (Retrieved 2010)
- National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning Information Packet: Runaway and Homeless Youth (2002)
- New Avenues for Youth: Economic Benefits of Helping Homeless Youth (Retrieved 2010)
- Oregon's Homeless Youth (2006)
- Perceptions and Experiences of Homeless Youth Vary by Race, UCSF Study Shows (2009)
- PRO Youth HUD Annual Progress Report Summary 2007-2009 (2010)
- Report to Congress on the Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs of the Family and Youth Services Bureau for Fiscal Years 2006-2007 (Retrieved 2010)
- South King County Response to Homelessness: A Call for Action (2008)
- Strengthening at Risk Homeless Young Mothers and Children Evaluation Report (2008)
- The Color of Homelessness: Why Persons of Color Are Overrepresented Among Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Users in King County & What the Committee to End Homelessness in King County Can Do To Reduce This Problem (2006)
- The Role of Housing in the Transition Process of Youth and Young Adults: A Twenty-Year Perspective (2007)
- Toolkit for Ending Homelessness Featuring the Ten Essentials for Ending Homelessness in Your Community (2003)
- United Way of King County Homeless Youth Initiative (2009)
- What Child Welfare Advocates Can Do for Unaccompanied Youth (2008)
- Who Pays the Price? Assessment of Youth Involvement in Prostitution in Seattle (2008)

Heliotrope also reviewed service data supplied by local providers, PRO Youth, United Way of King County, and the federal Runaway Homeless Youth Management Information System.

Appendix A: King County Plans and Priorities: Where minors and young adults fit

Elements from each plan that correspond to recommendations in this document are highlighted below.

Plans for King County	Campaign to End Chronic Homelessness	Ending Family Homelessness Through Improved Systems and Stronger Organizations	A Roof Over Every Bed in King County: Our Community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness	A Plan to End Young Adult Homelessness in King County	United Way of King County Homeless Youth Initiative	South King County Response to Homelessness: A Call for Action	East King County Plan to End Homelessness
Publication Date	June 2008	March 2008	March 2005	May 2008	2009	January 2008	September 2007
Guided by	United Way of King County	Sound Families Initiative Steering Committee	Committee to End Homelessness in King County	Youth and Young Adult sub-committees of Committee to End Homelessness in King County (CEHKC) and Seattle-King County Coalition for the Homeless (SKCCH)	United Way of King County	Members of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County, local service providers, and city government	Eastside Human Services Forum and Eastside Homelessness Committee
Populations addressed	Individuals who are mentally ill, chemically addicted, and the highest users of emergency services in King County	Homeless families in Washington state	Single adults, families, youth and young adults in King County	Young adults (ages 18-25) in King County	Youth (ages 13-17) in King County who are on their own and without safe, stable housing	All populations at risk or currently homeless in South King County	Single adults, families, survivors of domestic violence, youth and young adults in east King County
Estimates of Homeless Young People	Does not distinguish unaccompanied minors from minors in families or young adults from the general adult population. For planning purposes the initiative assumes 2,500 individuals are chronically homeless in King County per night. ³⁹	20,000 families each year in Washington. Does not distinguish families headed by minors or young adults.	Each night in King County: 420 youth and young adults up to age 24 2,475 people in families 5,105 single adults	At least 1,013 homeless young adults at a given time in King County.	In King County, up to an estimated 1,000 unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 are homeless each year, while approximately 1,000 young adults, between the ages of 18 and 25, experience homelessness. ⁴⁰	Does not distinguish young adults from general adult population. Single men numbered 3 times single women; many single individuals were chronically homeless. Few unaccompanied youth identified.	No estimates of youth or young adults. Local east King County provider estimates annually serving 200 unduplicated young adults in shelter, 25-30 youth and young adults through outreach, and 32 youth and young adults through transitional housing.

³⁹ "A person with chronic homelessness is typically defined as an individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. People with untreated mental illness or substance abuse and veterans with untreated post traumatic stress disorder often struggle with homelessness." Retrieved March 5, 2010. <http://www.cehkc.org/scope/FAQhomelessness.aspx#4>

⁴⁰ Putman, M. A Plan to End Youth Homelessness in King County, 2008.

Plans for King County	Campaign to End Chronic Homelessness	Ending Family Homelessness Through Improved Systems and Stronger Organizations	A Roof Over Every Bed in King County: Our Community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness	A Plan to End Young Adult Homelessness in King County	United Way of King County Homeless Youth Initiative	South King County Response to Homelessness: A Call for Action	East King County Plan to End Homelessness
Priorities	<p>Three key strategy areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the capacity of the homeless housing system. Provide services so people can retain their housing. Increase resources and public support to end chronic homelessness. <p>Activities to support the initiative:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of housing units available through expanded development capacity, increase in the number of experienced organizations to develop and manage the permanent supportive housing units, improved utilization of leasing and placement into existing housing, and a significant increase in the amount of development sites available for production. Improve the identification of the individuals to be housed through county-wide sharing of clinical information across systems such as criminal justice, emergency health care or other crisis services. Implement coordinated entry approach to reduce barriers to housing 	<p>Recommended system changes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Focus new effort and resources on preventing families from becoming homeless Develop a coordinated-entry process with common screening and assessment tools Develop standardized case management models and provide training and technical assistance to providers Support broader community efforts to end homelessness Improve connections between housing and workforce development systems Use Sound Families evaluation results and systems learning to influence homeless family funding allocations and policies at the local, state, and federal levels Improve the capacity of state and local systems to monitor and manage the impact of significant fluctuations in the 	<p>Prevention Strategies for Youth/Young Adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase understanding about youth/young adult homelessness through a multi-pronged initiative Partner with foster care system to: minimize multiple placements; extend foster care for some youth to age 21; and enhance supports to successfully transition from foster care to independent living. Prevent homelessness among youth/young adults through: family preservation and reconciliation services; ensuring culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate services during times of crisis; supporting quick family reunification where appropriate and possible; ensuring that housing plans are developed for youth and young adults exiting juvenile detention and jails <p>Legislative and Regulatory Changes Related to Youth/Young Adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for legislative and regulatory changes at the state and federal level that will enhance the safety, well-being, and 	<p>Priorities for funding: All housing and shelter recommendations include developmentally and ethnically appropriate, community-based, support services to build skills, motivate, and lead young adults to self-sufficiency.</p> <p>East/North King County Regional Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scattered-site, stable, non-time-limited housing for 12 homeless young adults, Emergency shelter for 20 homeless young adults, with drop-in center <p>Seattle Regional Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scattered-site, non-time-limited stable housing for 25 homeless young adults, Interim housing for 30 	<p>Strategies to support an effective continuum of care for homeless youth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Engage youth in services through relationship building, harm reduction and attention to their perspective. Provide safety and assist youth in managing crises through provision of low-barrier shelter. Provide stabilization through provision of wraparound services including mental health and chemical dependency treatment and life skills development and access to long term housing. Provide access to educational attainment and exposure to employment opportunities. 	<p>Strategic Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the political and community will to prevent and end homelessness. Prevent homelessness by supporting local and regional plans to provide and maintain subsidized and private sector housing affordable to households with incomes below 30% of area median. Build on existing promising programs in South King County to provide for the unique needs of all cities in South County. Provide services and support to prevent homelessness, rapidly re-house those who have lost their housing and increase permanent supportive housing resources to prevent and end chronic homelessness. Create and maintain sufficient shelter and transitional capacity to meet the short-term needs of homeless individuals 	<p>Youth and Young Adult Needs:</p> <p>Prevention services for youth and young adults should include family preservation and reconciliation services, and collaboration with foster care, mental health, juvenile detention, jail, and chemical dependency systems.</p> <p>A full-time drop-in center with capacity for shelter, mental health and substance abuse treatment, health care, education, and employment training.</p> <p>Housing: 12 transitional units split evenly between youth and young adults and 44 permanent units.</p>

Plans for King County	Campaign to End Chronic Homelessness	Ending Family Homelessness Through Improved Systems and Stronger Organizations	A Roof Over Every Bed in King County: Our Community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness	A Plan to End Young Adult Homelessness in King County	United Way of King County Homeless Youth Initiative	South King County Response to Homelessness: A Call for Action	East King County Plan to End Homelessness
	<p>placement and support chronic ally homelessness as they enter housing and services. Help housing providers offer housing and keep individuals housed. Once housed, the system will prevent an individual from returning to homelessness through easy access to supportive services.</p> <p>4. Build in ongoing system evaluation to monitor progress and make strategic adjustments.</p>	<p>regional economy that impact the supply of affordable housing, access to support services, and family self-sufficiency.</p> <p>Sustaining the programs funded through the Sound Families Initiative</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide direct support to grantee agencies to ensure program stability and effectiveness 2. Initiate system-level improvements with public housing authority partners 3. Improve existing public funding systems 	<p>self-sufficiency of youth/young adults who are homeless: increase access to homeless services, including shelter, for those under 18; change the notification requirement under the Becca Bill to 72 hours; remove barriers in federal regulations that limit youth's access to successful housing and job training programs.</p> <p>Housing and Related Service Strategies for Youth/Young Adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create sub-regional centers and offer low-barrier access to outreach, engagement, case management, education, job training, hygiene facilities, drop-in centers, overnight shelters, and referrals to long-term housing. • Provide support services to promote success in housing, including: mental health and substance use treatment, basic life skills development, job training, case management, legal representation and advocacy, and access to medical care. • Develop dormitory-style 	<p>homeless young adults awaiting entry into transitional or non-time-limited stable housing, including short-term housing assistance</p> <p>South King County Regional Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered-site, non-time-limited stable housing for 30 homeless young adults, with sites in multiple cities. 		<p>and families.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Prevent homelessness by supporting local and regional plans to provide and maintain a diversity of non-subsidized market housing affordable to households with incomes at 120% of AMI and below. 7. Support and identify ways to partner with local and regional initiatives to prevent and end homelessness. 8. Prevent homelessness by supporting local and regional plans to create and expand job training, job supports, and living wage jobs so that South King County employees are able to maintain their housing. 	

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			<p>housing connected to vocational training and community colleges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase housing opportunities for youth whose criminal history includes felonies and sexual offenses. • Increase youth-oriented emergency resources for young men ages 18 – 21. • Increase legal representation for young people engaged in juvenile court proceedings including case management and advocacy resources for youth in family court issues, ARY and CHINS petitions and processes. • Develop realistic accountability standards & outcomes, considering need to work with some youth for long periods of time and allow for flexibility in housing models, and develop age-appropriate outcomes specific to youth under 18 and for those over 18. 				