



THE ISSUE

Washington's youth have unlimited potential. They will build tomorrow's businesses, shape our public policies, and educate the next generation of children. As the heartbeat of our communities, we must give young people all they need to lead healthy, enriching lives—because when they succeed, we all succeed.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances often beyond their control, too many young people have fallen into homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless.

More than **35,000** public school students were identified as homeless—for an average of **15** homeless students per public school in Washington state.

Every family navigates tough times—but we can't let any child slip through the cracks into homelessness. We need to ensure these young people receive the support, care, and resources they need to overcome these barriers. Working together, we can write a new future for Washington's youth.

WHO WE ARE

A Way Home Washington is a growing movement dedicated to preventing and ending youth homelessness in Washington state.

Providers across the state are doing incredible work to empower youth affected by homelessness and A Way Home Washington builds on and supports that momentum. Collectively, we can do even more by supporting communities at a local level with effective strategies and solutions.

A Way Home Washington is inspired by A Way Home America, a nationwide movement dedicated to ending youth homelessness in the United States. First Lady Trudi Inslee, a committed advocate for Washington youth, serves as honorary co-chair of the initiative with the Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness (YAEH) program at the Mockingbird Society.

WHAT WE DO

BUILD AWARENESS

Too often, the voices of homeless youth are not being heard. We shed light on the often overlooked reality of youth homelessness—changing perceptions about homelessness and starting conversations with communities about how we can better support young people.

CREATE CONNECTIONS

We work with partners across Washington state to connect youth with stable housing and employment, education, and health services. By engaging on a local level, we bring communities together to discuss common barriers and solutions for ending youth homelessness.

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SPARK ACTION

Local communities are resourceful and innovative—they know their backyards better than anybody else. That's why we are going deep in regions across Washington state, working with local partners to develop solutions that meet their unique needs and circumstances.

HOW WE DO IT

LISTEN AND LEARN

An important first step is to understand the reality of youth homelessness in Washington state. This summer, A Way Home Washington partners, along with the newly created Office of Homeless Youth and First Lady Trudi Inslee, are traveling across Washington state to learn more about the unique challenges and barriers local communities are facing in addressing youth homelessness.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In December, the Office of Homeless Youth will release a strategic plan that outlines steps needed to prevent and end youth homelessness in Washington state. A Way Home Washington partners will work closely with the Office to implement the plan's recommendations.

GET INVOLVED & TAKE ACTION

GIVE

Support organizations working to help youth overcome homelessness by giving your money, time, or expertise to provide direct support to youth experiencing homelessness.

COLLECT

Organize a clothing or supply drive with your friends, family, coworkers, faith congregation, or any other groups you're involved with.

HIRE

Sometimes, all it takes for a young person to tear down the barriers facing them is to have someone believe in them and give them a chance. If you oversee a business in Washington state, you can empower a young person struggling with homelessness through employment.

JOIN A WAY HOME WASHINGTON

Consider joining A Way Home Washington as a partner. By signing onto this movement, you'll be part of a growing network of employers, service providers, advocates, funders, and school and government leaders dedicated to writing a new future for Washington's youth.

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