



2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

All Washington's young people find *their* way home

ENSURE THAT YOUTH EXITING PUBLIC SYSTEMS HAVE A SAFE, STABLE PLACE TO GO

- Establish an interagency workgroup or Governor's cabinet on youth homelessness.
- Evaluate Extended Foster Care.

INVEST IN CRISIS INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION FROM HOMELESSNESS

- Improve and expand family reconciliation and preservation services.
- Reform status offense laws to reduce the number of youth detained for actions like violating curfew and running away.

IMPROVE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

- **SB 5241**: Improve high school graduation rates by awarding students with partial or full credit for courses completed at a prior school.
- Support schools to fully implement the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and ensure accountability.
- Fully implement the Homeless Student Stability Program to connect older youth and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness to services and housing.
- Designate a trained staff person in every K-12 public school building that can identify and support students experiencing housing instability and homelessness.
- Expand Youth Works.

PROVIDE LEGAL ADVOCACY FOR FOSTER CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- **SB 5363/HB 1251**: Appoint attorneys to all children and youth in foster care before their first shelter care hearing.

ALLOCATE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

- Move funding for the Office of Homeless Youth to Commerce's base budget.
- **HB 1570**: Renew the Document Recording fee without adding a future sunset date. Restrict the requirement that 45% of funding from the Home Security Fund be spent on rental or leasing payments to for-profit entities. ("Washington Housing Opportunities Act.")
- Support the Washington Youth and Families Fund.
- Generate new revenue for the state budget.

STRENGTHEN STATEWIDE SYSTEMS OF CARE

- Improve data quality by allowing minors experiencing homelessness to provide written consent to share their personally identifying information.
- **SB 5498/HB 1661**: Support the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendation to establish a new Department of Children, Youth and Families.