

Comprehensive
Plan to Prevent and
End Youth and
Young Adult
Homelessness in
King County by 2020

Homeless Youth and
Young Adult
Initiative
August 2013



Supporting the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County

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Contents

Acknowledgements	2
Executive Summary	4
Section 1: Introduction	6
Comprehensive Plan Background	6
Update on Priority Action Steps Implementation Plan.....	8
Section 2: What is the Problem - Understanding Youth and Young Adult Homelessness	10
Homeless Youth and Young Adults: Numbers and Trends	10
Causes and Consequences of YYA Homelessness.....	14
Unique Needs and Disproportionality of Homeless YYA	15
Section 3: A Landscape Scan of Housing and Services, Funding Investments, and Data	17
Housing and Services Landscape	17
Current Youth and Young Adult Funding Landscape	23
Homeless Youth and Young Adult Baseline Data.....	26
How Youth and Young Adults Move Through our Homelessness System.....	27
Conclusion.....	30
Section 4: Our Vision of Success - Outcome Goals	31
Youth and Young Adult Theory of Change.....	31
Logic Model: Benchmarks and Associated Measurements	31
Section 5: Recommendations and Call to Action	34
System Recommendations: Foundational Improvements.....	35
Priority Activity Recommendations	36
Section 6: The Work Ahead and Next Steps	42
Homeless YYA Initiative Timeline (Phase I, II and III).....	42
Comprehensive Plan Implementation: September 2013 – March 2015	43
Appendices	45
Works Cited	46

Executive Summary

King County has well-honed instincts for responding to young people in crisis. Thanks to a unique mix of compassionate providers, innovative programs and dedicated funders, our region has become a national model for combating YYA homelessness.

But even here, much more needs to be done.

Any young person sleeping outside because he or she lacks a safe home is unacceptable. Yet over 5,000 unaccompanied youth and young adults in King County experience homelessness every year. On any given night in our community, over 700 young people are homeless or unstably housed – including over 100 sleeping in parks, abandoned buildings or under bridges.

To close the gaps and to find more ways to keep kids off the streets, a large and diverse mix of local stakeholders has been working diligently over the past two years to unify efforts, share best practices and help all elements of King County’s youth homelessness system work better together.

This plan is a direct outcome of that work. It represents a shared community vision – and community commitment – to prevent and end YYA homelessness in King County by 2020. It includes a detailed roadmap of concrete steps we will take in the next 18 months to ensure our efforts yield as much near-term progress as possible, while also providing feedback that will enable the community of stakeholders invested in this work moving forward to continuously strengthen and refine the longer-term response to youth homelessness.

To ensure we, the community of stakeholders, remain on track and to help organize these efforts, this plan is designed to achieve specific, tangible progress against four key benchmarks:

- Fewer young people experiencing homelessness
- Shorter stays in shelters or on the streets for youth who become homeless
- Fewer returns to homelessness by young people who received services and successfully moved to stable housing
- Fewer homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer or questioning (LGBTQ) youth and homeless youth of color, since each group represents a disproportionate share of the population of homeless youth in King County

This plan establishes a numeric starting point for each benchmark so we can begin to measure progress immediately. We will use a cycle of continuous improvement to adjust the benchmarks or develop new measures as needed.

This plan also recommends a series of priority activities that we believe will move each of the four benchmarks in a positive direction.

Our vision is to prevent YYA from becoming homeless by promoting family reunification. If home is not safe or if reunification is not an option, we will provide appropriate services to get young people off the streets, and to get them moving toward productive lives.

Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in King County by 2020

We will also assist with education and employment and promote permanent connections and emotional well-being to help homeless young people achieve housing stability and transition to adulthood without becoming homeless adults. To reach our goals, we must align and secure sufficient resources, work across systems (including working with schools, the juvenile justice, child welfare and health care systems) and use data to drive our decision making.

This plan is ambitious and timetables are aggressive. That is by design. The precarious lives of young people on the streets demand that we respond with urgency. We must also respond with unity and coordinated action. The recommendations outlined in this plan are an important step – but it cannot be the only step. Creating a safe, efficient and integrated system of health, well-being, and human services is a priority. This includes stable housing, education, employment, case management, as well as primary care, mental health and chemical dependency services.

We look forward to the progress that will be made together and welcome assistance from any and all in our community who want to help us prevent and end YYA homelessness in King County.

Section 1: Introduction

Comprehensive Plan Background

The Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult (YYA) Homelessness in King County by 2020 (hereinafter the Comprehensive Plan) identifies our community's vision to prevent and end homelessness among YYA, and describes our initial 18-month implementation strategy and concrete deliverables that will lay the groundwork for our long-term success.

Our Vision

All YYAs in our community have access to safe and stable housing and are no longer sleeping outdoors or in threatening situations.

- Whenever possible, we should prevent YYA from becoming homeless by promoting family reunification and better systems coordination.
- For YYA who do become homeless, we need to quickly intervene with housing to get them off the streets and support services to move them toward productive lives.
- Like all young people, homeless YYA need stable housing, permanent connections, education and employment, emotional well-being and access to healthcare in order to successfully transition to adulthood and remain stably housed.

To fulfill our vision, we must:

- Ensure that we engage families in the work of ending YYA homelessness.
- Ensure that interventions meet the needs of youth of color and LGBTQ YYA.
- Work across systems.
- Better understand how many YYA are homeless, what their needs and differences are, and which interventions are most effective for whom.
- Use this data to drive our decision-making.
- Align and secure sufficient funding from public and private sources to fully implement the plan.

Scope of the Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan:

- Builds off the Priority Action Steps to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness: An Implementation Plan (see context below).
- Identifies our best thinking given what we know now – based on local data and national research.
- Defines the process for making mid-course corrections as we learn from the strategies identified here.

In addition, the Comprehensive Plan identifies:

- Priority investments to be made as soon as possible after the Comprehensive Plan's endorsement by the Committee to End Homelessness (CEHKC) which will be implemented over the following 18 months.
- The expected impact as a result of those investments.

Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in King County by 2020

- Our end impact goal in 2020 and identifies what we mean by “ending homelessness among YYA” and how we will get there.
- Annual system-wide benchmarks to determine if we are making progress.
- A timeline to analyze progress, update the Comprehensive Plan, deliver accountability reports, and refine the investment recommendations in light of new data.

The Comprehensive Plan is in alignment with King County’s Health and Human Services Transformation Plan, including aligned funding strategies and outcome driven goals. The Transformation Plan’s goal states that by 2020 the people of King County will experience significant gains in health and well-being because our community worked collectively to make the shift from a costly, crisis-oriented response to health and social problems, to one that focuses on prevention, embraces recovery, and eliminates disparities by providing access to services that people need to realize their full potential.¹ As we move towards implementation, it will be important that disparate systems that serve youth, young adults, and families work together to develop and collaborate on shared outcomes.

Background: The Work that Led up to the Comprehensive Plan

In 2011, during the mid-plan review of CEHKC’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, YYA homelessness was determined to be an issue our community needed to address in new and more effective ways. While King County is home to committed and compassionate youth service providers and has implemented nationally recognized innovations to combat youth homelessness, our homeless YYA response system was unable to answer some central questions:

What is the need? How many YYA are homeless?

What is working? Which housing or service interventions are most effective at ending homelessness, particularly for YYA with diverse needs and circumstances?

Are we making progress? As a community, are we reducing the number of YYA who become homeless, the length of time they spend homeless and their return to homelessness after they have left the streets?

The ability to answer these questions is critical to making lasting, positive change.

Consequently, a broad group of private funders, including the Raikes Foundation, the United Way of King County (UWKC), and the Medina Foundation, identified three priority strategies: prevention and early intervention; coordinated engagement; and improved data coordination. The United Way of King County (UWKC) formed a task force under the auspices of CEHKC to develop an action plan for implementation of the strategies.

Building Changes helped to lead this effort, and in March 2012 produced the Priority Action Steps to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness: An Implementation Plan (hereinafter “Priority Action Steps Implementation Plan,”) which identified actions for the community to take in the three areas listed above. The action steps were foundational strategies designed to meet significant gaps in prevention and in systems coordination and was a precursor to the Comprehensive Plan.

Update on Priority Action Steps Implementation Plan

Critical Overview

- King County is mid-way through the three-year Priority Action Steps Implementation Plan, which focuses on prevention, coordinated engagement, and data coordination.
- Accomplishments over the past 18 months include:
 - Expansion of prevention services: National Safe Place and Project SAFE.
 - Launch of coordinated engagement and Community Sign In.
 - Investment of additional funding in services.

Progress to Date

King County is currently mid-way through the three-year Priority Action Steps Implementation Plan. Significant progress has been made to date. The work to assemble the Comprehensive Plan, which began in April 2013, occurred concurrently with the Priority Action Steps Implementation Plan.

CEHKC Homeless YYA Initiative: Staff Hired, Endorsed as CEHKC Investment Priority

- In September 2012, through a memorandum of agreement between King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), the Raikes Foundation, and the UWKC, a project manager was hired by DCHS to lead the Homeless YYA Initiative. Public dollars also led to the hiring of a second planner for the Homeless YYA Initiative in April 2013.
- In January 2013, the CEHKC Governing Board endorsed the Homeless YYA Initiative as an investment priority. As a result, capital development for young adults is recommended in the 2013 Combined Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

Prevention Services Expanded: National Safe Place and Project SAFE

- Two prevention and early intervention programs, National Safe Place and Project SAFE, have been expanded and launched (respectively) with funding from the Medina Foundation, the Giddens Foundation, and the UWKC. National Safe Place began in our community in 2011 with the support of King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert, who had a significant leadership role bringing King County Metro Transit onboard, along with Sound Transit buses, serving as the community's first Safe Place sites (see Section 3, the Landscape Scan, for more information on these prevention programs).

National Safe Place progress in King County - Since the program's inception in August of 2011:

- Nearly 8,200 YYA and community members have been educated about Safe Place.
- Nearly 1,800 Safe Place sites have been created, including every Metro and Sound Transit Bus in the county.
- 100 callers have received community resources and referral information.
- 63 youth have received a Safe Place response, which prevented them from sleeping outdoors.

Coordinated Engagement Launched: Youth Housing Connection

- In July 2013, King County launched the first step in a coordinated engagement system for homeless YYAs with funding from the Raikes Foundation and the UWKC called Youth Housing Connection (YHC). Youth Housing Connection directs young adults (ages 17.5 to 25) access to

housing by coordinating their applications, applying a common strengths-based assessment, and placing them in housing programs.

- After a competitive request for proposals administered by King County Community Service Division's Housing and Community Development Section, Catholic Community Services was selected as the lead agency responsible for administering YHC.
- As of August 1, 2013:
 - Seven agencies and 24 housing programs are participating in YHC.
 - 289 units of young adult housing are included in YHC.
 - 10 YHC assessment locations are active throughout King County with a capacity for 70 assessments per week.
 - 138 young adults in need of housing are on the YHC placement roster.

Data Coordination

- **Community Sign In (Near Launch)**

The purpose of Community Sign In (anticipated to launch in the fall of 2013), part of our coordinated engagement system for YYA, is to:

1. Divert YYA from homeless services when possible via family reunification,
2. Promote consistent data collection, and
3. Obtain a more comprehensive number of YYA who are using our continuum by aligning data collection at every "front door" in the continuum of care.

YYA ages 12 to 25 will complete Community Sign In the first time they arrive at any doorstep in the homeless YYA continuum.

- **United States Interagency Council Youth Count! Pilot**

King County was one of nine locations throughout the country selected to participate in the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness' (USICH) Youth Count! Pilot, which will develop a body of national recommendations on how youth counts should occur. In partnership with the One Night Count (King County's point in time count to tally all homeless populations), 34 locations hosted "Count Us In" events on January 24, 2013 to enumerate the number of homeless and unstably housed YYA in King County.

- **Regional Case Management Database**

Work on the creation of a regional case management database continues to move forward with homeless YYA provider agencies and private funders in discussion with King County, City of Seattle, and the UWKC. The vision is to facilitate data collection and sharing (with the appropriate consents), measure all services a homeless YYA receives, and allow for nuanced measurement of the outcomes and indicators of the Homeless YYA Initiative.

Youth Voice: Mockingbird Society's Homeless Youth Initiative

- The Mockingbird Society is piloting a yearlong effort to elevate the voices of YYA through regional advocacy. Specifically, YYA from the Mockingbird Society's Homeless Youth Initiative (HYI) participated in the June 2013 community convening, which was part of the comprehensive planning process, vetted the coordinated engagement housing assessment tool, and provided input to Community Sign In.

Additional New Funding Secured for Homeless YYA

- While we are working to gather more detailed data so that we understand how best to support homeless young people, there is still a need to support the ongoing work. Additional funding secured to do so in the past year includes:
 - The UWKC prioritized YYA shelters in their request for proposals and put an additional \$100,000 into the YYA shelter system as of July 1, 2013.
 - The Mockingbird Society received funding from the Raikes Foundation to pilot the Homeless Youth Initiative.
 - A request for qualifications from the UWKC, in partnership with the Schultz Family Foundation and Seattle and King County Housing Authorities will add additional housing support and rental subsidies for homeless YYA.
 - Prevention services expanded with new funding from the Medina Foundation, the Giddens Foundation, and the UWKC.

Community Involvement and Leadership

- Community involvement has been a hallmark of the Priority Action Steps Implementation Plan.
 - Monthly stakeholder forums began in December 2012, offering an open opportunity to hear about the changes planned for the homeless YYA system in King County.
 - The Homeless YYA Advisory Group, the CEHKC subcommittee specifically guiding the work included in this Plan, has been meeting monthly starting in January of 2013.
 - The YYA Funders Group, a group of primarily private and other public funders, staffed by Building Changes, meet bi-monthly to offer input to the initiative. Future work includes coordinating their support for the work moving forward and aligning outcomes.
 - The CEHKC Interagency Council, Funders Group, Consumer Advisory Council, and Governing Board received updates throughout the comprehensive planning process.

Section 2: What is the Problem - Understanding Youth and Young Adult Homelessness

Critical Overview

- It is estimated that there are 1.6 – 1.7 million runaway or homeless youth under the age of 18 in the United States.
- Youth of color and LGBTQ youth are disproportionately represented in the homeless population, both nationally and locally.
- In 2012, over 5,000 unique YYA participated in a homeless housing, shelter or services program in King County, fifty-seven percent of which (2,997) were enrolled in a program specifically tailored to YYA.
- In January of 2013, 776 homeless or unstably housed YYA were enumerated in King County during Count Us In. Of these 776 YYA, 114 were literally homeless.

Homeless Youth and Young Adults: Numbers and Trends

National Data

Accurately determining the number of homeless youth and young adults in any community is uniquely difficult, given the constantly changing and often hidden nature of their living situations. Estimates for

this population vary for several reasons: 1) homeless young people are transient and are rarely in a fixed location long enough to be counted; 2) research and data tends to be collected in urban areas and therefore cannot be generalized to other geographic regions; and 3) homeless YYA are often distrustful of adults and the “system”, so choose to be “invisible” and therefore are not counted.²

National studies report that 1.6-1.7 million youth under the age of 18 are homeless in the United States each year.³ Adding young adults aged 18 to 24, this estimate reaches 2.1 million.⁴ National data also shows:

- YYA homelessness tends to be episodic rather than chronic and researchers indicate that a large portion of youth return home relatively quickly.⁵
- Youth of color are over-represented in the homeless population -- while black or African American youth comprise 15.4 percent of the US youth population, they comprise 27 percent of the homeless YYA population.⁶
- Up to 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ,⁷ and gay or transgender homeless YYA are 7 times more likely to experience sexual violence than straight or non-transgender homeless youth.⁸
- More than one-in-five youth who arrive at a youth shelter come directly from foster care. More than one-in-four had been in foster care the previous year.⁹
- 58 percent of shelter youth and 71 percent of street youth surveyed reported that they had been placed or spent time in at least one of the following: foster care, group home, psychiatric or mental hospital, juvenile detention, or jail.¹⁰

King County Data

While we are working to gain a better understanding of YYA homelessness in our community, we do have better information than ever before. In January 2013 during Count Us In, our community’s annual effort to identify and quantify homeless youth, 776 YYA were counted as homeless or unstably housed in King County.¹¹

Of these:

- 182 stayed with a family member the night prior to the count
- 12 percent were under 18 years old
- 51 percent were female
- 23 percent identified as LGBTQ
- 60 percent were people of color¹²

In 2012, 5,229 unique YYA accessed a homeless program in King County¹³, with 57 percent (2,997 YYA) enrolled in a program specifically tailored to youth and young adults.

Demographics of Homeless YYA in King County

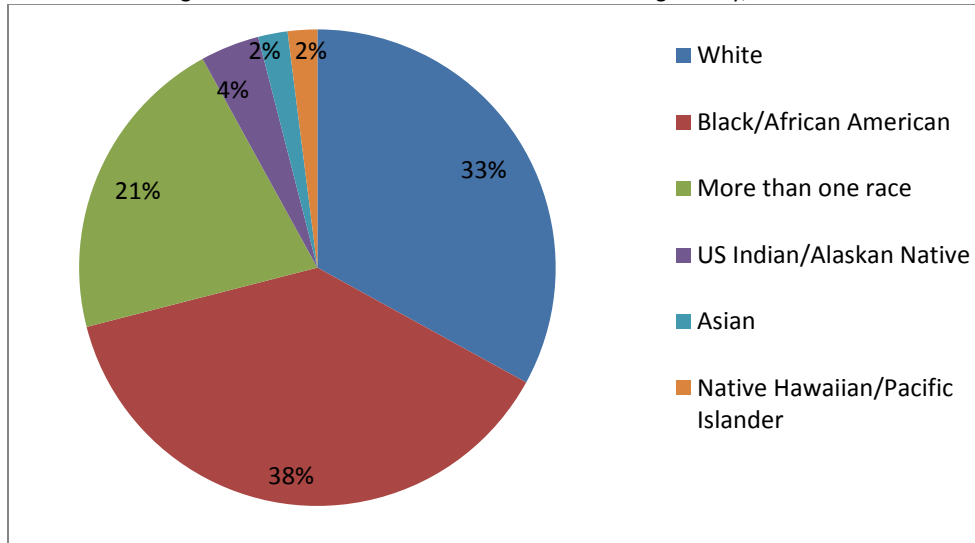
Unless otherwise noted, the data presented below comes from Safe Harbors Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), currently our most comprehensive database. The Homeless Management Information System captures data on nearly 500 programs serving homeless people in King County. The following data includes only YYA who were identified as heads of household, unaccompanied homeless YYA.

Approximately two-thirds (67 percent) of YYA enrolled in Safe Harbors in 2012 were people of color, while only 29 percent of King County’s overall population is non-white.

Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in King County by 2020

Thirty-eight percent of YYA in the YYA system reported that they were black or African American. Thirty-three percent of enrollees identified themselves as white, and 21 percent selected more than one racial category. About 4 percent of YYA identified their background as US Indian or Alaskan Native, 2 percent identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 2 percent identified as Asian. Fourteen percent of YYA reported they were of Hispanic ethnicity (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1. Ethnic Breakdown of homeless YYA in King County, 2012



Additional Demographics of the homeless YYA population:

Education, Employment and Income:

- 43 percent lack a high school diploma
- 37 percent have a GED certificate or high school diploma
- 6 percent report attending at least some college
- Mean income at the time of entry into the system is \$196 a month

Other demographics:

- 49 percent male, 49 percent female, 1 percent transgender
- 17 percent reported a disability
- 9 percent met the definition of chronically homeless

Comparing demographics between YYA in programs tailored to YYA to those in other homeless programs (family or single adult systems):

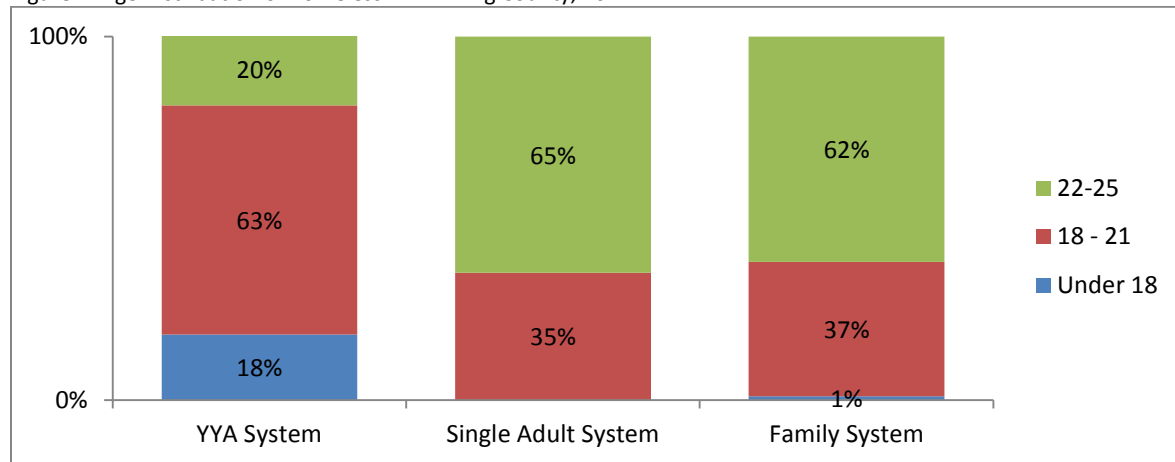
- The racial and ethnic backgrounds of those enrolled in YYA tailored programs are similar to those of YYA elsewhere in the homelessness system.
- YYA in the family system and single adult system are more likely to be female (91 percent and 67 percent), respectively, than those in the YYA system (49 percent).
- YYA in the single adult system are more likely to be disabled (25 percent) than those in the YYA system (17 percent) while those in the family system are less likely to report having a disability (11 percent).

Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in King County by 2020

- YYA in the family system are also much less likely to meet the definition of chronic homelessness (only 2 percent compared to 13 percent of YYA in the single adult system and 9 percent of those in the YYA system).
- Very few homeless YYA report being veterans, regardless of whether they participate in tailored YYA programming (1 percent of those in YYA programs, 2 percent of those in single adults programs, and 3 percent of those in programs for families with children).

As shown below in Figure 2, those served in YYA programs are also younger than those served elsewhere. Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of YYA elsewhere in the homelessness system are between 22 and 25, and 37 percent are between 18 and 21.

Figure 2: Age Distribution of homeless YYA in King County, 2012



Youth and young adults served outside of the tailored system also have higher levels of education. A number of those in both the single adult and family systems have a high school diploma or GED (28 percent, and 33 percent respectively), and a fifth (20 percent) of those in the family system report attending at least some college. Their incomes are also correspondingly higher than those of YYA in the YYA system, although they are still very low. Youth and young adults in the single adult system report average monthly incomes of \$325 (\$3,900 annualized), while those in the family system have average incomes of \$845 a month (\$10,140 annualized).

Homeless YYA Typology

Homeless YYA are a diverse group, yet until recently our community's response and provision of services to homelessness was not differentiated. Researchers have attempted to define typologies of homeless YYA, but also assert that few interventions to assist homeless YYA have been formally evaluated and there is little national data on the prevalence of homelessness for this population.¹⁴

The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) has recently estimated that:

- 86 percent of YYA experiencing homelessness are "temporarily disconnected" – meaning that their homelessness is brief and they manage to return home within a week;
- 8 percent are "unstably connected" – meaning they have greater housing/service needs but still have some connections to family and friends; and
- 6 percent are "chronically disconnected" – meaning that much like chronically homeless adults, they are the highest need population who are also the most disconnected from family and friends.

As we have limited resources, we need to ensure we are providing the appropriate level of services and that we are efficiently using the resources we have. Youth Housing Connection and Community Sign In are two important first steps. We are continuing to follow national research and will be analyzing our own regional data to learn what services work best for whom.

Causes and Consequences of YYA Homelessness

Why are YYA Homeless

Research shows that the primary reasons youth become homeless are family conflict and “aging out” of foster care or exiting the juvenile justice system.¹⁵

Family conflict:

Homeless YYA consistently report that “conflict at home with parents and caregivers” is the primary cause of their homelessness. Whether the specific cause is physical or sexual abuse, drug or alcohol use, or being kicked out/thrown out of the family home, these youth find themselves on the street without stable housing alternatives.

Lack of appropriate systems coordination:

Every year between 20,000 and 25,000 youth age 16 and older transition from foster care to legal emancipation,¹⁶ navigating the transition to adulthood without support. Youth and young adults in the juvenile justice system are incarcerated during a key developmental phase of adolescence. When released, they often lack the necessary skills to cope with adult responsibilities. They can be exited from the system without adequate plans for how to reunite with family or other caring adults and ultimately end up on the streets.

Consequences of Homelessness for YYA

The consequences of homelessness take a significant toll on the young person and society as a whole. Studies show that homeless youth overall are exposed to risks at higher rates than their stably housed peers, which can negatively affect developmental outcomes.¹⁷

When compared to their stably housed peers, homeless YYA:

- Are more likely to engage in unsafe sexual behaviors and are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation.¹⁸
- Experience higher rates of substance and alcohol use.¹⁹
- Have higher rates of mental health symptoms including anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and depression resulting in elevated risk for suicide attempts.²⁰
- Are 2.5 times more likely to be arrested as adults.
- Are 50 percent less likely to have a GED certificate or high school diploma.²¹

Resources to prevent YYA homelessness and to intervene quickly with developmentally appropriate resources are critical. Research shows that the more time YYA spend disconnected from families or on the streets, the more likely they are to have increased risk factors and reduced protective factors.²² Once homeless, youth are more likely to experience physical and psychological trauma. Shorter episodes of homelessness and positive connections with family and friends during homelessness have been found to affect outcomes favorably.²³

Unique Needs and Disproportionality of Homeless YYA Addressing the Disproportionate Needs

Homeless Youth of Color

YYA of color are overrepresented in the homeless system.²⁴ Approximately two-thirds (67 percent) of YYA enrolled in Safe Harbors in 2012 were people of color, while people of color constitute only 29 percent of King County's overall population. Thirty-eight percent of young people in the YYA system reported that they were black or African American, 33 percent identified as white, 4 percent of YYA identified as US Indian or Alaskan Native, 2 percent identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 2 percent identified as Asian, and 21 percent selected more than one racial category.

African American youth often have different homeless experiences, perceptions, trajectories and survival strategies than white homeless youth.
California Homeless Youth Project

Count Us In 2013 revealed that YYA who were counted by the survey differed from those currently enrolled in shelter or transitional housing. A higher percentage of surveyed youth were minors, male and African American, Asian or multiracial and from South Seattle or South King County.

According to a report by the California Homeless Youth Project, because of the definitions and language used by the homeless system, homeless African American youth are often invisible in the service system. They found that black youth are less likely to consider themselves "homeless". They are more likely to identify as "unstably housed" or "couch surfing," often staying with different friends or family members.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning youth and young adults are also overrepresented in the homeless population. Count Us In 2013 reflects that 23 percent of YYA who completed a survey identified as LGBTQ, while an estimated 3.5 percent of adults in the United States identify as LGB and an estimated 0.3 percent of adults are transgender.²⁵ LGBTQ YYA may become homeless because of family abuse, neglect, or conflict over their identity, some kicked out of their homes while others run away because they are mistreated or harassed.²⁶

Once YYA are on the streets, we must do everything we can to make sure that the services available to them are culturally competent and welcoming to youth of all sexual orientations and gender identities.
Forty to None Project, a program of the True Colors Fund, seeks to raise awareness about and bring an end to LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness.

The lack of shelter beds and housing resources for homeless YYA translate into even fewer resources accommodating the special needs of LGBTQ YYA. Transgender persons are particularly at risk of homelessness and face heightened levels of discrimination and violence in society and within the homeless shelter system.²⁷ Gay or transgender YYA are seven times more likely to experience acts of sexual violence than straight homeless youth.²⁸ All interventions for homeless YYA must respond effectively to youth of color and LGBTQ.

Unique Age-Related and Developmental Needs of Homeless YYA

All adolescents face specific developmental tasks – gaining independence, building trust with peers and moving toward autonomy and self-sufficiency. The 12 to 25 age range is a period of substantial brain

maturation, making youth vulnerable to stressors and more prone to risky behaviors.²⁹ Usually, parents, teachers, and other safe adults help adolescents develop these skills, however, YYA who are homeless lack this support. They are still emotionally, socially, and physically developing, therefore the needs of unaccompanied homeless YYA are different from those of homeless adults.

According to USICH, interventions which specifically address these unique developmental needs (stable housing, permanent connections, education/employment, and social-emotional well-being) will be critical to realizing the goal of ending youth homelessness.³⁰ Adolescent development, age-related inexperience, and the impact of trauma demand tailored approaches for homeless YYA.

Critical Practice Frameworks when Working with Homeless Youth

In addition to the challenges homeless YYA face because of their developmental stage, their ability to negotiate adolescence is affected by the trauma they often experience when they are homeless. The trauma can affect their long-term well-being, interfere with their ability to engage in and benefit from services, develop life skills and relate with safe adults.³¹ A comprehensive continuum of services, including programming that addresses past trauma, is needed to meet the diverse needs of homeless YYA.

It is critical that a homeless YYA continuum's approach have intervention strategies that include:

- Trauma-Informed Care
- Positive Youth Development
- Proactive Family Reconciliation

Promising Practice: Trauma Informed Care through the ARC – Attachment, Self-Regulation, and Competency Framework (Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership, 2009)– provides a conceptual framework and core principles of intervention for working with youth who have experienced multiple and/or prolonged traumas, a key characteristic of many youth experiencing homelessness.

Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) provides services appropriate for youth who have experienced abuse in their homes and/or trauma on the streets and emphasizes the creation of settings and relationships in which a young person can heal. Given that unaccompanied youth are exposed to significant trauma, it is essential that interventions are trauma-informed.³² Early indicators suggest that TIC may have a positive effect on housing stability.³³

Positive Youth Development (PYD) is an approach that builds on trauma-informed care by ensuring that YYA have opportunities to develop transferable skills and competencies through positive interactions with youth and adults, and to contribute to their communities. PYD focuses on youths' strengths and personal goals – guiding them to make healthy choices, and helping them build confidence and feel in control of their lives.³⁴

Proactive Family Reconciliation, often used with homeless youth (under 18), focuses on counseling youth and their caretakers to address the problems that caused the youth to leave home. The goal is to improve the youths' home-life situation so they can return to a supportive environment. The majority of homeless youth will return home to family (however they define family) and this intervention lessens the likelihood that the youth will become homeless again.³⁵

Section 3: A Landscape Scan of Housing and Services, Funding Investments, and Data

The intent of the Landscape Scan is to provide an overview of the types of resources that currently exist in King County’s homeless youth continuum (agencies or programs whose mission is specifically tailored to serve homeless YYA), current funding for YYA programs, and our available baseline data. Such information is vital to help identify and fill gaps. The Landscape Scan is not a comprehensive list of all agencies or programs that serve homeless YYA in King County.

Housing and Services Landscape

Critical Overview

- King County offers a continuum of services to support homeless YYA, including prevention, engagement, housing, and support services.
- Family reunification and/or strengthening permanent connections are a critical component of our continuum.
- Based on existing housing inventory, approximately 428 YYA can be housed on any given night in King County in YYA-specific programs.
- There are three Emergency shelters for youth under 18 in King County and three for young adults over 18; the collective capacity of these shelters is 101 young people.
- Eight agencies provide time-limited (transitional) housing for young adults, with a combined 250 beds on any given night.
- Four agencies provide non-time limited (permanent) housing to young adults, totaling 77 beds.

King County’s Continuum of Services for Homeless YYA

An effective continuum of care for homeless YYA includes prevention and early intervention through family reconciliation and strengthening permanent connections; engagement through services and relationship building; safety through shelter and housing; and stabilization through support services.

In King County, we provide a continuum of care with the following services:

Prevention and Early Intervention

Prevention and Early Intervention provides resources for youth and their families in crisis. Family reconciliation works with youth and their families (or caretakers) to address the issues which caused the youth to separate from home, and supports them in improving their relationships. In King County, we have several countywide prevention and early intervention efforts, including National Safe Place and Project SAFE (see information below), and the YMCA Children’s Crisis Outreach Response System (CCORS) program, which provides immediate crisis support for youth and their families.

Overview of Services for Homeless YYA

Prevention

- Maintain Intact Families
- Crisis Intervention
- Access to Health Care

Engagement

- Outreach and Drop-in Services
- Case Management
- Basic Needs

Housing

- Shelter
- Time-Limited
- Non-Time Limited

Support Services

- Education/Employment
- Mental Health Services
- Chemical Dependency Services
- Life Skills

In addition, there are several programs within King County (such as Public Health) that provide healthcare services to homeless YYA, including two clinics (45th Street Youth Clinic and Country Doctor Teen Clinic), as well as mobile medical services in South King County for young adults (18+) and a nurse practitioner who visits East King County (Friends of Youth, The Landing).

National Safe Place quickly connects runaway and homeless youth ages 12-17 to services, by either reuniting them with their family or providing them with emergency shelter. YouthCare, Auburn Youth Resources, and Friends of Youth administer National Safe Place in King County in partnership with local businesses and non-profit organizations that have volunteered to be “Safe Places.” The program continues to expand “safe places” throughout King County and currently have nearly 1,800 Safe Place locations (including King County Metro buses).

Project SAFE is phone-based clinical consultation for parents/caregivers responsible for a youth ages 12–17 in crisis or youth who have run away from home or who are at risk of running away. Referrals are made directly from parents, via sister agencies or through National Safe Place. The family therapist assists parents and caregivers in developing an action plan that confronts issues that may be underlying their teen’s behaviors, often making referrals for ongoing outside individual or family counseling. Modeled after Cocoon House in Everett, Project SAFE recently launched in King County with YouthCare as the lead agency.

Engagement

Engagement includes outreach, drop-in youth services, meal programs, case management, and referrals to other agencies/resources.

In King County, connecting homeless youth with services is often done through Partners Reaching Out to Youth (PRO Youth) case managers. PRO Youth is a partnership between the City of Seattle and seven local service agencies that reach more than 500 youth on the street annually in King County. The City of Seattle administers Housing and Urban Development (HUD) McKinney funding for this program.

Many agencies within the King County homeless YYA continuum provide prevention and engagement services such as those mentioned above (see Appendix 2 for a list of agencies), as do many other agencies outside of the homeless YYA continuum. In order to further our prevention and engagement work, it will be important to work across systems and coordinate with current programs within our community. For example:

- Public health nurses incorporating trauma informed care into their work to prevent/mitigate adverse childhood experiences, which often contribute to homelessness for young people.
- Programs supporting pregnant young women or young moms to prevent homelessness and contribute to housing stability through improved health care access.

Upcoming Opportunity: *The City of Seattle Human Services Department, Division of Youth and Family Empowerment, will be requesting proposals in the spring 2014 for Family Preservation Programs. The City is interested in identifying youth who are at risk of running away, whether due to parent-child conflict, LGBTQ, gender identity, or some other family dynamic. These programs will work with the families in their home before a youth is disconnected from family. Services will be delivered by a multi-disciplinary team and may include mental health services, chemical dependency services, social supports, life-skills for the family and case management. The objective is to support the family unit and prevent the youth’s separation from family. Referrals will come through DSHS, police, schools, social service organizations, parents, youth, and faith communities.*

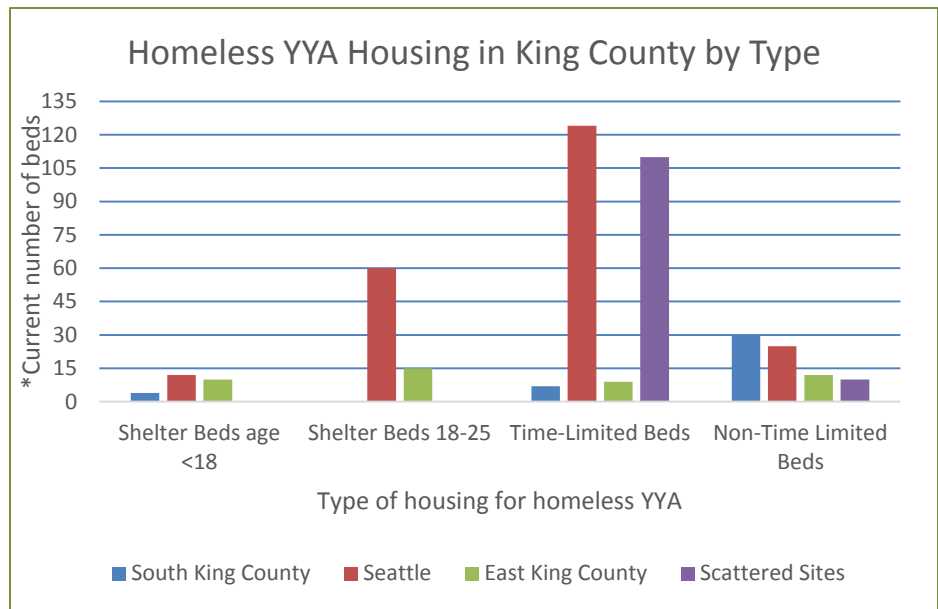
Housing

In King County, housing options for homeless youth and young adults fall into three categories: shelter, time-limited (transitional) housing programs, and non-time limited (permanent) housing. For both time-limited and non-time limited housing programs, the type and intensity of services offered varies based on the need of the YYA (for example, low barrier housing for YYA means that YYA remain eligible for housing even with multiple barriers that would make them ineligible for other programs, such as active drug/alcohol use or mental health concerns). See Appendix 3 for current housing resources/types.

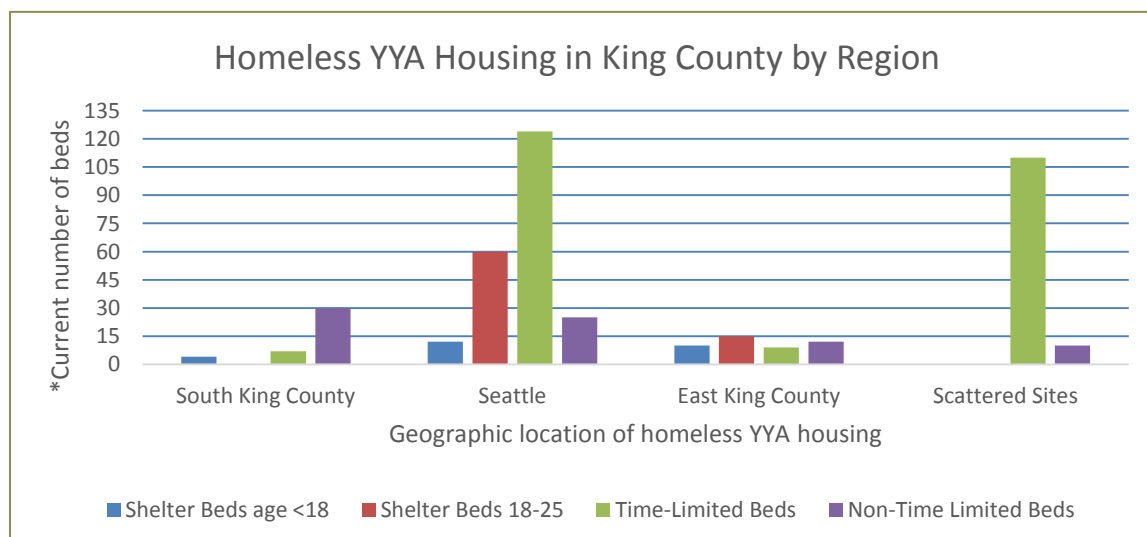
Existing Housing Inventory

Based on information provided from homeless YYA housing providers, approximately 428 YYA can be housed on any given night in King County in programs that are specifically tailored for homeless YYA (101 in shelters and 327 in time-limited or non-time limited housing).

In addition, there are approximately 45 time-limited vouchers that are available for YYA through either King County Housing Authority (KCHA) or Seattle Housing Authority (SHA).

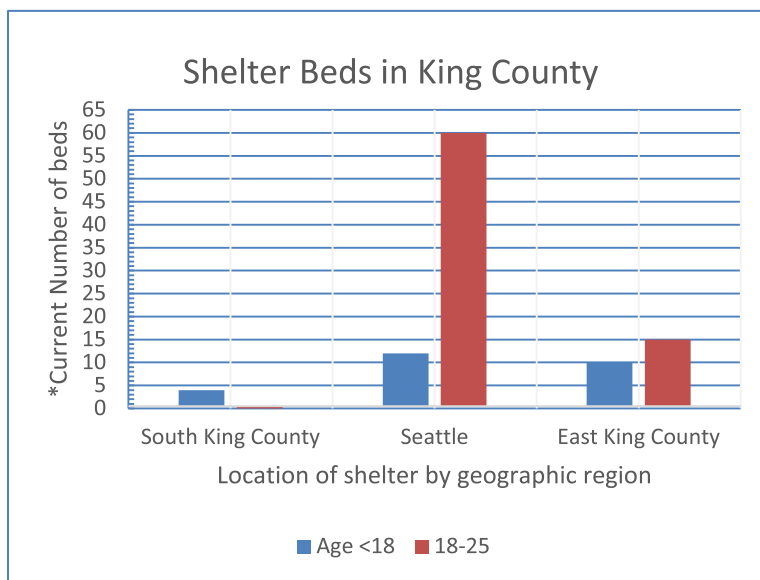


(See Appendices 4-6 for specific programs, inventory, and location)



Emergency Shelter is often a first step towards safety and stabilization when a YYA cannot be quickly and safely reunited with family or other caring adults. While in shelter, YYA can connect with supportive services such as case management, physical/mental health services, and substance abuse services. Providers work with youth to address their immediate need for safety and help them attain stability.

Currently, King County has three emergency shelters for youth under 18 (one each in North Seattle, East King County and South King County) and three emergency shelters for young adults over 18 in King County (two in North and Downtown Seattle and one in East King County) for a total of 101 beds.



Emergency Shelter –

Emergency shelter for youth or young adults can include overnight shelters or short-term shelters (usually 21-90 days) in congregate or dorm-style living. YYA shelters serve youth under 18 or young adults age 18 to 25.

Under 18 Shelters - these facilities can be shelter placement for youth referred through the Division of Child and Family Services, who are in need of temporary placement during a family crisis or for runaway and homeless youth. The goal of the program is to stabilize the youth in crisis and facilitate their return to their family or a safe and supportive alternative home.

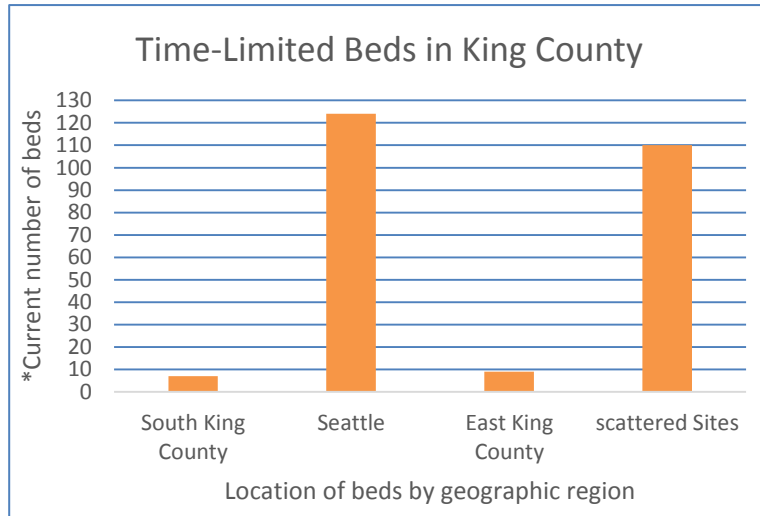
Young adult shelters - generally overnight congregate facilities with staff support. Services generally include basic needs and resources/referrals.

Why are emergency shelter services critical for homeless youth?

In a 2008 study by the City of Seattle, it was estimated that 300-500 children in King County under the age of 18 are sexually exploited each year (Debra Boyer, 2008).

In a recent study interviewing nearly 200 randomly selected homeless youth over the last year, researchers at Covenant House and Fordham University found that nearly one in four participants had been either victims of trafficking or had exchanged sex for basic needs like food and shelter. Of those participants, 48 percent reported doing so because they had no safe place to sleep (Covenant House & Fordham University, May 2013).

Time-Limited (Transitional) Housing provides longer-term housing for homeless youth. Time-limited housing programs create a safe, stable environment tailored specifically for YYA while they gain the skills needed to increase their independence.



Eight agencies provide time-limited housing for young adults (age 18 to 25) in King County, with a combined 250 beds on any given night. Seven of those beds are in South King County, 124 in Seattle, nine in East King County, and 110 in scattered sites throughout the County. All of these resources are for young adults over the age of 18, except for one program with nine beds for youth under 18. In addition, three programs offer rental assistance or vouchers (approximately 45) through either KCHA or SHA for young adults in scattered-site apartments.

Time-Limited Housing

Time-limited housing is provided for a specified length of time (generally 18 to 24 months). The goal is to provide the support needed for participants to move into more stable housing. Intensity and range of services provided varies among programs. Time-limited housing programs may offer rental assistance, moving assistance, and ongoing supportive services through case management. Case managers focus on life skills – preparing the youth for adulthood, as well as employment, education, and physical/mental health needs. Time-limited housing for young adults comes in a variety of facility-types, from congregate-style living to scattered site apartment (see Appendix 7 for definitions of the various types of time-limited housing).

Level of Services: The level of services provided in time-limited and non-time limited housing varies depending on the population served and the ongoing need for support.

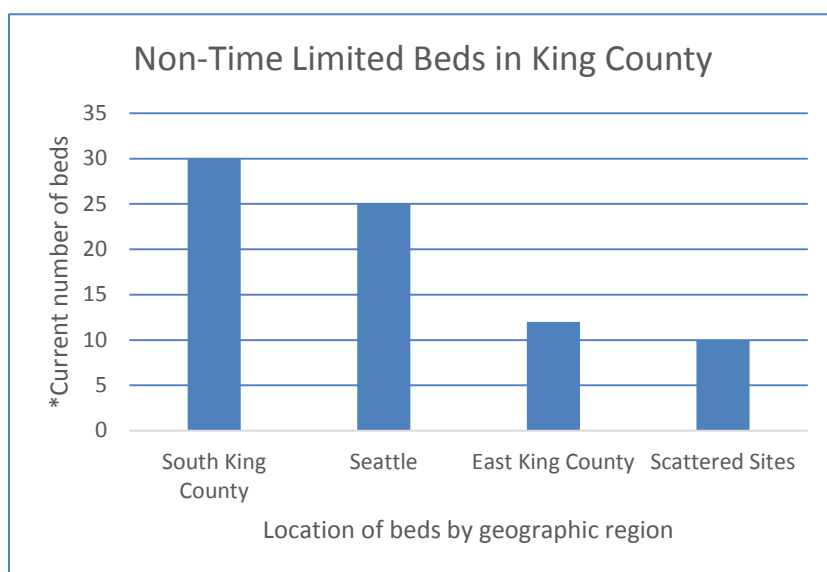
Low. Low-level services are provided as needed and are typically less frequent “check-ins” and may be provided on- or off-site.

Medium. Medium-level services are typically comprehensive for a period of time, but may taper off and even eventually go away as a person becomes stable in housing. Services will initially be readily available and provided on-site through regular case management visits (weekly or monthly depending on the need).

High. High-level services are intensive, comprehensive, readily available (on-site), and available long-term. Services are usually offered 24/7.

Non-Time Limited (Permanent) Housing provides affordable housing without specified time limits to YYA who are in need of longer-term housing support. Some programs are tailored toward YYA with physical, mental health or chemical dependency issues. This type of housing can provide a high level of independence as well as a safety net for YYA who need extra support and may include permanent supportive housing or more independent housing where a young adult can transition in place.

Four agencies provide non-time limited housing to young adults in King County, totaling 97 beds on any given night. Thirty of those beds are in South King County, 25 are in Seattle, 12 are in East King County, and 10 are in scattered sites throughout the County.



Non-Time Limited Housing

Independent community-based housing that has no time limit on tenancy or specific service requirement as a condition of tenancy, although services may be provided, depending on the type of residents served. Residents hold rental agreements and can stay in the housing for as long as they choose and as long as they comply with their rental agreement or lease. Non-time limited housing is often referred to as “Permanent” housing, and may include permanent supportive housing.

Support Services

Support Services for homeless YYA can be provided in programs outside of housing, such as outreach and drop-in centers, or be paired with housing programs. These include a range of services aimed at increasing YYA self-sufficiency, such as:

- Case Management includes individually tailored services including life skills (budgeting, pro-social development, and basic living skills), linkage to mainstream services, referrals to mental health or chemical dependency treatment, individual goal/housing stability plans, and assistance navigating the system.
- Education services such as tutoring, prep courses for GED tests, and college counseling.
- Employment services such as workforce development, job readiness, job placement and/or internship opportunities.

Most agencies within the King County homeless YYA continuum provide support services (see chart in Appendix 2), as do many other agencies outside of the continuum.

Housing and Services Gaps

Throughout the comprehensive planning process over the past several months (via stakeholder forums, committee meetings, the landscape scan and community convening), we have identified gaps in our current continuum (see Recommendations section for more information).

These include the following, which are directly related to housing and services:

- A shortage of support services in South Seattle.
- Lack of programs focused on family reunification or strengthening permanent connections for YYA.
- Not enough housing in South King County and South Seattle, particularly shelter for YYA over 18.
- Of the roughly 250 Non-Time Limited beds for YYA, only nine are low barrier.
- Lack of employment programs attached to housing for YYA— specifically programs that offer access to internships/employment programs.
- Few aftercare or safety-net programs in place for YYA once they are in housing.

Current Youth and Young Adult Funding Landscape

Critical Overview

- 47 percent of funding for the YYA system identified in this scan comes from federal sources.
- Private philanthropy and UWKC make up 25 percent of funding identified in this scan.
- Over 50 percent of funding in the YYA system goes to programs operating in Seattle.
- There are several potential prospects for new funding in this community, and strong opportunities for alignment of funding around shared outcomes.
- The identification of YYA as a target population by the USICH presents an opportunity to advocate for expanded federal funding, including McKinney.

Purpose

The purpose of this funding scan is to gain an understanding of the sources of money that support the homeless YYA system in King County and the potential opportunities for advocacy related to funding.

This scan covers private and public money from local, state, and federal funding streams, totaling \$11,343,631, specifically focused on housing and services for YYA experiencing homelessness. The funding scan was drawn from the system mapping work done by DCHS, a survey of the private funders engaged in the Homeless YYA Initiative and two federal funding streams with programs tailored to YYA (Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and Workforce Investment Act).

It is estimated that this scan reflects just 25-30 percent of the total funds supporting YYA serving organizations in King County (see Appendix 8 for a complete list of fund sources included in the scan).

Not Included in the Scan

This funding scan does not include the following:

- Sources that are not exclusively dedicated to homeless YYA
- Mainstream sources including mental health, chemical dependency, education and employment
- Individual and corporate donations

Funding Landscape Definitions

Fund Source:

The level or type of entity from which the funds originate

Funding Stream:

The particular pool of money from which the funds are drawn

Funder:

The entity that grants the funds to and manages the contract with the provider agency

- Sources targeted at specific populations that overlap such as commercially sexually exploited children or foster youth
- Capital funds

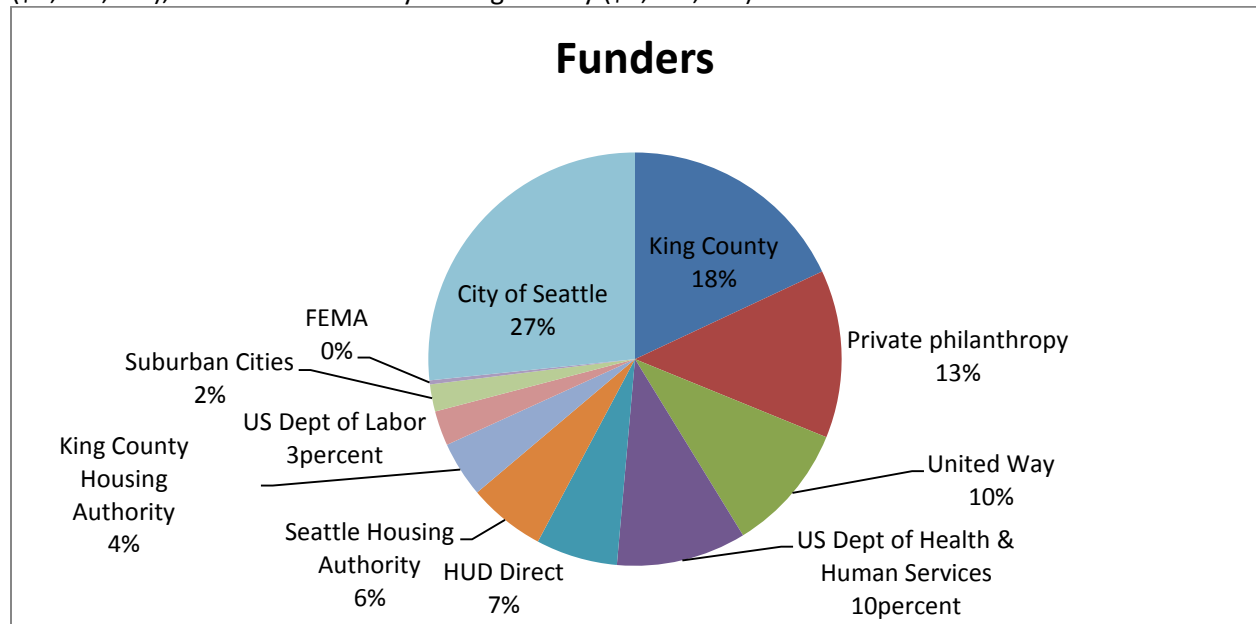
Several organizations that do not receive any government funds or support from the private funders included in this scan do not appear in this analysis. However, the funders identified by the scan are those most engaged in the work of this initiative and have the greatest potential for involvement in local, state, and federal funding advocacy. A recommendation for a more in-depth funding scan is included in Section 5.

At this point, there are no immediate recommendations for shifting funding within the system. It is anticipated that as we gather further information about the needs of YYA and the most effective interventions to address these needs, realignment will occur.

Funders, Fund Sources and Funding Streams

This funding scan covers a total of \$11,343,631 supporting the homeless YYA system in King County. Almost half of this funding (\$5,337,637) is sourced from the federal level but is distributed through a variety of funders including the City of Seattle and King County.

The five largest funders included in this scan are the City of Seattle (\$3,022,030), King County (\$2,045,104), combined private philanthropy (\$1,490,327), Federal Health and Human Services (\$1,152,058), and the United Way of King County (\$1,143,151).

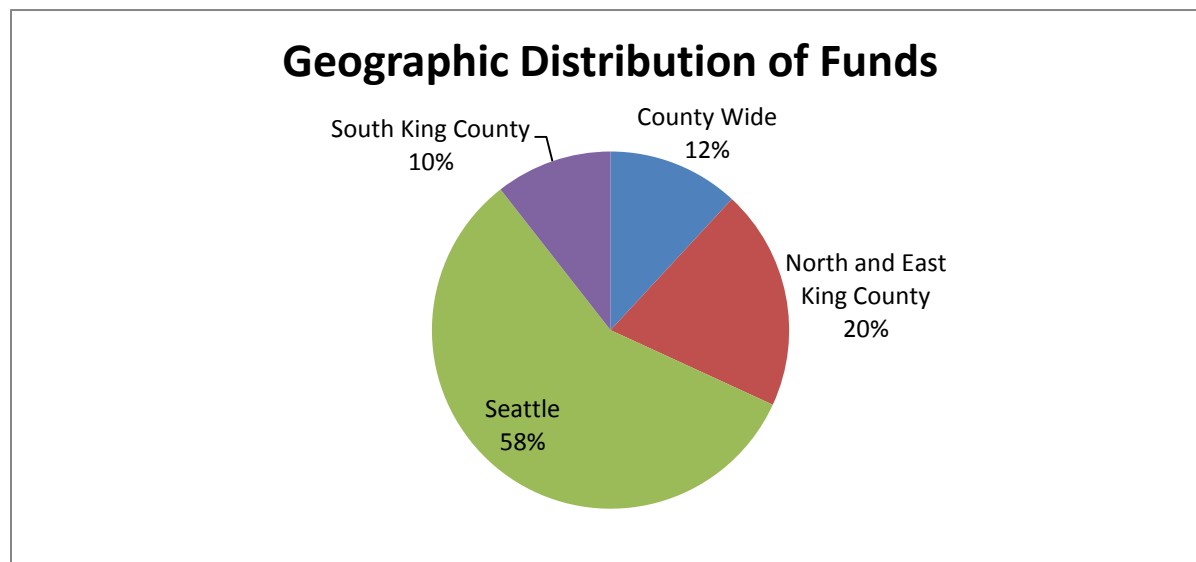


Housing and Services

The program distribution of the \$11 million included in this YYA system scan is as follows:

- \$5,503,268 is spent on time-limited and non-time-limited housing and rental assistance for YYA.
- \$3,067,339 is spent on services such as day services, outreach, and engagement.
- The remaining funding is predominantly spent on shelter, prevention, and system change efforts.

Geographically, 58 percent of the funding (\$6,531,195) goes to Seattle-based programs. Only 10 percent goes to South King County. Additionally, most of the shelter, transitional housing, and services are in North and downtown Seattle, although permanent housing is more dispersed throughout the county. (See landscape scan for more information on geographic distribution of housing programs).



Prevention Efforts

Very little public funding (\$150,000) is spent on prevention, which is largely supported by private funders (\$400,800). Given the challenges in understanding how to target prevention programs to reach at-risk populations most likely to become homeless, public funders have historically focused on meeting immediate needs and providing shelter.

Funding Tied to Outcomes

Most funding is given to help achieve specific outcomes for target populations. Funders can lack alignment, however, in terms of how outcomes should be tracked. The Comprehensive Plan will seek to map outcomes associated with various funding streams and seek opportunities for alignment among both public and private funders. Alignments should increase efficiency and shared purpose, and reduce the reporting burden on provider agencies.

Potential Opportunities

The UWKC has taken the lead on submitting a state-wide application to the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support the development of a cross-systems plan to reduce the number of foster care youth who experience homelessness. If received, this grant would fund a two-year planning period and enable the community to apply for a five-year implementation grant. The Homeless YYA Initiative has been involved with this effort. Notification of award is anticipated in the fall of 2013. In addition, Seattle/King County has been selected to participate in a new initiative by HUD and USICH, "Dedicating Opportunities to End Homelessness." This selection has given King County the opportunity to provide recommendations to HUD about the specific needs of homeless YYA as a distinct group from other homeless populations. This is critical given that the single largest funding stream included in this scan is HUD McKinney funds (\$2,186,697).

We are fortunate as a community to have a wealth of nationally recognized providers, funders, and government leadership shaping our efforts to end YYA homelessness. We are well positioned to

capitalize on potential funding opportunities that recognize the unique needs of homeless YYA and the need for more data in this area.

Homeless Youth and Young Adult Baseline Data

Critical Overview

- Safe Harbors' data reveals that in 2012, 5,229 unique YYA participated in a homelessness program.
- YYA stayed in emergency shelters for an average of two months.
- 68 percent of exit destinations from YYA shelters were unknown.
- YYA transitional housing stays were seven months on average, and were shorter than transitional stays for YYA elsewhere in the homeless housing system.
- 18 percent of YYA who move from housing programs to permanent housing became homeless again within a year.
- Consent rates for YYA are high: In 2012, 76 percent of clients in the YYA system consented to share identifying information in Safe Harbors. Among YYA who participated in homeless housing programs, 80 percent consented to share identifying information.
- Safe Harbors is our most comprehensive database. We recognize and balance the limitations of the data, particularly around capturing under 18 youth, with the need to establish a baseline.

Baseline Data

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented here comes from Safe Harbors HMIS, our most comprehensive database. Homeless management information system currently captures data on nearly 500 programs serving homeless people in King County. All analyses include only YYA who were identified as heads of household, unaccompanied homeless YYA.

We examined several data sources to understand the scope of YYA homelessness in King County, to learn more about the YYA who experience homelessness, and to understand how the YYA system works. These included:

- Safe Harbors HMIS
- Runaway Homeless Youth Management Information System (RHYMIS)
- 2013 Count Us In
- PRO Youth Data, in partnership with the City of Seattle Human Services Department

Safe Harbors' data reveal that in 2012, 5,229 unique YYA participated in a homelessness program.

- Fifty-seven percent (2,997) were enrolled in a program specifically tailored to YYA.
- About one-third (1,727 clients) were enrolled in programs designed to serve single individual homeless people.
- Eleven percent (578 clients) participated in programs designed to serve families with children.

Because many YYA participate in more than one program, the total number of enrollments by YYA was substantially larger than the number of unique YYA. In 2012, there were more than 10,000 program enrollments (10,063).

Nearly 62 percent of participants in YYA programs were literally homeless when they enrolled in a program.

- The remainder were imminently at-risk of losing their housing, or unstably housed.
- A larger percentage of YYA in the single adult and family systems (74 percent and 75 percent, respectively) were literally homeless when they enrolled in a program.

How Youth and Young Adults Move Through our Homelessness System Emergency Shelters

Where are YYA before they enter emergency shelter?

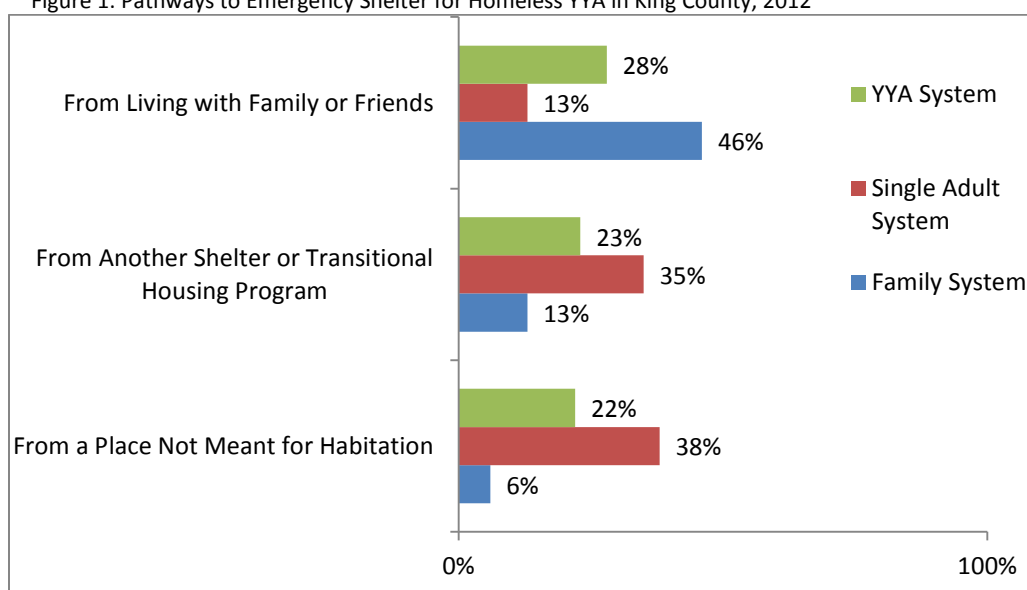
YYA enter emergency shelters from a variety of living situations.

- About a quarter (22 percent) of YYA entering YYA emergency shelters were staying on the street, in a car, an abandoned building or another place not meant for human habitation.
- Twenty-eight percent were living with family (13 percent) or friends (15 percent).
- Twenty-three percent were in another emergency shelter or transitional housing program.
- A small percentage (7 percent) were previously living in an institution such as a jail, residential treatment program, hospital, or foster care group home.
- A very small proportion (2 percent) was renting an apartment prior to coming to shelter.

In contrast to these YYA in the YYA system, those entering single adult emergency shelter were more likely to have previously been living on the streets or in another place not meant for human habitation (38 percent) and were more likely to have been previously living in another emergency shelter (35 percent). YYA entering family emergency shelter programs were more likely to have been couch surfing previously (46 percent), or to have been renting an apartment (17 percent).

See Appendix 14 for a map displaying the last permanent zip codes for homeless YYA in King County.

Figure 1: Pathways to Emergency Shelter for Homeless YYA in King County, 2012



How long do YYA stay in emergency shelter?

Youth and young adults stayed in emergency shelter programs for about two months on average, and this was true regardless of what type of program they enrolled in (average stays were 65 days in YYA emergency shelters, 61 days in single adult shelters, and 60 days in family shelters). However, YYA emergency shelters saw a higher proportion of their YYA stay for more than six months (eight percent in YYA shelters, three percent in single adult shelters, and six percent in family shelters) and a year (six percent in YYA shelters, two percent in single adult shelters, and less than one percent in family shelters).

Where do YYA go after leaving emergency shelter?

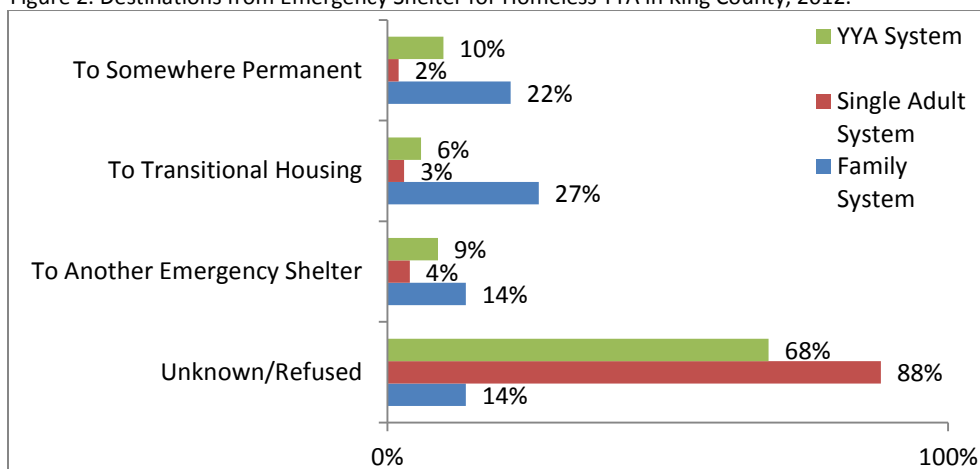
Youth and young adults shelter and single adult shelters both have very high rates of unknown exit destinations (68 percent and 88 percent respectively), making it difficult to understand how successfully these programs move YYA toward a positive next housing step. It is unclear at this time whether unknown exits should be treated as missing data or as a negative exit.

The forthcoming Safe Harbors data standards will clarify exits, and learning more about client exits is essential for monitoring and improving our system.

Ten percent of YYA who left YYA emergency shelter programs went somewhere they could stay permanently, including subsidized or unsubsidized rental units (2 percent) or with friends or family (7 percent). A similar proportion (9 percent) moved to another emergency shelter program. YYA moved to transitional housing programs six percent of the time.

As shown below in Figure 2, YYA in adult shelters were less likely to move to a place they could stay permanently (only 2 percent did so). Three percent went to transitional housing programs, and four percent went to another emergency shelter. Among YYA leaving family emergency shelter programs, 22 percent went somewhere they could stay permanently, 27 percent went to transitional housing, and 14 percent went to another emergency shelter.

Figure 2. Destinations from Emergency Shelter for Homeless YYA in King County, 2012.



Transitional Housing Programs

Where are YYA before they enter transitional housing programs?

In 2012, 343 YYA entered transitional housing programs tailored to YYA. Forty-two percent entered from another emergency housing program (29 percent from shelter, and 13 percent from another transitional housing program). A large proportion of YYA (37 percent) who entered transitional housing programs were couch-surfing prior to moving in, and small minorities were on the streets or in other places not meant for habitation, were in institutions, or were renting apartments (8 percent, 3 percent and 3 percent, respectively).

About one-third of transitional housing entries are from YYA previously in emergency shelter.

How long do YYA stay in transitional housing?

Youth and young adults in YYA transitional housing programs spent an average of 207 days, or almost seven months in transitional housing programs in 2012. However, lengths of stay for YYA in transitional housing programs differ substantially between programs targeting different populations.

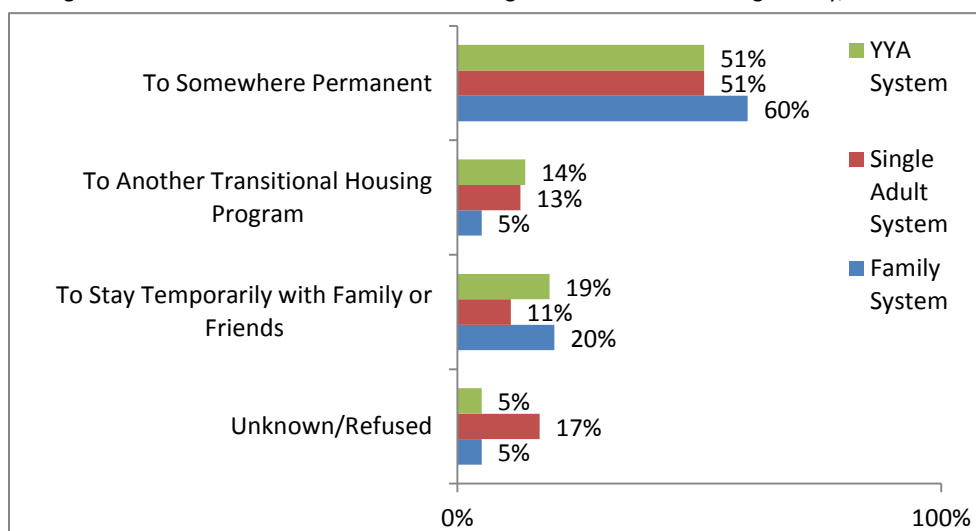
Youth and young adults spend the shortest amount of time in transitional housing programs tailored to YYA. They spend about a month longer (237 days, or almost eight months) in programs tailored to single adults, however, they spend much longer (327 days, or about 11 months in total) in programs tailored to families with children.

Where do YYA go after leaving transitional housing?

About half (51 percent) of all YYA in the YYA system who left transitional housing in 2012 moved somewhere they could stay permanently. Most commonly, they moved to live with friends or family (23 percent of all exits), or to unsubsidized apartments (20 percent). About a quarter (24 percent) of YYA leaving transitional housing programs transferred to another emergency housing program, with 10 percent transferring to an emergency shelter, and 14 percent transferring to another transitional housing program. Most of the remaining exits were to a known temporary place (19 percent), most commonly to live with friends and family on a temporary basis.

Figure 3. Destinations from Transitional Housing for Homeless YYA in King County, 2012.

As shown in Figure 3, YYA in single adult transitional housing programs followed a very similar pattern of exits. Fifty-one percent moved to somewhere they could stay permanently, although a higher proportion moved to subsidized rentals. This was true for YYA leaving family



transitional housing programs as well – 60 percent moved to somewhere they could stay permanently, and (14 percent) moving to subsidized rental housing.

Services-only programs

Where are YYA when they enroll in case management or drop-in services?

Youth and young adult case management-only programs often serve YYA who are not currently in emergency shelter or transitional housing programs. Twenty-five percent of YYA who enroll in YYA case management programs were couch surfing when they enroll. Twenty-one percent were in emergency shelter or a transitional housing program prior to enrolling. About one-tenth (9 percent) were on the street or in another place not meant for habitation when they enroll. Because case management programs serving those who are not enrolled in housing programs are generally not found in the single adult and family programs, parallel analyses are not included here.

How long do YYA stay enrolled in services-only programs?

YYA in YYA services-only programs are enrolled for an average of 216 days, or about seven months.

Where do YYA go when they complete services-only programs?

A majority (56 percent) of exit destinations from case management programs are unknown. As with emergency shelter exits, it is not currently clear whether these exits are best thought of as missing data or as negative exits. About one-quarter (26 percent) move somewhere they can stay permanently when they leave, most often to live permanently with friends or family (12 percent of all exits), or to unsubsidized rental apartments (10 percent). Almost one-tenth (9 percent) move to transitional housing programs.

Returns to homelessness

- Eleven percent of YYA who left YYA shelter or transitional housing for permanent housing in 2011 became homeless again within six months.
- An additional seven percent (18 percent of the total) became homeless again within a year.
- An additional nine percent (27 percent of total) became homeless again within two years.

18 percent of YYA who move to permanent housing become homeless again within a year.

These rates of return were higher than those of youth who moved from single adult shelter or transitional housing programs (three percent returned within six months, eight percent return within a year), or youth who moved from family emergency shelter and transitional housing programs (one percent returned within six months, three percent within a year).

Conclusion

While information is available to provide a high-level snapshot of our current housing and services for homeless YYA, there is much more we need to know to understand the needs of homeless YYA and what resources are most effective.

We know that families are important in preventing and ending homelessness for YYA and that we have resources in our county to serve YYA, but yet our rates of return are high. Some areas of the city and county do not have adequate resources or the capacity to provide the level of service needed. We must do a better job of collecting and understanding the data, particularly for under 18 youth, to assess what is successful and how to best move forward with investments.

As funders, providers, and stakeholders, we need to identify and respond to the needs of young people experiencing homelessness in an effective, culturally and developmentally appropriate manner, with the flexibility to adjust course when we find a more effective way to achieve our goal, and provide resources to support the continuum.

Section 4: Our Vision of Success - Outcome Goals

Critical Overview

- The Comprehensive Plan, guided by our theory of change, is the roadmap for how our community will prevent and end YYA homelessness in King County by 2020.
- We will prioritize stable housing, permanent connections, education and employment, and emotional well-being.
- Key benchmarks will help us monitor our progress toward our ultimate goal of preventing and ending YYA homelessness:
 1. Fewer YYA experience homelessness.
 2. Shorter periods of homelessness (time on streets or in shelter).
 3. Fewer YYA return to homelessness after exiting the system (either as a YYA or as an adult).
 4. Decrease over-representation of homeless LGBTQ YYA and homeless YYA of color.

Youth and Young Adult Theory of Change

The Comprehensive Plan is the roadmap for how our community will prevent and end YYA homelessness in King County by 2020 – ensuring that every young person in King County has a safe place to live and thrive.

Whenever possible, we will prevent YYA from becoming homeless through family reunification. Where not possible, we will provide appropriate housing and supportive services to get YYA off the streets quickly and move them toward productive lives. We will assist in the areas of stable housing, permanent connections, education and employment, and emotional well-being in order to successfully transition YYA to adulthood and stop the cycle of homelessness. To reach our goal, we must align and secure sufficient resources, work across systems and use data to drive our decision-making.

The Homeless YYA Initiative Logic Model

As detailed in the previous section, the framework for our efforts in King County is in alignment with the 2012 USICH Opening Doors Amendment. We used this framework to guide our community's theory of change and our plan for measuring impact (see the Logic Model, Appendix 9).

This framework was developed through a community process, including discussions around prioritization of outcomes. It is anticipated that over the course of the initiative, indicators will be added as other data sources become available and activities are implemented and refined.

Logic Model: Benchmarks and Associated Measurements

In order to track progress toward our goal of ending youth homelessness by 2020, we have developed a series of indicators and benchmarks. We opted to establish an initial numeric starting point for each indicator and benchmark so that we can begin to measure our progress immediately, and identify areas in which better metrics are needed. While we will continue to track these indicators and benchmarks, we expect to use a cycle of continuous improvement to develop new measures as information becomes available. Where appropriate, we have noted opportunities to drive measurement improvements involving forthcoming data sources such as coordinated engagement, the regional case management database, and the new HUD HMIS data standards.

Logic Model Benchmarks

Our core benchmarks, listed below, from the Homeless YYA Initiative Logic Model (see Appendix 9) will drive progress toward our impact goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness by 2020.

Benchmarks

Fewer YYA experience homelessness (homelessness is prevented and no YYA are sleeping outdoors or in places not meant for human habitation).

- Annual goal: Decrease of 15 to 20 YYA
- 2020 goal: 0 YYA sleeping outdoors

Length of time YYA are homeless (time on streets or in shelter) is shorter.

- Annual goal: 15percent decrease each year
- 2020 goal: YYA will spend 30 days or less on the street or in shelter

Fewer YYA return to homelessness (as either a YYA or an adult).

- Annual goal: 20percent decrease each year
- 2020 goal: 5percent return to homelessness

Decrease disproportionate over-representation of homeless LGBTQ YYA and/or homeless YYA of color.

- Annual goal: 5percent decrease each year
- 2020 goal: No overrepresentation of LGBTQ YYA or YYA of color

1. Fewer YYA experience homelessness (homelessness is prevented and no YYA are sleeping outdoors or in places not meant for human habitation).

In 2013, Count Us In found that **114** youth and young adults were sleeping outside, in abandoned buildings, or in other places not meant for human habitation.

2015 Benchmark: Count Us In finds no more than 90 YYA sleeping outside, in abandoned buildings, or other places not meant for human habitation.

2. Length of time YYA are homeless (time on streets or in shelter) is shorter.

In 2012, homeless YYA in King County spent an average of 65 days in emergency shelter. We are currently unable to measure the amount of time YYA spend homeless before entering emergency shelter programs, or between emergency shelter stays. However, Community Sign In should improve our ability to understand what has transpired when YYA enter our system. Similarly, upcoming HMIS data standards will require an element, called length of time homeless that will track time on the streets and in shelter.

2015 Benchmark: YYAs spend no more than 56 days on the street or in shelters.

3. Fewer YYA return to homelessness (either as a YYA or as an adult).

In King County, 27 percent of young people who exited a YYA housing program subsequently returned to homelessness within two years. Because we only measure a return to homelessness for YYA who first report they are moving to permanent housing, and we only count those YYA who consent to share their information, current data almost certainly underreports the number of YYA who return to homelessness.

2015 Benchmark: Fewer than 21 percent of YYA become homeless again after moving to permanent housing.

4. Decrease over-representation of homeless LGBTQ YYA and homeless YYA of color.

In 2012, 67 percent of homeless YYA were people of color. While HMIS does not currently collect information about sexual orientation or gender identity, the RHYMIS does. Among YYA who participated in RHYMIS in 2012, 14 percent identified as LGBTQ. Two upcoming changes will improve our ability to collect accurate data about homeless YYA LGBTQ status, coordinated engagement asks about YYAs' interest in being referred to LGBTQ services and the forthcoming HMIS data standards include a question about sexual orientation.

2015 Benchmark: Less than 57 percent of homeless YYA will be people of color and less than 13 percent will identify as LGBTQ.

Logic Model Indicators

The year one indicators may be found in the green boxes in the middle of the Homeless YYA Initiative Logic Model. Because youth under 18 have different needs and may require different interventions regarding stable housing, permanent connections, education and employment, and emotional well-being, we have separated several indicators for those under the age of 18.

Stable Housing:

We identified three target indicators of stable housing for year one of the initiative. Coordinated engagement will allow us to glean a wealth of information about what types of housing are appropriate for YYA. In 2012, 29 percent of moves in YYA housing or services programs were to more independent housing; for youth under 18, 28 percent of moves were to a safe permanent place. Because the research on developmentally appropriate housing for homeless YYA is still developing, we have identified transitional housing and any permanent housing option as appropriate for year one.

Permanent Connections:

We expect Community Sign In and coordinated engagement to provide us with additional information about the potential to reunify homeless young people with friends and family. Community Sign In will ask youth at the front door of every agency whether they are interested in family reunification, and the new HMIS data standards will collect information about family reunification programs. For year one, we have used a proxy measure – the percent of YYA who exit YYA homeless housing programs to live permanently with family or friends. In 2012, 10 percent in YYA housing or services programs exited to live permanently with friends or family; for youth under 18, 28 percent exited to live permanently with friends and family.

Education and Employment:

We know that education and employment are crucial to help YYA remain stably housed. HMIS does not currently track information about work experience, pre-employment, or internship participation for all programs. However, combining PRO Youth data with HMIS data, we found that in 2012, 36 percent of YYA were employed or attending school when they exited the system. Among those participating in PRO Youth case management programs, 78 percent of youth exited with satisfactory job skills. We will continue to track information about youth under 18 separately for this metric, and more development is needed to track education success for youth under 18 in particular.

Emotional Well-Being:

Because HMIS data about emotional well-being is very limited, we used overall health status as a proxy variable. In 2012, 31 percent of YYA exiting YYA housing or services-only programs reported that their health is very good or excellent. Developing better measures of emotional well-being will be a focus of the initiative in year one.

(Refer to Appendix 10 for the year-to-year benchmarks between now and 2020)

Section 5: Recommendations and Call to Action

Critical Overview

- Over the course of four months, a community process led to the selection of the Priority Activities.
- The Priority Activities, combined with the needed system change efforts, summarize how we will have the strongest measurable impact in the next 18 months toward ending YYA homelessness.
- Recommended System Changes:
 - Continuum-wide capacity building to support family reunification
 - Explicit focus on disproportionality
 - Prevent exits to homelessness for youth in care
 - Strengthen data and evaluation
 - Align and cultivate funding to improve individual outcomes and system level impacts
- Recommended Priority Activities:
 - Family reunification intervention
 - Address system disproportionality
 - Shelter for 18 to 25 year olds in South King County
 - Low Barrier housing
 - Clear path to employment, including education particularly for YYA under 18
 - Housing stability team
 - Rental Assistance with Supports
- The Comprehensive Plan Update in March 2015 will determine further endorsements after we launch and evaluate the following recommendations.

Recommendations Framework

The recommendations below are specific action steps that can be implemented in the coming 18 months, moving us toward our goal of preventing and ending YYA homelessness by 2020. These recommendations build upon the federal Opening Doors strategic plan and the National Network for Youth's Comprehensive Framework. They provide recommendations for service providers, funders, and systems-level change.

At a foundational level, the Priority Activity Recommendations assume the following:

- Existing programs and services are not discontinued until data suggests either a) the programs are not performing, or b) based on aligned community outcomes, the dollars spent on those programs would have a greater impact elsewhere.
- Annual plan updates will incorporate new data, as available, and refine our direction.
- Our community must advocate for new public and private dollars toward ending YYA homelessness while determining how to effectively use existing dollars.
- This plan – landscape scan, baseline data, logic model, community guidance – will guide us in directing our resources to ensure their greatest impact.

It is recommended that Priority Activity investments be made as soon as possible after the Comprehensive Plan's endorsement and be implemented over the following 18 months. The first Comprehensive Plan progress report due in March 2015 will formally measure our success and adapt investment recommendations as needed (see Implementation Timeline in the next section for more detail).

System Recommendations: Foundational Improvements

As we propose the following priority investments, we acknowledge that existing programs are not fully or consistently funded. In addition, work is necessary on a system level to accomplish our goal. The following system work must be conducted alongside the implementation of new and enhanced services for YYA if we are to be successful.

Continuum-Wide Capacity Building: Families are Critical

Connecting with families is critical to the work of ending YYA homelessness. Models such as Eva's Initiative's in Toronto and the Family Acceptance Project in San Francisco prove the protective impact of positive contact with family. The Homeless YYA Initiative complements the work of the City of Seattle's Youth and Family Empowerment Division in strengthening family connections, particularly their work with schools. The Homeless YYA Initiative likewise works in complement with the CEHKC Family Homelessness Initiative.

Recommendation: Build the capacity of the system to connect YYA with families where safe, including training and capacity building for providers. Document what is effective in connecting YYA to families at the front doors during Community Sign In and fully fund these strategies for YYA ages 12 to 25.

Explicit Focus on Disproportionality

We know the percentage of homeless YYA who are people of color and/or identify as LGBTQ is disproportionate to the general population. In addition, the National Network for Youth "Recommendations for System Enhancements toward Ending Youth Homelessness" affirms we must implement national standards on serving LGBTQ YYA and ensure outreach services and housing programs appropriately engage and serve transgender youth.

Recommendation: All interventions for homeless YYA must respond effectively and safely to youth of color and LGBTQ YYA. Likewise, our continuum of services must include locations in and leadership of communities of color, where YYA can be as connected as possible to natural supports.

Prevent Exits to Homelessness for Youth in Care

System work is needed to determine our regional strategy around eliminating exits to homelessness from the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Part of this work is to connect with opportunities and challenges around foster care to age 21.

Recommendation: Identify leaders in child welfare and juvenile justice, including at the state level, and determine tangible action steps and a timeline for eliminating exits to homelessness from these systems. Leverage HHS "Planning Grant to Develop a Model Intervention for YYA with Child Welfare Involvement At-Risk of Homelessness," if received. Include early progress and next steps in March 2015 Plan Comprehensive Plan Update.

Strengthen Data and Evaluation

As a community initiative, we must explore the best solutions around capturing, sharing and protecting data – including the strengths and opportunities around Safe Harbors, the role of and opportunities around the regional case management database (currently in development, but needing additional funding to launch), and the forthcoming merger of HMIS and RHYMIS.

Recommendation:

Create a strategy to collect and share data to understand the multiple “inputs” a YYA receives, system cost, and system benefit. This data strategy must be responsive to the needs of funders, providers, and homeless young people, particularly when it comes to protecting the privacy of the YYA. Specific data gathering and evaluation work in the next 18 months will include:

- Cost modeling
- More comprehensive funding scan of the YYA systems
- Review quality of our existing data and determine improvement strategy – noting both strengths and gaps in our existing HMIS particularly for capturing data on YYA under 18
- Program Evaluation, including prevention approaches and housing models – specific evaluation investments to be determined by the evaluation team (see the work ahead, following section)

Align and Cultivate Funding

Ultimately, YYA homelessness is a community issue requiring public investment. The Comprehensive Plan is a platform to catalyze local funding and increase federal dollars in our community. This Plan will require a mix of coordinated public and private funding. The private funding will serve as a catalyst leveraging public funding for longer-term infrastructure change.

Recommendation:

- The work needed in the immediate term is to secure funding for the Priority Activities, below. A subgroup of the CEHKC and YYA Funders Groups will work to identify potential resources. In the intermediate term, a process to align outcomes and allow for an accurate analysis of the system performance and cost as a whole is required.
- We understand that on a daily basis, homeless young adults move between systems. In order to be sustainable financially and as responsive as possible to YYA, we must ensure that the specialized work of the YYA continuum is positioned within the broader context of the community’s work with all homeless individuals and families.

Priority Activity Recommendations

The following recommendations summarize what additional service investments we must make to ensure the strongest impact in the next 18 months toward ending YYA homelessness. We plan to secure funding for the following activities through a collective impact process under the auspices and guidance of the CEHKC Funders Group. The Homeless YYA Initiative staff, CEHKC, and YYA Funders will attract other public and private funders to the ongoing work we are dedicated to accomplishing. We anticipate securing funding for the first 18 months of priority activity implementation in the fall of 2013 and releasing a joint RFP in the early winter of 2014, which will align with the efforts and interests of both the CEHKC and YYA Funders Group.

Mid-way through the implementation of each priority activity, we must review for early signs of success, and plan for continued funding past 18 months if recommended and feasible. The Comprehensive Plan Update in March of 2015 will determine further endorsements after we launch and evaluate. Much work must be done to continue this momentum - both in the short term to move these strategies ahead, and in the long term to ensure new and continued funding.

Priority Activity Recommendations Summary

Priority Activity	Description	Target Population	Benchmarks
Family Reunification Intervention	Family and youth-focused in home support around family conflict for YYA connecting back to family. The program will have an emphasis (not exclusively) on PRO Youth program participants – currently homeless YYA ages 15 to 22.	Temporarily Disconnected (Low Need) Unstably Connected/Episodic (Medium Need) Chronically Disconnected (High Need)	Length of time YYA are homeless (time on the streets or in shelter) is shorter. Fewer YYA return to homelessness.
Address System Disproportionality	Capacity building for providers to ensure existing programs are accessible and appropriate for YYA of color and LGBTQ YYA. Accountability to higher standards in forthcoming RFPs.	Temporarily Disconnected Unstably Connected/Episodic Chronically Disconnected	Decrease over-representation of homeless LGBTQ YYA and/or homeless YYA of color.
Address Regional and Need Based Housing Gaps	Establish emergency shelter for 18 – 25 year olds in South King County. Note: There are currently no shelters in South Seattle – work with emerging providers in this region is needed to determine which shelter and housing interventions are most appropriate.	Temporarily Disconnected Unstably Connected/Episodic Chronically Disconnected	Length of time YYA are homeless (time on the streets or in shelter) is shorter.
Address Regional and Need Based Housing Gaps	Increase low barrier housing.	Chronically Disconnected	Length of time YYA are homeless (time on the streets or in shelter) is shorter.
Clear Path to Employment	Internship/Employment programs that are specifically designed to connect YYA to identified living-wage employment. Critical parts of this intervention are navigators to assist YYA and job developers. Note: Particularly for youth under 18, the clear path to employment must include education.	Temporarily Disconnected Unstably Connected/Episodic	Fewer YYA return to homelessness.
Housing Stability Team	Community-based crisis resources to ensure stability of YYA that have exited YYA housing. Critical elements are case management and flexible resources for things such as utility payments; tailored toward maintaining their current housing. Leverage PRO Youth and existing case management where possible.	YYA exiting housing programs: Temporarily Disconnected Unstably Connected/Episodic	Fewer YYA return to homelessness.
Rental Assistance with Supports	Gradually stepped-down rental subsidy for YA in scattered site, market-rate apartments (up to 18 mo.) with safety net available to YA when more support is needed. Direct connection to Housing Stability Team and employment support.	Temporarily Disconnected Unstably Connected/Episodic	Fewer YYA return to homelessness.

These Priority Activity Recommendations, combined with the above system recommendations, are a starting place. The Comprehensive Plan Update in March 2015 will determine further endorsements after we launch and evaluate. **The total recommended allocation over 18 months for the above strategies is \$1,470,000.**

Priority Activity Recommendations Detail

Some things to note:

- Some recommendations are clearly defined; others are intentionally broad and will be refined based on the scope of funding secured.
- We will be opportunistic and respond to the changing environment in our implementation of these recommendations and others not identified here.
- Given that this plan is a regional response, we will need to assess the baseline capacity and need in each region of the cities and county alongside funding decisions – adapting to regional differences in infrastructure.

Family Reunification Intervention

Given that most youth return home relatively quickly and often have some connection to their family, family reunification services for YYA at every step in the homeless continuum is critical.

2013 Count Us In data identified 182 homeless and unstably housed YYA (out of 776 surveyed) who stayed with a family member the night prior to the count. PRO Youth data likewise identifies connection back to family as the most prevalent and successful exit from homelessness. Family- and youth-focused in-home support around family conflict should leverage existing programs.

This priority is in alignment with the City of Seattle’s strategic direction emphasizing family preservation. Family reunification under this priority activity must also sustain and enhance two Phase I investments: National Safe Place and Project SAFE. An additional program under family reunification showing early promise is the YMCA Lifelong Family Connections Program, which launched in April of 2013. The program connects alumni of foster care with supportive adults and potential permanency.

- **Funding Recommendation: Allocate \$150,000 for the first 18 months to maintain Project SAFE and allocate an additional \$150,000 to expand family- and youth-focused in-home support.**

Address System Disproportionality

This priority activity is fundamentally a system question of “do all youth feel welcome, in all programs.” We must also determine if services should look different from current programming to best serve youth of color and LGBTQ YYA.

In addition to robust support for youth of color and LGBTQ culturally specific programs—the current promising practice—all interventions in our continuum of care must ensure that they are fully appropriate and approachable. Local youth of color and LGBTQ culturally specific programs should be supported to expand their reach and impact in providing technical assistance in the King County region. Regional culturally specific agencies should receive the capacity building needed to provide the most appropriate services to homeless YYA within their community.

This investment includes program-level evaluation of success metrics for youth of color and LGBTQ YYA paired with training and technical assistance to reach full parity. Higher explicit standards for programs will be detailed in forthcoming RFPs.

- **Funding Recommendation: Allocate \$50,000 for the first 18 months for technical assistance related to system disproportionality.**

Address Regional and Need Based Housing Gaps: Shelter

This recommendation addresses the regional gaps in our shelter resources for YYA. The 2013 Count Us In identified 41 homeless and unstably housed YYA during a point in time in South King County.³⁶ Yet the landscape assessment identifies that none of the 75 shelter beds for 18 – 25 year olds in King County are located within South King County. The South King County Council of Human Services identifies in their “A Matter of Need” report, that South King County has the largest share of the county’s total population and the highest number of families living below the poverty line.³⁷

There are also currently no YYA shelter beds in South Seattle. Work with emerging providers in this region of the city is needed to determine which shelter and housing interventions are most appropriate for the young people they serve.

This recommendation calls for 10 additional shelter beds for young adults over age 18 in South King County, which will begin to ensure that YYA experiencing homelessness in South King County will have access to safe shelter and will be less likely to experience harm while on the streets. Shelter also provides an access point to services and support during a time of crisis for YYA. Shelter is tailored to any YYA experiencing homelessness (temporarily disconnected, unstably connected, or chronically disconnected) with co-located services.

Critical to the prioritization of this activity is that it will directly impact length of time on the streets for YA in South King County (Benchmark 2) and can be implemented within 18 months with leverage from existing agency capacity.

- **Funding Recommendation: Allocate \$120,000 for the first 18 months for six additional shelter beds in South King County.**

Address Regional and Need Based Housing Gaps: Low barrier Housing

Early implementation of Youth Housing Connection categorizes 39 percent of youth in the top, highest needs half of the assessment scale (as of August 1, 2013). While this information is nascent, this early trend reinforces assertions from agency leaders who have stressed the need for low barrier housing for chronically disconnected, high needs YYA. The landscape assessment identifies that YYA needs are more critical in South Seattle and South King County due to current lack of capacity in that geographic region.

The purpose of low barrier housing is to provide homeless YYA with housing and activities designed to help stabilize them and enable them to move into housing that is more independent. Of the roughly 250 beds of time-limited YYA housing in King County, only nine are specifically tailored to chronically disconnected YYA. Low barrier Housing for young adults means specifically that YYA remain eligible for housing even with multiple barriers that would make them ineligible for other programs such as active drug/alcohol use and mental health concerns.

This recommendation calls for 12 additional beds of low barrier housing which will address the specific need we see in early Youth Housing Connection assessments and which we assume will be consistent with year one data. National research and local providers estimate that 15 percent of homeless YYA in King County are chronically disconnected and would likely not be eligible for existing housing in the continuum, other than the existing nine beds, without this investment.

Public funders are considering this priority in capital requests through the 2013 and 2014 NOFA.

- **Funding Recommendation: Allocate \$340,000 for the first 18 months for 12 additional beds of low barrier housing** (*this does not include capital expenses*).

Clear Path to Employment

This recommendation addresses what is needed to move YYA to self-sufficiency. As shown in First Place for Youth’s “Staying Power” report, the data supports the effectiveness of individually tailored education and employment plans and targeted job development services that give YYA the opportunity to gain theoretical and hands-on skills in their chosen field.³⁸

In the past 6 months, all funding for homeless YYA-focused employment support in East King County has been discontinued.

This recommendation includes longer-term Internship/Employment programs that are specifically designed to connect YYA to identified, livable-wage employment. Job developers engage employers and navigators work with youth to prepare them for employment.

Particularly for youth under 18, the clear path to employment must include education. Given the decision criteria, including “can be implemented within 18 months after funding” work with schools was not clearly outlined. Partnership with schools must be a part of the work moving forward, including connections with community colleges.

Emphasis by Mockingbird Homeless Youth Initiative participants was critical to the prioritization of this activity.

- **Funding Recommendation: Allocate \$250,000 for the first 18 months to serve 70 additional YYA in identifying a clear path to employment.**

Housing Stability Team

This recommendation is developmentally tailored to limit returns to homelessness.

HMIS data suggests that 27percent of YYA who exit to permanent housing from a YYA housing program return to homelessness within two years. Practice-based knowledge suggests that a significant number of returns to homelessness are due to YYA inexperience sustaining their own housing and the normal challenges of adolescence.

This recommendation includes additional case management paired with flexible funding to help YYA with items such as utility payments, assistance with significant debt, legal fees, and fees for applications.

This activity was prioritized given the emphasis on “fewer YYA return to homelessness,” and the assumption that with relatively minimal investment at the critical time, YYA can be prevented from re-entering the system.

- **Funding Recommendation: Allocate \$130,000 for the first 18 months for a housing stability team (will leverage existing capacity) and flexible funding for 50 YA.**

Rental Assistance with Supports

This recommendation addresses the gaps in our housing resources for YYA and leverages flexibility offered by the “Moving to Work” status of the Seattle Housing Authority and the King County Housing Authority.

Youth Housing Connection will document the unmet housing need in our continuum (the number of YYA awaiting housing and their characteristics). In advance of this data, providers and housing authorities partnered to design a housing pilot focused on YA exiting supportive housing programs (for YA not quite ready for independence).

The recommendation includes rental subsidies that step down over time and case management support.

This activity is in alignment with the City of Seattle’s strategic plan, “Communities Supporting Safe and Stable Housing”.³⁹

- **Funding Recommendation: Allocate \$280,000 for the first 18 months for rental assistance with supports.**

Further Recommendations

The above system and service recommendations summarize what additional investments we must make to have the strongest impact in the next 18 months toward ending YYA homelessness. Public and private funders will respond to early signs of success, prior to the Comprehensive YYA Plan Update, to determine continued funding for the above priority activities.

The recommendations can be seen as the minimum needed to move the needle on YYA homelessness, although funders may choose to invest in further strategies. An overview of all priority activities recommended during the planning process is included in appendix (see Appendix 11).

Section 6: The Work Ahead and Next Steps

King County is currently mid-way through the three year Priority Action Steps Implementation Plan, which we consider Phase I of our work. Phase II is the first 18-months of the Comprehensive Plan, focused on implementing the Priority Activities and system recommendations. In March of 2015, we will conduct our first Comprehensive Plan Update, which refine our activities and investment recommendations in light of new data. Comprehensive Plan Updates will then occur annually each March.

Homeless YYA Initiative Timeline (Phase I, II and III)

Phase I: April 2012 – April 2015	Phase II: September 2013 – March 2015	Phase III: March 2015 – 2020
Priority Action Steps Implementation	Comprehensive Plan Implementation	Comprehensive YYA Plan Updates – Annual Each March
Intervention Activities: - None	Intervention Activities: - Family Intervention - South King County Shelter - Low Barrier Housing - Clear Path to Employment - Housing Stability Team - Rental Assistance with Supports	Intervention Activities: - TBD
Prevention: - National Safe Place - Project SAFE	Prevention: - Refine and Expand Youth Housing Connection and Community Sign In - Eliminate Exits to Homelessness from Foster Care and Juvenile Justice	Prevention: - TBD
System Improvements: - Coordinated Engagement (Youth Housing Connection) - Coordinated Data (Community Sign In) - Comprehensive YYA Plan	System Improvements: - Work Plan to proactively guide Phase II efforts - Comprehensive Plan - Address System Disproportionality - Coordinated Data Capacity - Secure sustainable funding	System Improvements: - TBD
← Build Political Will to End YYA Homelessness →		
Activities that can and have begun immediately	Activities that require new resources	Longer-term activities that build on earlier efforts and require new resources, advocacy and commitment across systems

Comprehensive Plan Implementation: September 2013 – March 2015

This timeline provides a broad-spectrum overview. The Homeless YYA Initiative work plan, following endorsement of the Comprehensive Plan, will provide more detail.

<p>September – December 2013</p>	<p>Develop 18 month work plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review work plan with the YYA Advisory Group to ensure movement forward with clear aligned purpose and direction • HHS Planning Grant incorporated into plan implementation if received <p>Update stakeholder roles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refocus the role of the YYA Advisory Group • Determine at what points and how YYA input will be included moving forward • Specify touch points for elected officials, including City of Seattle, King County and suburban cities <p>Secure funding for the recommended Priority Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene subgroup of the CEHKC and YYA Funders Groups to identify resources • Identify and communicate opportunities to leverage existing dollars and capacity to move the priority activities forward • Involve each jurisdiction directly where appropriate <p>Involve additional stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to connect the work identified here with the broader work of the CEHKC – ensuring that the Homeless YYA Initiative aligns with and leverages our regional work to end homelessness
<p>January – March 2014</p>	<p>Projected – Release funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release funding in support of priority activities (actual process for funding priority activities will be determined with YYA and CEHKC funders groups and will be ongoing) <p>Communicate progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2014 – First Homeless YYA Initiative quarterly progress report (ongoing hereafter) • March 2014 – First Homeless YYA Initiative bi-annual progress report to the bodies of the CEHKC (ongoing hereafter) <p>Convene Evaluation Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene an Evaluation Team to identify how we will collectively learn from our work and begin to more deeply address learning questions, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Which prevention efforts are most effective and for whom? ○ Which housing and service interventions work for whom? ○ What strategies in the homeless YYA continuum are appropriate for unstably housed and homeless YYA outside of the continuum? <p>Prioritize the focus for program evaluation and identify at what points we are referencing the data we are gathering</p>

Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in King County by 2020

April - June 2014	<p>Implement Priority Activities</p> <p>Review new data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2014 – six month Community Sign In data available – Evaluation Team reviews data prior to distribution (every six months hereafter)
July – September 2014	<p>Implement Priority Activities</p> <p>Review Youth Housing Connection at year one</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand Youth Housing Connection, potentially including housing for under 18 youth, inclusion of new agency partners
October – December 2014	<p>Implement Priority Activities</p> <p>Review new data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2014 – Year One Community Sign In and Youth Housing Connection data available – Homeless YYA Initiative facilitates evaluation of the data with the Evaluation Team prior to March 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update
March – April 2015	<p>Comprehensive Plan Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiative staff prepare overview and evaluation of first 18 months Convene community to provide input on further work YYA Advisory Group, CEHKC and YYA Funders re-assess funding alignment to understanding of program effectiveness and movement toward our goal Initiative staff update Comprehensive Plan with community input Youth Housing Connection is publicly funded, services added to assessment
Annually each March	<p>Comprehensive Plan Update</p>
March 2020	<p>Impact Goal: Every youth and young adult in King County has a safe place to live and to thrive</p>

Appendices

Appendix 1: Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative Committee Members

Appendix 2: Current Engagement and Support Services Scan

Appendix 3: Current Housing Resources Scan

Appendix 4: Current Estimated Housing for YYA – By Type

Appendix 5: Current Estimated Housing for YYA – By Region

Appendix 6: Map of Homeless Youth and Young Adult Housing

Appendix 7: Types of time-limited Housing

Appendix 8: Youth and Young Adult Homeless Service Program Funding

Appendix 9: Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative Logic Model

Appendix 10: Year-to-Year Benchmark Goals

Appendix 11: All Activity Recommendations

Appendix 12: Acronyms

Appendix 13: Columbia Legal Services Plan to Address Gaps in Legal Aid

Appendix 14: Last Permanent Zip Code of Homeless YYAs in King County, 2012

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¹² (Count Us In, 2013)

¹³ (Safe Harbors Homeless Management Information System (HMIS))

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³³ (Elizabeth K. Hopper, 2010)
³⁴ (Pope)
³⁵ (Norweeta G., 2007)
³⁶ (Count Us In, 2013)
³⁷ (The South King County Council of Human Services, 2005)
³⁸ (First Place for Youth)
³⁹ (City of Seattle, 2012 to 2018)

Appendix 1: Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative Committee Members

YYA Advisory Group

Joe Alonzo	<i>Auburn Youth Resources</i>
Jim Blanchard	<i>Auburn Youth Resources</i>
Tyler Bauer	<i>Street Youth Ministries</i>
Mary Bourguignon	<i>King County Council</i>
Gretchen Bruce	<i>Committee to End Homelessness</i>
Hazel Cameron	<i>4C Coalition</i>
Sarah Christiansen	<i>Auburn Youth Resources</i>
Edith Elion	<i>Atlantic Street Center</i>
Ralph Fragale	<i>Atlantic Street Center</i>
Megan Gibbard	<i>Homeless YYA Initiative (Chair), King County DCHS</i>
Melinda Giovengo	<i>YouthCare</i>
Rowena Harper	<i>Street Youth Ministries</i>
Jennifer Hill	<i>Employment and Education Resources, King County DCHS</i>
Katie Hong	<i>Raikes Foundation</i>
Kristy Johnson	<i>King County Housing Authority</i>
Betsy Jones	<i>King County Executive's Office</i>
Brooke Knight	<i>YMCA</i>
Antonio Lewis	<i>Highline Public Schools</i>
Vince Matulionis	<i>United Way of King County</i>
Grace McClelland	<i>City of Seattle Human Services Department</i>
Hedda McLendon	<i>YouthCare</i>
Katy Miller	<i>King County Housing & Community Development</i>
Courtney Noble	<i>United Way of King County</i>
Shannon Perez-Darby	<i>The Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse</i>
Terry Pottmeyer	<i>Friends of Youth</i>
Mark Putnam	<i>Building Changes</i>
Adrienne Quinn	<i>Medina Foundation</i>
Kate Reynolds	<i>Street Youth Ministries</i>
Margaret Soukup	<i>King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services</i>
Marcus Stubblefield	<i>King County United for Youth</i>
Jim Theofelis	<i>Mockingbird Society</i>
Casey Trupin	<i>Columbia Legal Services</i>
Michelle Valdez	<i>Homeless YYA Initiative (Staff), King County DCHS</i>
Mary Van Cleve	<i>Columba Legal Services</i>
Jim Vollendroff	<i>King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services</i>
Sean Walsh	<i>YMCA</i>
Pat Wells	<i>City of Seattle Human Services Department</i>
Derek Wentorf	<i>Friends of Youth</i>
Kristin Winkel	<i>King County Housing Authority</i>
Margaret Woley	<i>Building Changes</i>
Dennis Wright	<i>Issaquah School District</i>

YYA Funders Group

Don Andre	Campion Foundation
Connie Ballmer	Individual
William Bell	Casey Family Programs
Sonya Campion	Campion Foundation
Paul Cavanaugh	Thomas V. Giddens Jr. Foundation
Tonya Dressel	Ballmer Foundation
Ceil Erickson	Seattle Foundation
Megan Gibbard	Homeless YYA Initiative, King County DCHS
Sandy Hart	Casey Family Programs
Jeff Hauser	Raynier Institute & Foundation
Kris Hermanns	Pride Foundation
Katie Hong	Raikes Foundation
Steve Ice	Dept. of Health and Human Services, Admin. for Children, Youth and Families
Catherine Lester	City of Seattle Human Services Department
Sara Levin	United Way of King County
Jackie MacLean	King County Department of Community and Human Services
Vince Matulionis	United Way of King County
Grace McClelland	City of Seattle Human Services Department
Kollin Min	Gates Foundation
Courtney Noble	United Way of King County
Mark Putnam	Building Changes
Adrienne Quinn	Medina Foundation
Tricia Raikes	Raikes Foundation
Alice Shobe	Building Changes
Andi Smith	Washington State Governor's Office, Executive Policy
Richard Watkins	Thomas V. Giddens Jr. Foundation

YYA Outcomes Workgroup

Joe Alonzo	Auburn Youth Resources
Jesse Bica	New Horizons
Jim Blanchard	Auburn Youth Resources
Sarah Christiansen	Auburn Youth Resources
Jen Chwalibog	Cocoon House
Marci Curtain	City of Seattle Human Services Department
Ceil Erickson	Seattle Foundation
Susan Fox	Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets
Megan Gibbard	Homeless YYA Initiative, King County DCHS
Melinda Giovengo	YouthCare
Katie Hong	Raikes Foundation
Mary Johnson	City of Seattle Human Services Department
Brooke Knight	YMCA
Erin Maguire	Catholic Community Services
Hedda Mclendon	YouthCare
Dwight Mizoguchi	City of Seattle Human Services Department
Courtney Noble	United Way of King County
Terry Pottmeyer	Friends of Youth
Mark Putnam	Building Changes
Amanda Thompkins	King County DCHS
Michelle Valdez	Homeless YYA Initiative, King County DCHS
Sean Walsh	YMCA
Richard Watkins	Giddens Foundation
Derek Wentorf	Friends of Youth
Margaret Woley	Building Changes

YYA Monthly Stakeholder Forums

In addition to the above committees, a forum was held every month as an opportunity to hear about the changes planned for our homeless youth and young adult system which provided a way for continuous community input to the Comprehensive Plan. This stakeholder forum was attended by a variety of YYA providers, funders, and community members.

Community Convening

In June of 2013, over 70 community members gathered for two days to give input to the priority activity recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan. The participants included YYA agency leaders and providers, cross-systems agencies, funders, King County Council staff, and youth and young adults from the Mockingbird Society's Homeless Youth Initiative.

Type of Support homeless YYA need:

Outreach & Engagement

Prevention/ Reunification

Employment

Education

Physical & Emotional Wellbeing

Services may include:

Drop-in
Hot Meals
Referrals
Street Outreach
PRO Youth/Case Management

Family Reunification
Permanent Connections
Crisis Intervention

Job skill Development
Employment and Training Programs
Pre-employment Internships
Career Planning

HS Diploma Programs
GED Programs
Study Skills
College Readiness
Scholarships

Mental Health Treatment
Substance Abuse Treatment
Physical Health

Resources in our community that meet this need:

Auburn Youth Resources: PRO Youth
Friends of Youth: PRO Youth
YouthCare: Orion Center & PRO Youth
CCS: University District Youth Center & PRO Youth
Street Youth Ministries
Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets
New Horizons Ministries
45th Street Homeless Youth Clinic
Country Doctor: Youth Clinic
Teen Feed: Service Links
YMCA Young Adult Services

Auburn Youth Resources, Friends of Youth, & YouthCare: National Safe Place
YMCA: CCORS
YouthCare: Project SAFE

YouthCare
Friends of Youth
New Horizons
PSKS: Stepping Stones
Sanctuary Art Center
United Indians
CCS: University District Youth Center
YMCA Young Adult Services

Auburn Youth Resources
Friends of Youth
New Horizons Ministries
PSKS: Stepping Stones
CCS: University District Youth Center
YMCA Young Adult Services
YouthCare

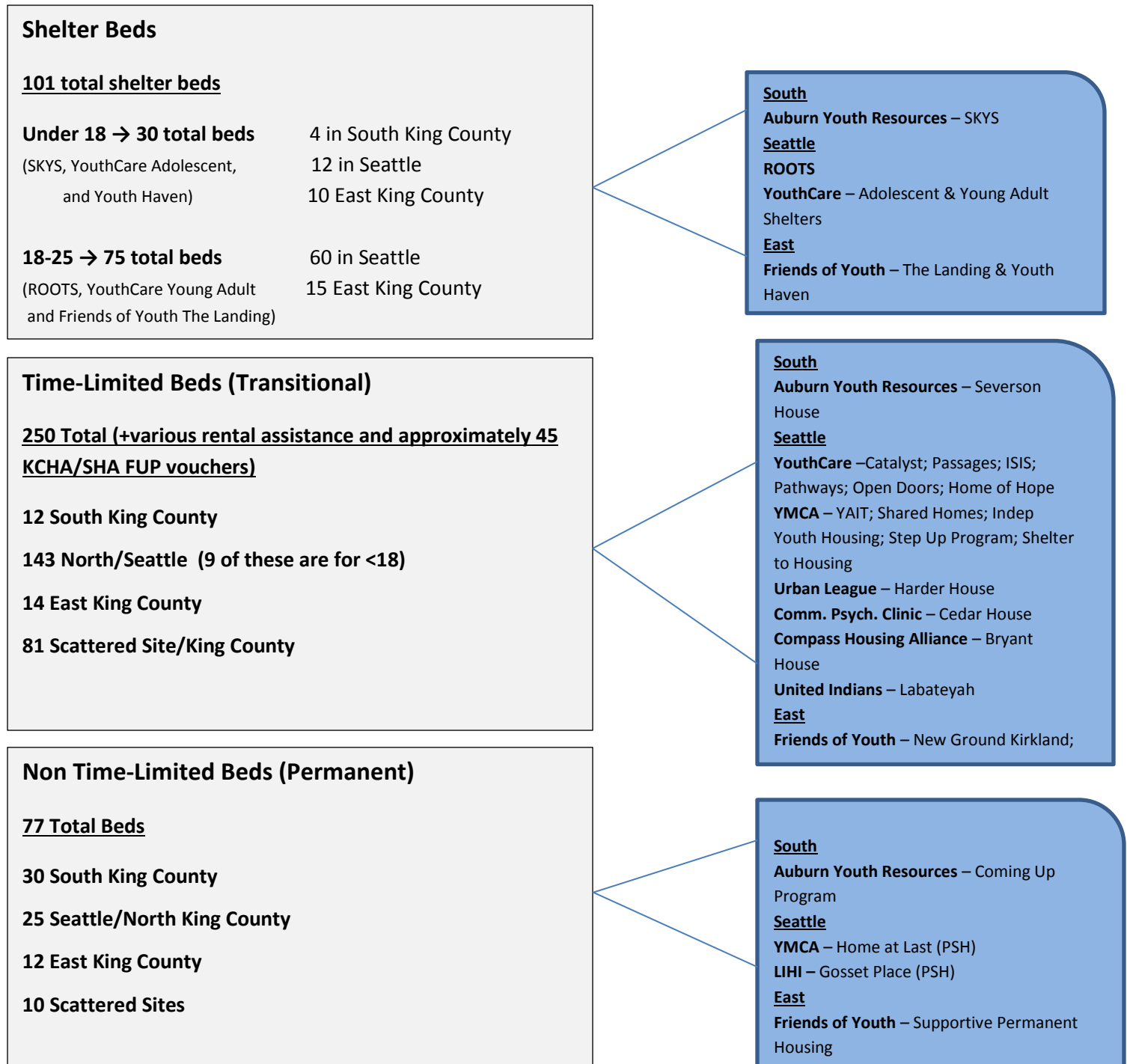
YouthCare: Orion Center
CCS: University District Youth Center
Street Youth Ministries
Auburn Youth Resources
Friends of Youth
PSKS
New Horizons
Teen Feed
YMCA Young Adult Services
Sanctuary Art Center
United Indians Youth Homes

Appendix 3: Current Housing and Resources Scan

Type of housing homeless YYA need:	Facilities may look like:	With programs & services tailored to:	Resources in our community that meet this need:
<p>Emergency Shelter</p>	<p>Under 18 shelters 18-25 shelters Congregate or Dorm-style living Shared Group Homes</p>	<p>Low-barrier/high support <u>Program:</u> On-site staff; basic needs; assessment & referrals <u>YYA:</u> Newly homeless or brief episodes of homelessness; in crisis or need of respite from the streets</p>	<p>Auburn Youth Resources – SKYS Program Friends Of Youth – The Landing; Youth Haven YouthCare – Adolescent Emergency; Young Adult Shelter ROOTS</p>
<p>Time-Limited</p>	<p>Shared or Group Homes Scattered-Site Housing Transitional Rental Assistance or Rapid Rehousing in independent or shared apartments Supervised Apartments Host Homes Vouchers</p>	<p>Low-barrier/high support <u>Program:</u> high staff ratio; 24 hour support; high level of program offerings and structure <u>YYA:</u> High needs; no income; CD and/or MH needs; limited community connections</p> <p>Medium-barrier/medium support <u>Program:</u> some on-site staffing (24 hours); some co-located services <u>YYA:</u> preparing for adulthood; employ/education; learning basic living skills</p> <p>High-barrier/accessible support <u>Program:</u> low staff ratio; few program offerings; limited program structure; weekly (or less) Case management support <u>YYA:</u> Low needs; preparing for adulthood; some income; ability to live independently; community connections; ability to access resources</p>	<p>Low-Barrier: YouthCare –Catalyst YMCA - YAIT</p> <p>Medium-Barrier: YMCA – Shared Homes; Indep Youth Housing; Shelter to Housing YouthCare - Passages; ISIS; Pathways Friends Of Youth – New Ground Kirkland Urban League – Harder House United Indians - Labateyah</p> <p>High-Barrier: YMCA – Step Up Program Comm. Psych. Clinic – Cedar House Friends of Youth – Rental Assistance YouthCare – Open Doors Home of Hope Auburn Youth Resources – Severson House Compass Housing Alliance – Bryant House</p>
<p>Non-Time Limited</p>	<p>Permanent Supportive Housing Unsubsidized Housing Publicly-funded Affordable Housing Transition-in-Place Family Reconciliation</p>	<p>Low-barrier/high support <u>Program:</u> Permanent supportive housing; may have on-site staffing; some co-located services <u>YYA:</u> Employment/education needs; learning basic living skills; on-going needs (disability)</p> <p>High-barrier/accessible support <u>Program:</u> Safety-net supports in place <u>YYA:</u> Low needs, income; ability to live independently; community connections; permanent connections established</p>	<p>Low-Barrier: Auburn Youth Resources – Coming Up Program YMCA – Home at Last (PSH) LIHI – Gosset Place (PSH)</p> <p>High-Barrier: Friends Of Youth – Supportive Permanent Housing (Service Enriched)</p>

Appendix 4: Current Estimated Housing for YYA – By Type

Housing by Type of Housing and Number of Beds (does not include housing for YYA with kids)



Current estimate of housing stock based on information gathered from providers, funders and program housing inventories completed in May/June 2013.

Appendix 5: Current Estimated Housing for YYA – By Region

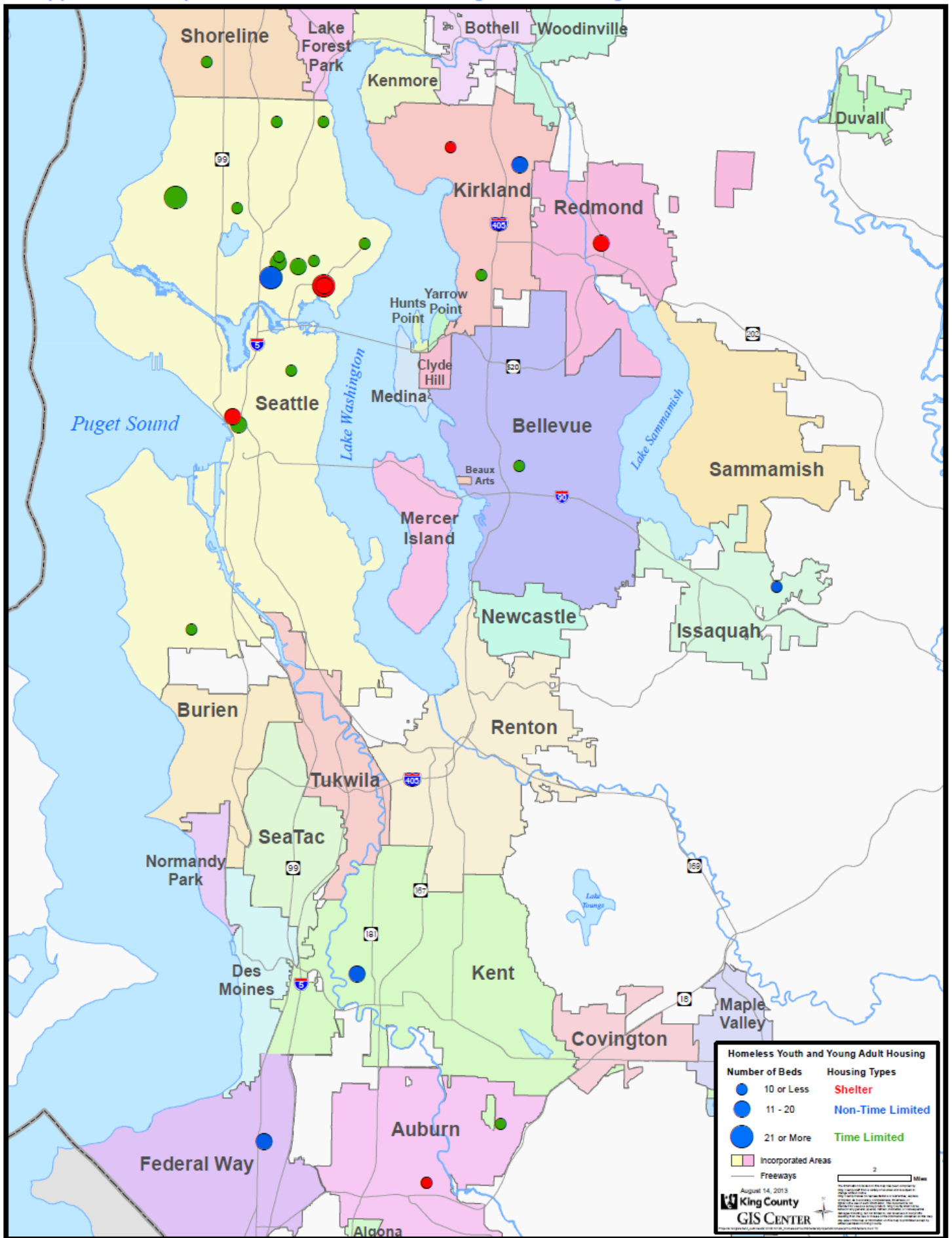
Housing for YYA – By Region (does not include housing for YYA with kids)

<p>Seattle (YouthCare, ROOTS, YMCA, Harder House, Cedar House, Bryant House, Labateya)</p> <p>Shelter beds (Under 18) – 12 beds (18-25) – 60 beds</p> <p>Time-Limited Beds 143 beds</p> <p>Non-Time-Limited Beds 25 beds</p>	<p>East King County (Friends of Youth & YMCA Shared Home Bellevue)</p> <p>Shelter beds (Under 18) – 10 beds (18-25) – 15 beds</p> <p>Time-Limited Beds 14 beds</p> <p>Non-Time-Limited Beds 12 beds</p>
<p>South King County (Auburn Youth Resources & YMCA Shared Homes Auburn)</p> <p>Shelter beds (Under 18) – 4 beds (18-25) – 0 beds</p> <p>Time-Limited Beds 12 beds</p> <p>Non-Time-Limited Beds 30 beds</p>	<p>Scattered Sites throughout King County (Friends of Youth, YMCA, YouthCare)</p> <p>Time-Limited Beds 81 beds</p> <p>Non-Time-Limited Beds 10 beds</p> <p>Approximately 45 KCHA/SHA FUP Vouchers</p>

As of the writing of this plan, KCHA had 50 section 8 vouchers identified for homeless young adults. Fifteen were released through the Rental Assistance with Supports RFP by the UWKC in August 2013, 24 are committed to NAVOS's Independence Bridge, and 11 will be allocated in the fall of 2013 through the King County capital funding round.

A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) has collaborated with KCHA to allocate additional Project-based Assistance to Friends of Youth to provide supportive housing to ten high-need, homeless young adults in two new homes in Kirkland to be constructed in 2014.

Appendix 6: Map of Homeless Youth and Young Adult Housing



Appendix 7: Types of Time-Limited Housing

Time-Limited Housing Facility Types:

Transitional Rental Assistance – A subsidy paid to a property owner on behalf of the YYA to pay a portion of the rent. The rental subsidy and support services are transitional. YYA may be able to ‘transition-in-place’ by taking over the lease once the rental assistance ends. Intensity and range of services provided varies among programs and should be appropriate for the target population (short-term; medium-term; long-term).

Scattered Site Housing – Agencies and/or YYA themselves rent privately owned apartments in various geographic locations. YYA may be offered rental assistance, basic move-in supplies, moving assistance, and case management support. They may live independently or with a roommate. This option may not be recommended for YYA requiring intense supervision or those whose mental health may deteriorate with isolation. Scattered-site programs require experienced case managers who conduct weekly meetings and proactively assist YYA participants in navigating public mainstream services, provide constructive feedback, and advocate for them.

Shared or Group Homes – A single-family home that is shared between several YYA and an adult staff person or advocate. It is typically not subject to zoning regulations concerning group congregate care because of the small number of YYA participants who share the facilities. YYA residents share a communal kitchen and living area. YYA shared housing is designed for one or two roommates per bedroom. Residents are offered life skills training on site aimed at building self-sufficiency. Residents prepare their own meals and do their own housekeeping, while the live-in counselor/case manager helps to enforce house rules. Under18 programs require facilities to have state licensing.

Supervised Apartments (also called Single-Site Housing or Cluster Homes) – Supervised apartments are located in an agency-owned or rented apartment building (sometimes called “cluster homes”) with a live-in supervisor who occupies one of the units. YYA housing units make up the entire structure or are established on one floor or one wing of a housing development. The supervised apartment serves YYA ages 18-24 that have varying levels of service needs and independent living skills. In addition to guidance and immediate access to assistance, this model provides the option of engaging in programs such as mental and physical health services, group meetings, life skills, and other various activities.

Host Homes – In a Host Home, YYA live in a single-family home with an adult or family owner. The YYA receives his/her own bedroom and shares the rest of the home with the owner. Housing may be an apartment, condominium, or individual house in rural, suburban, or urban environments. YYA are offered residential accommodations for a limited time. YYA participants work with a case manager from a provider agency.

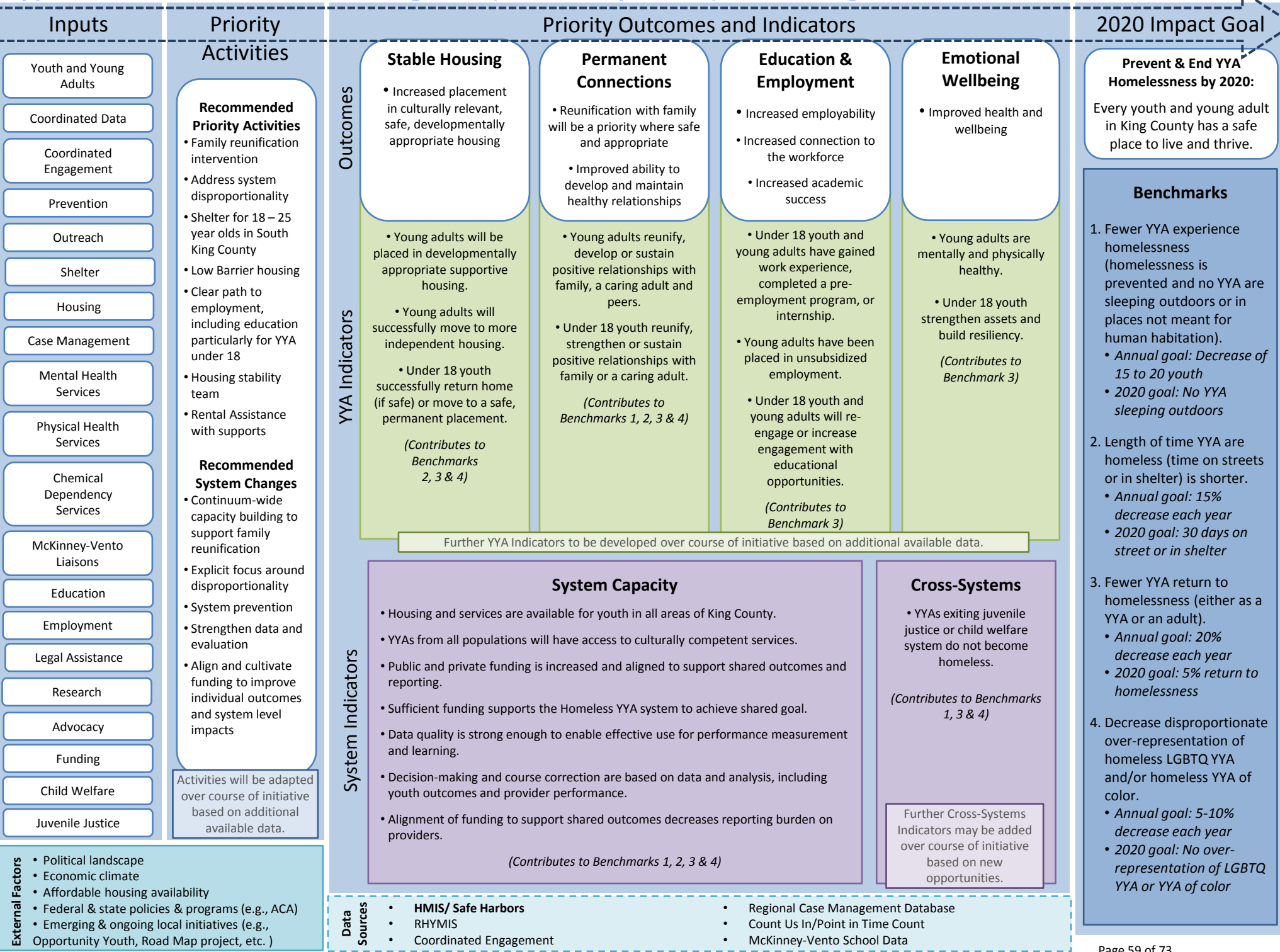
Rapid Rehousing – Rapid re-housing provides homeless YYA with temporary assistance in order to obtain housing. The goal is to house YYA as quickly as possible, and provide an appropriate level of support to help them live independently within a community and retain stable housing. YYA may have varying levels of service needs, sometimes intense, but the Rapid Re-Housing services focus on issues that affect housing stability. The intensity and duration of assistance will depend on the YYAs prior experience in housing, and the status of their housing stability plan, but services are not long-term. Most YYA are able to achieve stable housing relatively quickly even if longer-term or specialized assistance is needed from other community-based resources. Rapid rehousing quickly places a YYA in an apartment (sometimes with roommates) and provides rental assistance for a limited time to allow the YYA to stabilize in housing, possibly finish high school or receive a GED, and obtain gainful employment.

Appendix 8: Youth and Young Adult Homeless Service Program Funding by Funder and Funding Stream Seattle/King County

	City of Seattle		Private Philanthropy (includes a sample of funders)	US Department of Health and Human Services	United Way	US Department of Housing and Urban Development	Seattle Housing Authority	King County Housing Authority	Workforce Investment Act	Suburban Cities	FEMA	Grand Total	
	King County	City of Seattle											
Federal	\$ 398,960	\$ 1,536,200		\$ 1,152,058		\$ 724,309		686,700	\$ 494,208	\$ 309,221	\$ 35,982	\$ 5,337,637	
Community Development Block Grant	\$ 398,960											\$ 398,960	
Emergency Food and Shelter Program											\$ 35,982	\$ 35,982	
Emergency Shelter Grant		\$ 73,812										\$ 73,812	
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act				\$ 1,152,058								\$ 1,152,058	
McKinney		\$ 1,462,388				\$ 724,309						\$ 2,186,697	
Moving to Work Reserves								\$ 302,400				\$ 302,400	
Section 8 Project-Based Subsidy							\$ 137,340	\$ 191,808				\$ 329,148	
Section 8 Tenant-Based Subsidy							\$ 549,360					\$ 549,360	
Workforce Investment Act									\$ 309,221			\$ 309,221	
State	\$ 237,000											\$ 237,000	
Consolidated Homeless Grant	\$ 237,000											\$ 237,000	
County	\$ 1,257,589											\$ 1,257,589	
Homeless Housing and Services Fund	\$ 960,708											\$ 960,708	
Human Services Levy	\$ 100,000											\$ 100,000	
Regional Affordable Housing Program Operating and Veterans Levy	\$ 86,881											\$ 86,881	
	\$ 110,000											\$ 110,000	
Local		\$ 1,485,830								\$ 240,542		\$ 1,726,372	
General Fund		\$ 1,385,830							\$ 240,542			\$ 1,626,372	
Seattle Housing Levy		\$ 100,000										\$ 100,000	
Philanthropic	\$ 151,555		\$ 1,490,327		\$ 1,143,151							\$ 2,785,033	
Private Philanthropy			\$ 1,490,327									\$ 1,490,327	
United Way					\$ 1,143,151							\$ 1,143,151	
United Way Pass-Through	\$ 151,555											\$ 151,555	
Grand Total	\$ 2,045,104	\$ 3,022,030	\$ 1,490,327	\$ 1,152,058	\$ 1,143,151	\$ 724,309		686,700	\$ 494,208	\$ 309,221	\$ 240,542	\$ 35,982	\$ 11,343,631

Funding Sources and Funding Streams

Appendix 9: Homeless Youth and Young Adult (YYA: 12-25 years old) Initiative Logic Model



Appendix 9: Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative Logic Model Narrative

Theory of Change

To prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness in King County, by ensuring that every youth and young adult in King County has a safe place to live and thrive, we must support homeless youth and young adults to achieve stable housing, permanent connections, education, employment, and emotional wellbeing. We can achieve this Impact Goal by 2020 by aligning and securing sufficient resources, working across systems, and using data to drive decision-making.

Guiding Principles

The following statements guide the Logic Model and the continued measurement of the work of the YYA Homelessness Initiative:

- Outcomes and indicators will be meaningful to key stakeholders.
- Outcomes and indicators will be simple and easy to understand.
- Indicators will have available baseline measures from accessible data sources for youth and young adults in King County.
- There can be a reasonable expectation that each benchmark selected will show progress over time if and when the selected indicators improve.
- Outcomes and indicators are not sufficient in isolation. Context is critically important.
- We recognize that homeless youth are not a homogenous population. The data we collect will help us identify/determine what approaches work best for whom (i.e., subgroups).
- Outcome information will be primarily used for learning. We envision a community of service practitioners, funders and others sharing information and learning that leads to continuously improving results for homeless youth.
- High quality data are key to effective measurement for learning.

Outcome and Indicator Sources

Outcomes used in the logic model were drawn from the USICH Framework to End Youth Homelessness (http://www.usich.gov/population/youth/a_framework_for_ending_youth_homelessness_2012/), and the subsequent work done by the Puget Sound Runaway and Homeless Youth Collaborative to develop measureable indicators for each outcome area. Further refinement was done by the Outcomes Workgroup as part of the comprehensive planning process.

Glossary

Inputs: Resources and activities used to produce the activities and the outcomes.

Activities: The prioritized strategies by which the inputs are used on a community-level to affect change.

External Factors: Other influences on the outcomes, indicators and benchmarks that are outside the scope of the system.

Outcomes: What is accomplished by the inputs and activities.

Indicators: A numeric measure of the achievement of the outcome.

Impact Goals: The end results that are sought from the initiative as a whole.

Benchmarks: The annual and end date measures of progress towards the impact goals.

Data Sources: The available databases from which information to measure the indicators may be drawn.

Appendix 10: Year-to-Year Benchmark Goals

	Fewer YYA experience homelessness	Length of time YYA are homeless (time on streets or in shelter) is shorter.	Fewer YYA return to homelessness (either as a YYA or an adult).	Decrease disproportionate over-representation of homeless YYA of color.	Decrease disproportionate over-representation of homeless LGBTQ YYA
2012 Actual	114 YYAs sleeping outside	65 days	27%	67%	14%
2013 Goal	114 YYAs	65 days	27%	67%	14%
2014 Goal	5% reduction	5% reduction	5% reduction	5% reduction	5% reduction
Numeric Target	108 YYAs	62 days	26%	64%	13%
2015 Goal	Reduction of 15 to 20 YYAs	10% reduction	20% reduction	10% reduction	5% reduction
Numeric Target	90 YYAs	56 days	21%	57%	13%
2016 Goal	Reduction of 15 to 20 YYAs	10% reduction	20% reduction	10% reduction	5% reduction
Numeric Target	72 YYAs	50 days	16%	52%	12%
2017 Goal	Reduction of 15 to 20 YYAs	10% reduction	20% reduction	10% reduction	5% reduction
Numeric Target	54 YYAs	45 days	13%	46%	11%
2018 Goal	Reduction of 15 to 20 YYAs	10% reduction	20% reduction	10% reduction	5% reduction
Numeric Target	36 YYAs	41 days	11%	42%	11%
2019 Goal	Reduction of 15 to 20 YYAs	10% reduction	20% reduction	10% reduction	5% reduction
Numeric Target	18 YYAs	36 days	8%	38%	10%
2020 Goal	Reduction of 15 to 20 YYAs	10% reduction	20% reduction	10% reduction	5% reduction
Numeric Target	0 YYA	33 days	7%	34%	10%
2021 Goal	Maintain Success	10% reduction	20% reduction	10% reduction	5% reduction
Numeric Target	0 YYA	30 days	5%	30%	9%

Appendix 11: All Activity Recommendations

Suggested Priority Activity	Brief Description	Who recommended
Additional supportive services funding for existing housing programs	With additional supportive services funding, existing housing programs would be able to provide more tailored services (support as needed - progressive engagement). Programs could increase staff/service capacity at existing YYA programs, allowing them to increase the number of YYA they serve as well as better serve high-needs YYA.	YYA Advisory Group
Expansion of Learning Center North Model	Supportive services (including case management, pre-college prep, behavioral health care, and job readiness) at community colleges to connect YYA to education and employment services.	YYA Advisory Group
Wraparound Services	Wraparound case management available for high-need YYA (for example “Groundworks”, a fidelity based wrap-around service that targets family and peer involvement with focus on building positive supports and skills for YYA.	YYA Advisory Group June 2013 Community Convening Provider Group
Host Home Program	Host Home models match homeless YYA with homeowners who agree to provide a safe, stable home while the YYA works with a provider to identify goals and link with other services. YYA are sheltered in private, single-family homes with an adult or host family rather than a centralized shelter facility. There are many models nationally that can be replicated.	YYA Advisory Group
Increase units dedicated to high-needs YYA in capital development projects	Increase the number of low-barrier housing units for high-needs YYA.	YYA Advisory Group
Rapid Response Team	A team of clinical staff to provide mental health and chemical dependency services for YYA who are not connected to other healthcare services and not necessarily connected to a housing program. This team would be on-call and available to travel to meet YYA at any provider in King County. At a minimum, three mobile teams would be needed to launch the program in central, east and south county.	YYA Advisory Group June 2013 Community Convening
Work with DSHS to outline a plan for YYA who are at risk of exiting the child welfare system into homelessness	To reduce the number of YYA who are “repeat runners”, non-profits could coordinate with the DCFS Chronic Runner Navigator staff to prioritize YYA in housing; Offer DCFS a “homeless youth prevention” staff through a YYA provider agency.	YYA Advisory Group

Suggested Priority Activity Recommendation	Brief Description	Who Recommended
Work with the juvenile justice system to outline a plan for YYA who are at risk of exiting the correction system into homelessness	More effective discharge planning for YYA exiting out of the juvenile justice/correction system (work with YYA as soon as they become involved with the court system, rather than waiting until they are adjudicated). Have dedicated staff from YYA provider agencies meet with YYA that are incarcerated or who are engaged in the court system; Address specific housing resources for YYA sex offenders; Replicate the DCFS Navigator model in the detention and court system.	YYA Advisory Group
Internship Programs	Provide internship opportunities for YYA that can lead directly to employment opportunities in the community. This should be a minimum of 8-week internship, with stipend, and intentional and dedicated support for success.	YYA Advisory Group June 2013 Community Convening

Appendix 12: Acronyms

ARCH – A Regional Coalition for Housing

CEHKC –Committee to End Homelessness of King County

CSI – Community Sign In

Comprehensive Plan - Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in King County by 2020

DCHS – Department of Community and Human Services

HHS – Health and Human Services

HMIS – Homeless Management Information System

Homeless YYA Initiative – Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative

HUD – Department of Housing and Urban Development

HYI – The Mockingbird Society Homeless Youth Initiative

KCHA – King County Housing Authority

LGBTQ – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer and/or Questioning

NAEH – National Alliance to End Homelessness

NOFA – Notice of Funding Availability

PRO Youth – Partners Reaching Out to Youth

PYD – Positive youth development – do we use this one??

RHYMIS – Runaway Homeless Youth Management Information System

SHA – Seattle Housing Authority

TIC – Trauma Informed Care

USICH – United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

UWKC – United Way of King County

YHC – Youth Housing Connection

YYA – Youth and young adults

YA – Young adults

Appendix 13: Columbia Legal Services: Plan to Address Gaps in Legal Aid for Ending or Alleviating Youth Homelessness

I. INTRODUCTION

On February 15, 2013, Columbia Legal Services (CLS) and King County convened a meeting of legal service providers and education advocacy partners who work with systems-involved homeless youth to map out the current system of providing legal aid to homeless youth, including the system for referring youth to legal aid,¹ and brainstormed ideas to provide better assistance with civil legal issues and educational advocacy. This resulted in the formation of a committee to create the plan below to address the gaps in the current referral system.

II. WHAT IS THE NEED?

A. Youth Impacted by Homelessness

Because homeless youth are highly mobile and are not as visible as homeless adults, it is difficult to determine the number of homeless youth in Washington. However, the number of homeless *students* in Washington is rapidly increasing. The number of students school districts identify as homeless has increased by 62.5% in the past five years. The most recent school district data (from 2011-12) indicate that there were 27,390 homeless students identified in Washington's 295 school districts. Of these, 1,929 students were "unaccompanied youth," and 12,342 (or 45.1%) were in grades 7-12.² In King County in 2010, one provider alone reported that it served 4,500 youth.³

Youth service providers report an estimated 5,000 youth run away from home in King County every year.⁴ The majority of these youth are homeless as a result of trauma in their home life. King County providers report that up to 40% of homeless youth experience sexual abuse in their homes before ending up on the streets, 60% experience physical abuse in their homes before ending up on the streets, and 50% have been in foster care at some point in their life.⁵

Despite the fact that many homeless youth previously have been involved in the child welfare system, they no longer receive support from that system and are living on the street. On the street, they are at risk for involvement in the delinquency and status offender systems. Risks include no longer attending school (truancy), running away from home, or having significant

¹ Currently, there are civil legal aid providers that serve youth and work to address some of the underlying causes of youth homelessness, but there are gaps that need to be filled.

² <http://schoolhousewa.org/>.

³ http://www.youthcare.org/sites/default/files/docs/page/01/23/2012%20-%20203:23pm/YouthCare%20Annual%20Report%20FY%202010_Jan%202023web.pdf

⁴ <http://www.teenfeed.org/about/facts-about-homeless-youth/>.

⁵ <http://www.teenfeed.org/about/facts-about-homeless-youth/>.

unmet needs that may result in a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) or At Risk Youth (ARY) petition.

These youth are or may become “system-involved youth,” yet they lack appropriate or meaningful support from any of the systems that are involved in their lives and intended to meet their basic needs. This is in part due to the lack of coordination between the systems with which homeless youth are involved. These systems do not effectively communicate with each other to address the root causes of a youth’s homelessness or to address the barriers that prevent youth from safely returning home or becoming self-sufficient. Advocacy organizations that work to help youth who are experiencing homelessness to overcome barriers are under-resourced and do not have the capacity to meet the need for direct services, advocacy coordination, outreach, and training.

B. Legal Advocacy Helps to Address Underlying Causes and Minimize Consequences of Homelessness for Youth

Youth who are experiencing homelessness face complex and challenging problems impacting their most basic needs. Some of these problems, including direct causes and consequences of homelessness, may be resolved or mitigated with legal advocacy. Youth, however, will not often recognize a problem as a problem that could be addressed with legal advocacy until they get more information from an advocate or service provider.

Though there are a number of legal aid services currently available to youth who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless, there are gaps in the system and a lack of capacity to meet the need. Few legal aid providers focus on assisting homeless youth on matters outside the criminal justice system. The civil legal issues that homeless youth face most often include: consequences of juvenile court involvement (such as juvenile record sealing, stable housing, sex offender registration and court/police involvement), family law matters (such as parenting issues, protection orders, emancipation, and custody matters), foster care (such as dependency court matters and identity theft), education issues (such as enrollment, special education advocacy, truancy, discipline and financial aid), health and mental health care (such as charity care), status offenses (such as representation and CHINS), and other issues (such as housing, immigration issues and public benefits). The following is a brief description of problems experienced by homeless youth that can be addressed with legal advocacy. Though most youth do not initially identify their problems as legal in nature, many youth who have accessed legal aid services to address the problems described here have successfully accessed needed treatment and services and transitioned out of homelessness.

i. Consequences of Juvenile Court Involvement

Juvenile Records Sealing: In Washington, unlike in most states, juvenile offender records are open to the public. Many youth are under the false assumption that their juvenile records will be automatically sealed when they turn 18 years old. Youth need to be informed that record sealing is generally not automatic and requires action on their part. Currently, there are clinics available to help some youth seal their records, but these clinics are only located in certain counties. Some self-help resources are available online to help youth navigate the record sealing process on their own.

Ineligible for Housing and Other Programs: Lack of stable housing is a significant risk for youth with prior juvenile court involvement. Youth who have juvenile adjudications (convictions) are often not eligible for housing programs. Juvenile adjudications can also prevent youth from being employed, joining the military, and taking advantage of certain types of financial support.

Sex Offender Registry Problems: Youth who are required to register as sex offenders face additional barriers. Registration, potentially even more than other collateral consequences of juvenile adjudications, can prevent youth from admission to shelters and from becoming employed or getting longer-term, stable housing. Being homeless is often a factor in the risk level assigned to someone with a sex offense, which in turn creates additional barriers. Failure to keep up with registration requirements, including notification about moves, may result in additional sanctions or criminal charges.

Court and/or Police Involvement: Homelessness can create risks for involvement with the police or juvenile justice system. For example, youth sometimes receive trespass notices if they are homeless and enter private property looking for shelter. Youth who are arrested often have their belongings confiscated by the police. Sometimes they do not get these items back. Losing their possessions exacerbates their situation, for example, some homeless youth have had their identifications confiscated and then cannot access services without identification.

ii. Family Law

Parenting Issues: Teen-age parents under the age of 18 face significant family law issues, including parenting plans, child support, and custody. In addition, homeless teen-age parents may find themselves in a dependency case, both as a parent and a youth (see Foster Care section below).

Protection Orders: Many homeless youth are on the run because they are the victims of domestic or sexual violence in their own homes. They may need assistance seeking legal protection from their perpetrators or advice about the implications of seeking court ordered protection. Other youth may be the victims of intimate partner violence, commercial sexual exploitation, or other crimes, also have difficulty obtaining protection or no contact orders.

Emancipation: Homeless youth who are eligible to be emancipated need assistance gaining this legal status so that they can legally rent an apartment, enter certain contracts, and access other rights.

Custody and Related Matters: Family law issues involving the youth as a child may offer a solution to the homelessness – a change in custody from one parent to another (or to a relative) or consent from the custodial parent for housing and other arrangements may get the youth off of the streets. Many youth also may need help accessing finances set aside for them such as trusts, child support, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and survivor benefits.

iii. Foster Care

Dependency Court Cases: Youth in foster care also have issues with their dependency cases. The Department of Social and Health Services may need to help the youth in their care identify issues such as placement, healthcare, transportation and other services. Most youth in Washington State do not have an attorney (though youth age 12 and over in King County do). For those who lack an attorney, they may need assistance in requesting an attorney. Even for those who have court-appointed legal counsel, these attorneys are not charged with addressing collateral issues, such as educational issues.

Identity Theft: Youth in foster care and homeless youth are disproportionately at risk of having their identities stolen by their parents, relatives, caregivers, legal guardians or foster parents. As a result, by the time a youth turns 18 years-old and is in a position to look for housing, their credit may have been ruined and they may face debt that was accrued by someone else.

iv. Education

Enrollment: Homeless youth often experience difficulties enrolling and staying in school. Despite legal protections that should help them, without an address and an adult custodian, homeless youth may face barriers to enrollment, such as being required to produce specific documents or provide information they do not have. Youth may face challenges in working with schools to identify an appropriate school placement or access services to make enrollment successful.

Transportation: Some schools are not providing homeless youth with the services they are entitled to receive under federal law, including transportation and other assistance to ensure youth can stay in school and receive full access to educational opportunities.

Special Education Advocacy: Homeless students, like all students who are entitled to receive special education services (or who have unidentified special education needs), may face challenges in getting and maintaining appropriate educational programs. Getting adequate special education services may be especially challenging for homeless youth who move often and frequently change schools.

Truancy: Homeless students often miss school due to their homelessness. This may result in the school filing a truancy petition. Truancy petitions against homeless students are of questionable educational value, as well as of questionable legal validity. However, they can result in fines or incarceration.

School discipline: Homeless students, like all students, may face challenges related to school discipline. Studies have shown that school discipline is disproportionately implemented. Sometimes outstanding school discipline can be an enrollment barrier for youth who move schools. Youth who are suspended and expelled can face challenges getting back into school. Even short exclusions from school can lead to bad outcomes for students, which may exacerbate problems related to a youth's homelessness, whereas addressing issues that may arise at school with supportive services can provide better educational outcomes.

Financial Aid: Unaccompanied homeless youth often face difficulty accessing financial aid for continuing education, despite laws designed to enable access to this resource.

v. Health and Mental Health Care

Medical, Dental, and Mental Health Issues: Homeless youth may face significant legal barriers in accessing appropriate mental health and physical health care, as well as addressing substance abuse issues. Even if they have Medicaid or other insurance coverage, youth may have difficulty accessing a provider or getting sufficient treatment to meet their needs. Consent laws impact at what age a youth can request and consent to needed medical, mental health or substance abuse treatment without the consent of their guardians.

Charity Care: In some cases, homeless youth are charged for medical services that should have been waived or reduced. The hospitals do not always inform the patients that they can apply for this reduction, called charity care, and appealing a bill can be a complicated endeavor.

vi. Status Offenses

Status Offenses Representation: A youth may end up in the status offense system—under an ARY Petition, CHINS Petition, or a Truancy Petition. The status offense system is designed to increase judicial control over youth who are at-risk. In these cases, youth may face detention

time if they are held in contempt for not following the court orders, including for example, failing to reside at an approved residence. Youth have a right to legal counsel at times in these matters, but if they are homeless, they may need help understanding how to reconnect to their attorneys and understanding the legal system.

Help Filing Own CHINS Petitions: Some youth have been able to access stability by filing their own CHINS petitions and requesting a temporary out of home placement as well as access to family reconciliation services. While they get attorneys once these petitions are filed, youth often need the help of an attorney in order to understand that they can file, the consequences of filing, and in order to actually file.

vii. Other Issues

Housing: Legal issues related to stable housing for youth are important to help prevent homelessness. Consent to enter both short-term and long-term housing programs for homeless youth can be an issue, as well as access issues for youth who have been previously kicked out of a housing program. Rights as tenants (including eviction issues) are significant for young adults accessing housing.

Undocumented Youth: Youth who are undocumented face additional barriers in multiple legal systems. Often they are afraid to access services because they are afraid of revealing their immigration status. On the other hand, through accessing services, some of these youth may be eligible to apply for adjustment of legal immigration status. For example, if the youth is undocumented and in foster care, they may be eligible to adjust their status by petitioning for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

Public Benefits: Youth who are eligible to receive public benefits, from TANF to basic food to SSI, may have problems applying for or otherwise accessing those resources, especially when benefits are already being sent to an adult who does not provide the youth access to that money.

III. SCOPE OF EXISTING SERVICES

Several legal aid programs in Washington have youth-specific projects or missions to provide legal aid to youth, including youth experiencing homelessness. However, these providers do not have the capacity to meet all the need or fully implement needed outreach to connect with youth experiencing homelessness and other providers serving those youth. Additionally, some civil legal aid providers have geographic, age, or other limitations about who they serve, and these limits hinder accessibility to legal services for many youth. For example, Volunteer Advocates for Immigrant Justice meets some immigration needs, but only in Seattle. The UW

Child and Youth Advocacy Clinic handles numerous issues for this population but only takes cases for half of the year. TeamChild handles education, healthcare, housing, public benefits and other matters but is only able to serve five counties in the state. Street Youth Legal Advocates of Washington (SYLAW), while formerly co-located with YouthCare in Seattle, can only provide legal information and referrals as it no longer has an attorney on staff.

IV. IDEAL SERVICES TO PREVENT AND END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Legal aid is a critical service for youth experiencing homelessness to help address their needs and prevent and end homelessness. To fully address the needs of homeless youth, the legal referral and aid system should have a coordinated plan and sufficient capacity to:

1. Provide referrals, advice/consultation, brief and comprehensive legal services;
2. Offer services statewide;
3. Address all of the substantive legal issues listed above and others as they arise;
4. Offer services with no age or other restrictions (such as immigration status);
5. Conduct significant outreach;
6. Offer on-site (and same-day) services;
7. Provide training to other providers who serve homeless youth; and
8. Serve as a liaison between legal services and other service providers.

In addition to these hallmarks, further outreach, training, and/or planning should be done to reduce the barriers that homeless youth face in identifying the need for and accessing legal aid services. One model is a “one stop shop” community service that provides civil legal services, social services and referrals for criminal justice assistance that would reach the most homeless youth (or those at high risk of homelessness). Legal aid programs could provide more information and trainings to youth experiencing homelessness and case managers working with them about how legal aid services might help and substantive information about rights and services available to youth. Legal aid could be available to consult with youth about the problems they face and plan together whether legal advocacy could help alleviate some of those problems. The service would provide youth with a general direction of where to go for services, if those services were already available. Again, the service would, at least for part of the week, need to be located where the youth and service providers already are convening. To maximize the reach of the program, it would utilize law students, postgraduate fellows, and partner with other entities.

V. CONCLUSION: CONSEQUENCES/EFFECTS/OUTCOMES FOR IMPLEMENTING AN IDEAL SERVICE

Because existing legal aid services are not at capacity to provide needed outreach or provide all needed direct services for youth experiencing homeless, depending on where a youth goes for assistance, they will be given a different set of resources or none. Furthermore, most resources are located in and around urban areas so if the homeless youth is in a rural area it is likely that there will be no services available to them.

If the ideal legal services plan for homeless youth was implemented, there would be increased capacity outside of Seattle and statewide. Though services may not be found in a particular area, a youth could still call and be informed of their issues and where they may go to receive services. In this manner, all youth with similar issues using this service would receive the same information and resources.

In order to implement the ideal legal services for homeless youth, funding would need to be secured for staff. Locations would need to be identified where legal aid, counselors and service providers could be colocated or meaningfully coordinated.

The impact of implementing an ideal legal service would be, in a nutshell, reduced and shortened periods of homelessness for youth. By addressing legal barriers, the work of other supportive agencies to assist youth could proceed without legal hindrance. Based on the experience of SYLAW and other providers, it is expected that youth served by the program would be able to secure and maintain stable housing, employment, and other services that otherwise would have remained elusive.

Appendix 14: Last Permanent Zip Code of Homeless YYA's in King County, 2012

