



King County

**Department of
Community and Human Services**

Regional plan offers action steps to prevent and end homelessness for youth and young adults

The *Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in King County* represents a countywide community effort to create a more coordinated response system to help homeless young people – quickly connecting them with family when it is safe and appropriate to do so, or providing connections to safe housing.

The Comprehensive Plan was developed as part of the Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative, an investment priority of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County and is the next step in our collective journey. It builds on decades of solid work done by community organizations to resolve and address youth homelessness and brings the strength of collective impact to move the work forward.

The 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.

The following concrete steps over a period of 18 months are proposed, all of which are designed to bring about a measurable impact on youth homelessness:

- Expand family reunification intervention programs to provide in-home support for families in conflict, as a means of preventing homelessness.
- Establish emergency shelter for 18-25 year olds in South King County, where there currently are no shelter options for homeless young adults.
- Increase housing options, particularly in South King County, for youth with high barriers like mental illness or chemical dependency.
- Create clear paths to employment through internship and employment programs specifically designed to connect homeless youth and young adults to living-wage employment.
- Develop community-based crisis resources and offer rental assistance and supportive services to help youth exiting homelessness achieve housing stability and prevent a return to homelessness.

Implementing these priority action steps will require additional resources of approximately \$1,470,000 over 18 months. The plan envisions a collaborative effort to identify funding from both public and private sources moving forward.

Some of the key partners in the Plan include: Auburn Youth Resources, Friends of Youth, the YMCA of Greater Seattle and YouthCare, as well as the City of Seattle Human Services Department, the Raikes Foundation, the Medina Foundation, Building Changes, and the United Way of King County, all of whom worked with King County to develop the vision, strategies, benchmarks and action steps that led to the Comprehensive Plan to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness.

The plan will be reviewed by the King County Council as part of their 2014 King County Budget deliberations. Executive Constantine will lead a discussion on the Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Plan at the next quarterly Committee to End Homelessness Governing Board meeting, which he co-chairs. The Governing Board is expected to formally endorse the plan at their Nov. 20th, 2013 meeting.