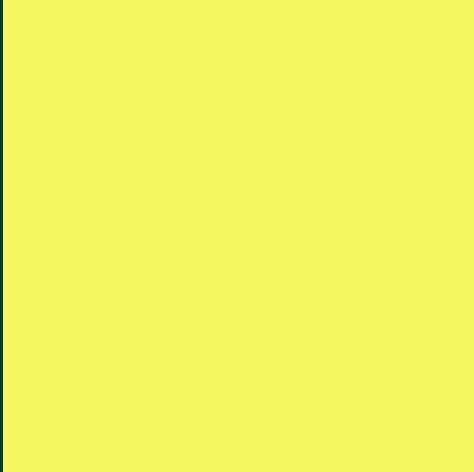
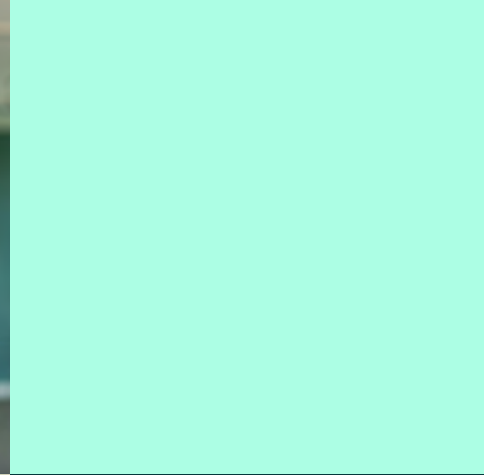




WA ACCELERATION FUND:

Ending Youth Homelessness *Together*

2026

We've Proven What Works. Now We Accelerate What's Possible.

IN JUST A FEW YEARS, Washington state has reduced youth homelessness by 40%. That is 10,000 more young people sleeping safely each night in our state.

Washington has made incredible progress not because of one institution or program, but because something bigger is taking shape: a system built on public-private partnerships, on data, and by listening to young people and acting on their insights.

Together, we've ensured 10,000 more young people have stability, safety, and future opportunities back within reach. However, there are thousands more young people between the ages of 12-24 who are still facing instability, sleeping on couches, in cars, or in shelters.

The WA Acceleration Fund was created to build on strategies that are already working to reduce youth homelessness and accelerate their impact to transform the lives of more young people.

Ending youth homelessness in our state is no longer a question of possibility. It is a question of how fast we choose to get there.

We are committed to raising \$15 million over the next three years to keep this momentum strong and work together to end youth homelessness.

We choose to accelerate. Join us!



Impact to date

40%

reduction in youth homelessness — documented statewide over six years

10,000

more young people sleeping safely every night across Washington state

26%

fewer young people exiting foster care, justice, and behavioral health systems into homelessness

34%

increase in on-time graduation rates for students experiencing homelessness

93%

remain safely housed one year after receiving a flexible funding grant through the Homeless Prevention and Diversion Fund (HPDF)

We Understand the Problem

Approximately 13,000 young people ages 12–24 experience homelessness in Washington state over the course of a year. Nationally, an estimated 4.2 million young people face homelessness each year. The reasons young people experience homelessness are as varied as their stories, but often the causes fall into recognizable patterns, most of which are beyond their control:

Family Crisis

Many young people grow up in families already stretched to the breaking point by poverty, addiction, or mental health crises. When a crisis strikes, they have no safety net.

Aging Out of Systems

Government systems were never designed with this age group in mind, so young people frequently fall through the gaps. Notably, 28% of the young people exiting foster care, juvenile justice, or behavioral health programs do so without a plan or housing support.

Family Rejection

For far too many young people—especially LGBTQ+ youth, who represent one in ten of Washington’s homeless youth—homelessness begins when their family turns them away because of who they are.

Systemic Inequity

Half of youth accessing Washington’s homelessness response system are people of color, a direct reflection of historic and ongoing barriers to housing stability.

About half of people experiencing homelessness first experienced it as a young person. By addressing youth homelessness, we can prevent adult homelessness.

Demographics

50% of the youth and young adults who accessed the homelessness system in 2022 were Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)

Almost 1 in 10 were Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Questioning, and other (LGBTQ+). However, this is likely an undercount because most sexual orientation data were unknown

More than one-third of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness were disabled

More than 1 in 10 were pregnant or parenting

From the “Yes to Yes” Washington State: Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Landscape Scan, February 2024



THE SOLUTION

Invest in Effective and Proven Systems

Washington has already done something no other state has done: reduced youth homelessness by 40% over six years. That is not a pilot program result. It is a documented, statewide reduction—measured, verified, and recognized nationally.

By tackling youth homelessness at the root, we can improve mental health and wellbeing, boost academic achievement, economic opportunities, and set up our young people to thrive today and for years to come. Our collective investment will ensure that as many young people as possible in our state have a safe and stable place to call home.

The WA Acceleration Fund is the force that builds on what's already working—and accelerates it into transformative impact, so every young person has a place to call home. **Washington can be the first state to end youth homelessness.**

The research, data, and government partners are in place. WA Acceleration Fund plans to raise \$15 million dollars in pooled philanthropic investment over the next three years. These funds will accelerate the piloting, testing, and scaling of the strategies that have already proven effective in reducing youth homelessness.



When we looked into the reasons young people ended up without a home, we saw that there were several lanes in which philanthropy could help: researching causes, coordinating data, tracking success, piloting new approaches, educating policy makers, building statewide community capacity, etc. As we coordinated efforts within philanthropy, we accelerated our implementation of new ideas and leveraged increased government support that could invest in proven success. We can't stop now. If we close this gap and keep young people safe as they navigate the challenging terrain of just growing up, we are stopping the cycle of overall homelessness."



TRICIA RAIKES,
TRUSTEE, RAIKES FOUNDATION



ACCELERATE WITH US

Your investment will be focused on five strategic priorities

01 A Complete Statewide Response

THE GAP

Too many young people have to leave their community to find help, making it harder to maintain stability.

OUR GOAL

We are building a statewide coordinated plan so youth can access age-appropriate, equitable services in their home communities. A young person shouldn't have to travel to Seattle or Spokane to seek help. In partnership with the Office of Homeless Youth (OHY), our funding will be deployed through public-private partnerships to reach every corner of the state.

02 Flexible Funding at Critical Moments

THE GAP

Many young people fall through the cracks of traditional public support—programs designed for adults are often too cumbersome or more than a young person actually needs. We have learned that youth often know exactly what would keep them housed; frequently, all they need is a small, flexible bridge grant at a critical moment.

OUR GOAL

Because of statewide advocacy, innovation, and partnership, Washington developed the Homeless Prevention and Diversion Fund (HPDF)—a flexible grant program with a 93% success rate. The average grant is less than \$2,000. Yet the HPDF currently exists in only 10 counties and is not yet available in King County. We plan to expand access to every young person who needs it.



Early one morning I was swinging by my office on the way to the airport when a white van pulled up behind me. A dozen sleepy teenagers with backpacks tumbled out. And then the van, which had the state juvenile justice logo, pulled away. These kids had just been released to the streets. I couldn't believe it. This is how I learned that approximately 28% of young people exiting state systems—justice, foster care, behavioral health programs—exited directly into homelessness.”



SONYA CAMPION,
TRUSTEE, CAMPION FOUNDATION

03 Better Data, Smarter Decisions

THE GAP

Without real-time, comprehensive data, communities can't identify who needs help, track what's working, allocate resources efficiently, or make the case to legislators for continued investment. When we can prove what works, we keep the public sector at the table and increase long-term government support.

OUR GOAL

Continued investment in research, evaluation, and data infrastructure helps communities understand the full scope of youth homelessness and respond more effectively. Our Youth Action Boards ensure that real-life experience guides smarter decisions, better service delivery, and more responsive policy. During the pandemic, YABs were instrumental in discovering that youth under 18 in shelters were unable to receive the Covid vaccination as they needed parent permission. Because of this discovery, the state passed SB 5883, which allowed underage homeless youth to get immunizations on their own.

04 Youth-Led Advocacy and Leadership

THE GAP

Youth homelessness persisted in part because young people weren't included in designing the solutions. Youth Advisory Boards have changed that by centering lived experience in policy design and service delivery. Young people are now speaking directly to legislators about what they need, and we are designing services tailored to them, rather than trying to fit them into adult programs.

OUR GOAL

Sustained success is predicated on getting rid of top-down systems, and creating and maintaining a collaborative movement. With youth front and center, we will continue to learn from their real-life experiences to think more expansively, consider out-of-the-box ideas, and shape age-appropriate solutions.

05 Community Collaboration and Lasting Sustainability

THE GAP

Young people experiencing homelessness don't interact with just one system. They move through schools, healthcare, juvenile justice, and child welfare—often falling through the cracks between institutions that don't communicate with each other. Addressing youth homelessness means breaking down those silos, before a young person reaches a crisis point.

OUR GOAL

Our 40% reduction was achieved through a statewide movement that established the Office of Homeless Youth, one of the first state agencies focused entirely on youth homelessness. Utilizing this success, we will leverage every established structure, from juvenile justice and foster care, to education and healthcare, to build a community-wide effort to identify and respond to every young person in crisis. We will prioritize solutions that enable all of us—neighbors, schools, clinics, and community leaders—to play a role.

It's time to double down on proven solutions. Working together, we can ensure that Washington state commits to our youth and to the sustainability of this success.

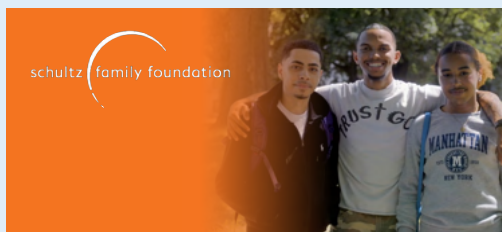


Our Partnership

A decade ago, three organizations—**The Campion Foundation**, **The Raikes Foundation**, and **The Schultz Family Foundation**—joined forces to close the gaps in how Washington supports youth experiencing homelessness.

We worked alongside state leaders, service providers, and young people themselves to redesign the systems that prevent and respond to homelessness. The real momentum began with the young people, community leaders, and policy advocates who were already pushing for change in Olympia and every corner of Washington.

By combining research, advocacy, and collaboration, we're showing what's possible when philanthropy helps connect the dots across sectors. Each partner brought a distinct strength, and our role was to reinforce and resource the solutions communities were already building:



The Schultz Family Foundation

brought an entrepreneurial mindset, helping scale promising models, and supporting youth voices in the design of new approaches.



The Raikes Foundation

contributed research, a national lens, legal expertise, and a willingness to innovate.



The Campion Foundation

leveraged nonprofit, fundraising, and policy expertise to build the statewide advocacy networks needed to transform local lessons into durable systems change.



I have volunteered in many youth shelters over the years, and have been continually impressed by the wisdom these young people have shared with me—and what would have kept them from needing to seek shelter in the first place. They know what works and what they need, and it is usually a lot simpler than traditional government programs and structures. We need to trust and respect their voices.”



SHERI SCHULTZ,
THE SCHULTZ FAMILY FOUNDATIO

Building the Momentum

Together we've helped ensure that 10,000 fewer young people in our state are experiencing homelessness every year. Because of collaboration across government, philanthropy, the nonprofit sector, and young people with lived experience, our state has made incredible progress: smart, data-driven programs, thoughtful advocacy and policy work, and targeted investments.

Now is the moment to fuel and accelerate our progress so every young person, in every community, has a place to call home.

We need more partners who share our vision of a Washington where every young person has stability, opportunity, and hope.

Government Support

Even in a year where funding was severely cut in many critical areas, the Washington State Legislature maintained most investments in youth homelessness programs. They did so because they've seen the results of this collective effort. Philanthropic investment provided the research, data, and innovative lens needed to support and accelerate government systems to be ready to serve our youth and scale proven programs.

Washington lawmakers know these strategies work. With budget pressure mounting at the federal, state, and local level, however, decreased public funding is likely. That means continued

26% ↓ fewer youth now exit state systems into homelessness

34% ↑ rise in on-time graduation rates for students experiencing homelessness

The Seattle Times

WA's 'one of a kind' youth homelessness response shows big results

MAY 25, 2024



advocacy, case-making, and cross-sector collaboration matter more than ever. Maintaining this momentum and building on our hard-fought progress will require government and philanthropy to work together. Otherwise, the number of youth experiencing homelessness in our state is likely to rise dramatically, and rebuilding will cost twice as much.

Philanthropic Investment

Dramatically reducing youth homelessness is not only attainable, but it is a solution to ending adult homelessness. Broad philanthropic partnership is key to homelessness prevention—it enables stronger collaboration with schools, healthcare systems, and other youth-serving systems to create a more seamless, supportive safety net for young people. We have the structures in place to make this happen, and we all have the power to end the cycles of homelessness. The benefits of ending youth homelessness extend far beyond the existing homelessness system: It means higher graduation rates and better outcomes for young people who may be exiting foster care, receiving behavioral health treatment, and/or may be already involved in the criminal justice system.



The realization was that sometimes young people are facing a crisis where they could avoid coming into the homeless response system altogether.”



KIM JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF HOMELESS YOUTH
DIRECTOR

Excerpted from “WA’s ‘One of a Kind’ Youth Homelessness Response Shows Big Results,” The Seattle Times, May 25, 2024

We invite you to join us in this next chapter—to build on proven solutions, deepen collaboration, and help ensure every young person in our state has the foundation they need to thrive.



Our Investment Goals

\$15M

We plan to raise \$15 million dollars in pooled philanthropic investment over the **next three years**. These funds will be invested in proven and scalable strategies to ensure safe and stable housing and support for youth on the verge of or experiencing homelessness.

Grantmaking

A group of leaders from each founding organization will set strategy, guide investments, and ensure resources are advancing the fund's shared vision. Grant allocations will be made by consensus and large distributions or changes to the fund will require unanimous agreement. Decision-making will be informed by data and evidence-based best practices and will be rooted in partnership and accountability.



Getting out of homelessness gave me the stability to engage in therapy, access consistent medical care, and gain career aspirations. I and countless others would not be here today without these resources.”

**ALICE,
SPOKANE**

Accepting Aligned Grants

We are interested in partnering with grantmakers and funders aligned with our goals. We can help donors coordinate their existing grantmaking strategies to leverage and maximize their gift in support of the Acceleration Fund and ending youth homelessness.

For example, if a funder already makes grants addressing youth homelessness outside the pooled fund, we are willing to count those grants as part of the overall Acceleration Fund effort, provided the grant is intentionally structured or modified to support the fund's goals.

In addition to working with aligned donors, the Acceleration Fund can also accept funding designated toward certain purposes or geographies when those restrictions align with the fund's purpose.



WA ACCELERATION FUND:

Ending Youth Homelessness Together

Leadership & Campaign Management

An advisory committee of youth, nonprofit, public sector, and data leaders will provide ongoing input, grounding our work in real experience and helping us stay connected to opportunities and challenges as they arise. The Seattle Foundation, a longtime trusted community partner in the region, will provide administrative and fiscal stewardship for the Fund.

The strategy and grantmaking process will be staffed by the three foundations, tapping into their program officers' extensive expertise in the field. Quarterly updates will be shared with donors on progress and learnings.

For more information, please contact:

Marie Groark, The Schultz Family Foundation

mgroark@schultzfamilyfoundation.org

Casey Trupin, Raikes Foundation

casey.trupin@raikesfoundation.org

Paula Carvalho, Raikes Foundation

paula.carvalho@raikesfoundation.org

Sheila Babb Anderson, Champion Foundation

sbanderson@championadvocacyfund.org

Emily Nolan, Emily Nolan Consulting

emilynolanconsulting@gmail.com

Jessica Ross, Seattle Foundation

J.ross@seattlefoundation.org
