

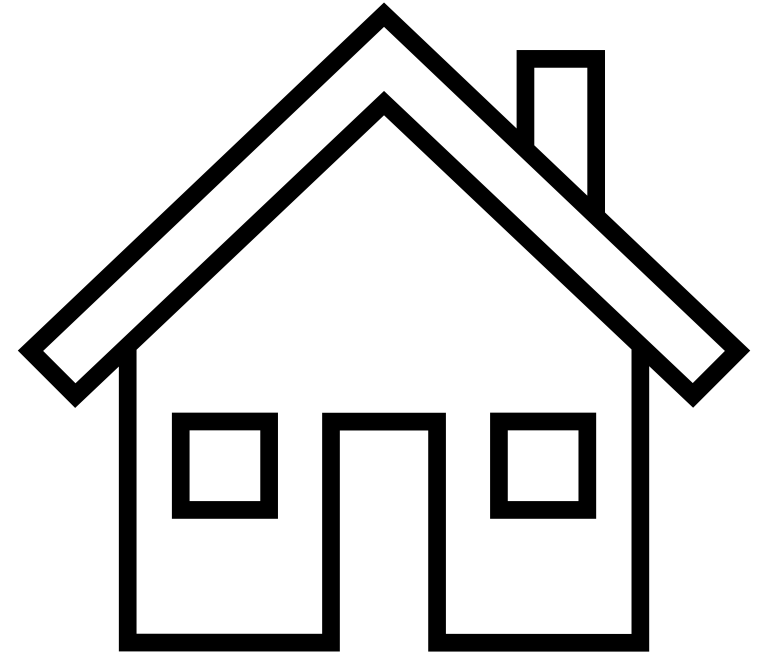
Housing

How to find it, pay for it, and keep it.

DCYF Youth & Young Adult Housing Response Team Manager Shannon Quinn
DCYF Youth and Family Housing Program Manager Jess Mayrer

Children's Justice Conference

May 5, 2026



Community agreements

- We love engagement! Be bold and ask questions and also give space to allow others to be heard.
- We welcome multiple perspectives and listen attentively to seek understanding.
- If you share client experiences, please don't share personally identifiable information.
- Notice moments of discomfort and stay curious.
- Speak truth without blame or judgement.
- Engage in open communication with grace and understanding.
- Put relationships first - Work to build community based on respect, kindness, and trust, with an awareness of privilege and power dynamics.
- Self-care/self-love recognize that secondary trauma is real and impacts us in physical ways. Be present with your thoughts and body, pay attention to your breathing, honor your needs and take breaks when you need.
- Build safety together - Safety isn't guaranteed and looks different based on how we're situated. We build a sense of safety through how we engage with one another. It's okay to step away to care for yourself, or to turn off your camera, to care for yourself.
- We may not know the answer to all of your questions, but we will find someone who does. We commit to following up on unanswered questions after this session.



Let's check in with our neighbors!

- What do you hope to get out of this session?
- What are your biggest challenges related to housing and those you support?
- What are some successes related to housing and those you support?



We'd like to hear from you!



Join at menti.com | use code 9257 0809

Mentimeter

Please share your knowledge of housing resources

No knowledge of housing resources

Some knowledge of housing resources

Expert knowledge of housing resources



menti.com
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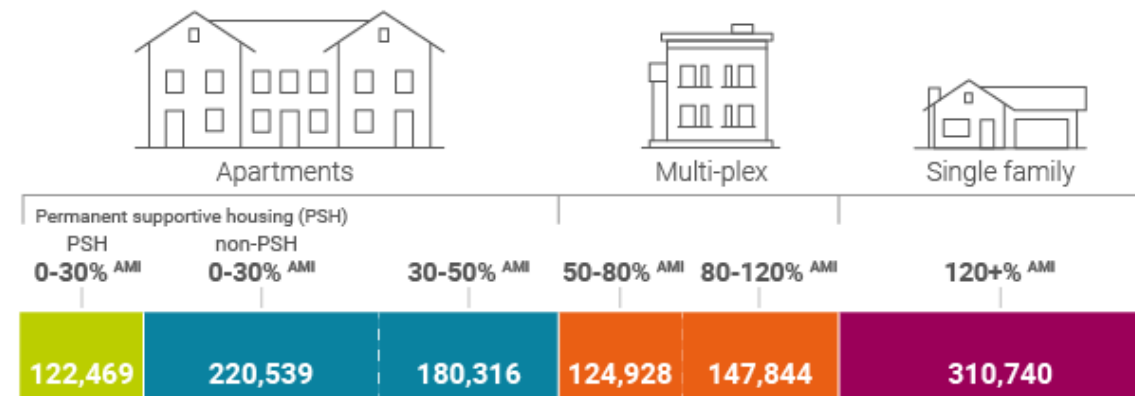
Waiting for participants

← ⓘ → End presentation

The housing landscape

Source: Washington state will need more than 1 million homes in next 20 years – Washington State Department of Commerce

Future housing needs broken down by area median income (AMI) groups



1.1 Million new homes will be needed in the next 20 years

In addition, there will also need to be:

91,357 Emergency housing beds (temporary housing)

Child Welfare Housing Program (CWHP): How it Works

Connecting families and youth to stable housing

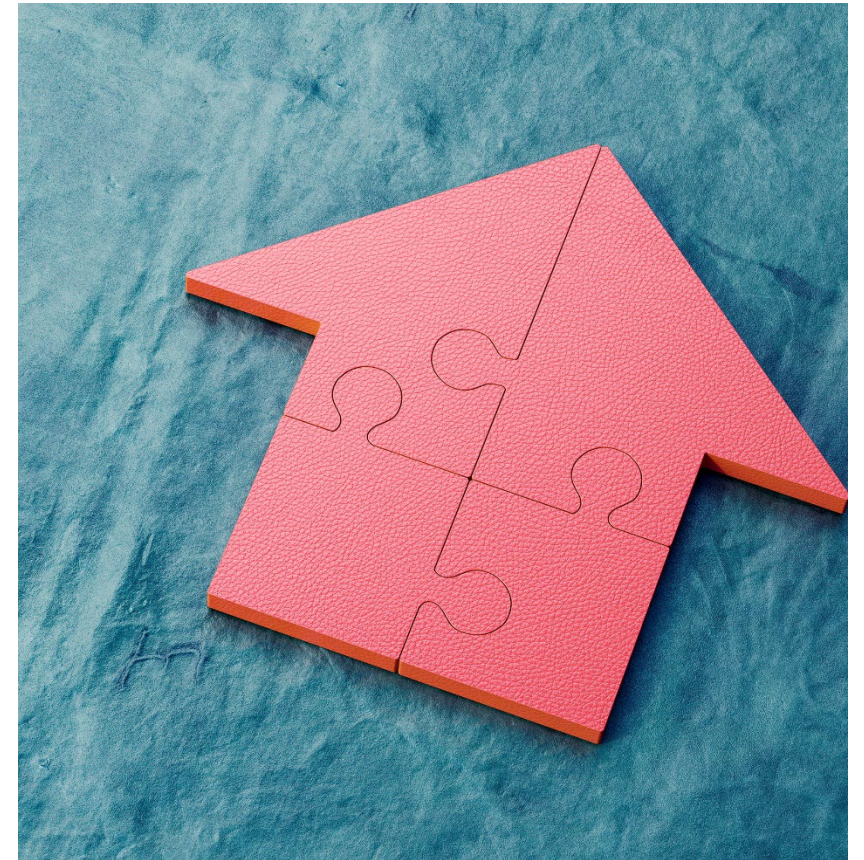
Partnerships enable DCYF to collaborate with public housing authorities (PHAs) and service providers to provide rental assistance and housing supportive services to families.

Family Unification Program (FUP)

PHAs provide housing vouchers to families where lack of housing is a primary barrier to reunification or where housing is a primary issue threatening removal.

Child Welfare Housing Program (CWHP)

Regional service providers deliver housing navigation, financial assistance, case management, and logistical support.



Supportive housing services

Cash assistance for:

- Application fees
- First and last month's rent
- Security and utility deposits
- Utility connection fees
- Rent and utility arrears
- Moving expenses
- Cleaning supplies.
- Previous housing related fees/fines/debt that hinder current lease-up ability.
- Other housing-related costs



Eligibility and referral criteria for FUP vouchers with state-funded supportive services

Where available, FUP vouchers and family housing support (no time limit on vouchers).

- For families with a *dependent child* seeking to reunify, or families where placement is *imminent*, and housing might prevent dependency.
 - Automated FUP referral form [is here](#).
- For DCYF to make a referral, we need a signed (ink or electronic) release of information to DCYF designated housing staff (Regional Lead, Regional Liaison, or HQ lead).
 - Link to consent form [is here](#). Once completed, the form can be emailed to: dcyf.housing@dcyf.wa.gov
- DCYF designated housing staff determines eligibility and provides certification to the PHA and supportive services contractor.



Eligibility and referral criteria for the CWHP

With limited FUP availability in many Washington counties, the CWHP continues to offer:

- Housing supportive services without a voucher.

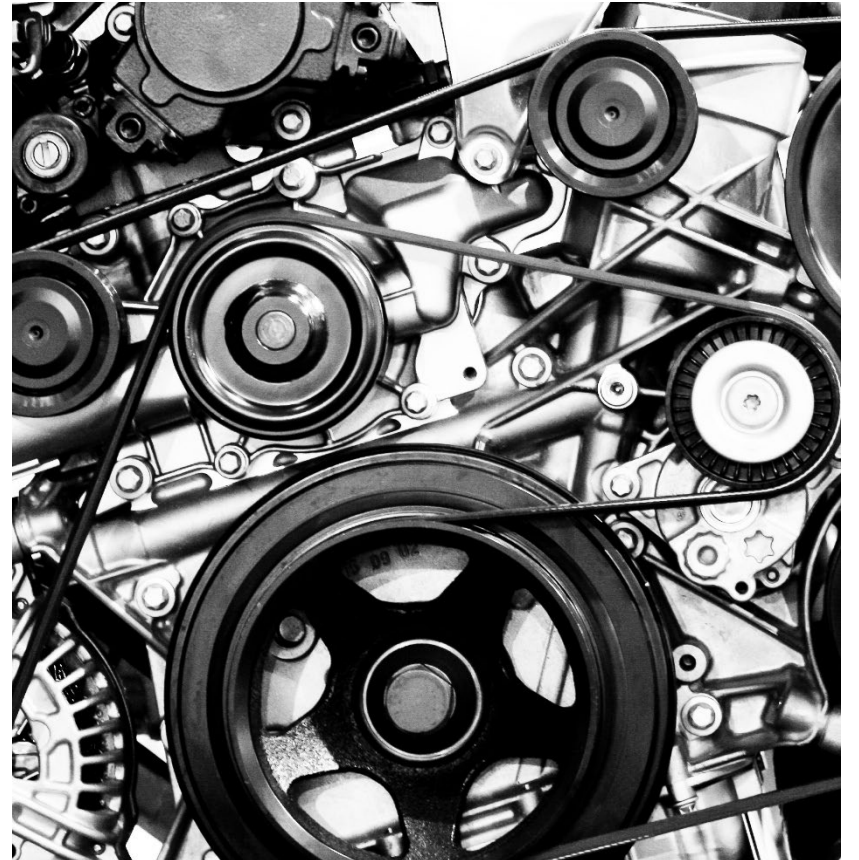
CWHP eligibility includes:

- Open Child Welfare case.
- Housing is a remaining barrier to reunification or housing is a remaining factor prompting potential removal.
- The CWHP automated referral form [is here](#).



How the voucher and housing supportive services referral process works

- A referral is made by an internal DCYF social worker, supervisor, Office of Public Defense representative, attorney, the family itself, or others supporting the family.
- A signed ROI is needed – including as recipients of client information DCYF, contracted supportive housing service providers, and the regional public housing authority.
- A referral form is completed that includes client demographics and basic case information – AND – documentation that there is either risk of removal or delay in return home.
- The completed automated referral is received by the regional housing liaison.
- If the family is eligible, the regional housing liaison certifies the referral and sends it to the housing authority and the housing supportive services agency.



CWHP challenges

- Geographical justice – In many counties, DCYF has yet to establish MOUs with regional housing authorities to enable release of federal FUP/FYI vouchers.
 - Families in need not in areas supported by a MOU are not able to receive FUP vouchers or the full array of housing supportive services, regardless of need or eligibility.
- Waitlists for vouchers and services (depending on the county/region).
- The process for new/more FUP vouchers through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



Diversion and eviction prevention

Starting with diversion conversations

Refer to civil legal aid such as:

- [Eviction Help | Northwest Justice Project](#)
- [King County Bar Association GET HELP](#)

Paying Rental arrears such as:

- [Eviction prevention | Pierce County, WA - Official Website](#)
- [Health Related Social Needs \(HRSN\)](#) through Foundational Community Supports can now pay rental arrears for qualified individuals
- [CWHP](#) for families with an open child welfare case



Emergency Shelters

Emergency Shelters - [Washington Homeless Shelters](#)
- [Washington Homeless Shelters And Emergency Shelters](#) - [Washington Homeless Services](#)

Domestic Violence Shelters -
<https://wscadv.org/washington-domestic-violence-programs/>

Finding low-income housing

aptfinder.org is a nonprofit website formed to connect low-income households with affordable apartment communities throughout Washington State. Listings are voluntarily advertised on our site by owners and managers of rental apartments for low-income households whose annual income is below 80% of area median income.



aptfinder.org

...an internet resource for those in search of affordable housing in Washington State.

Oxford and recovery housing

For individuals who are in SUD recovery and are committed to sobriety.

Each home may have different house rules.

Washington Qualified Recovery Housing Directory

Oxford Housing - Vacancy Search

Search by

- Location
- Gender
- Vacancy





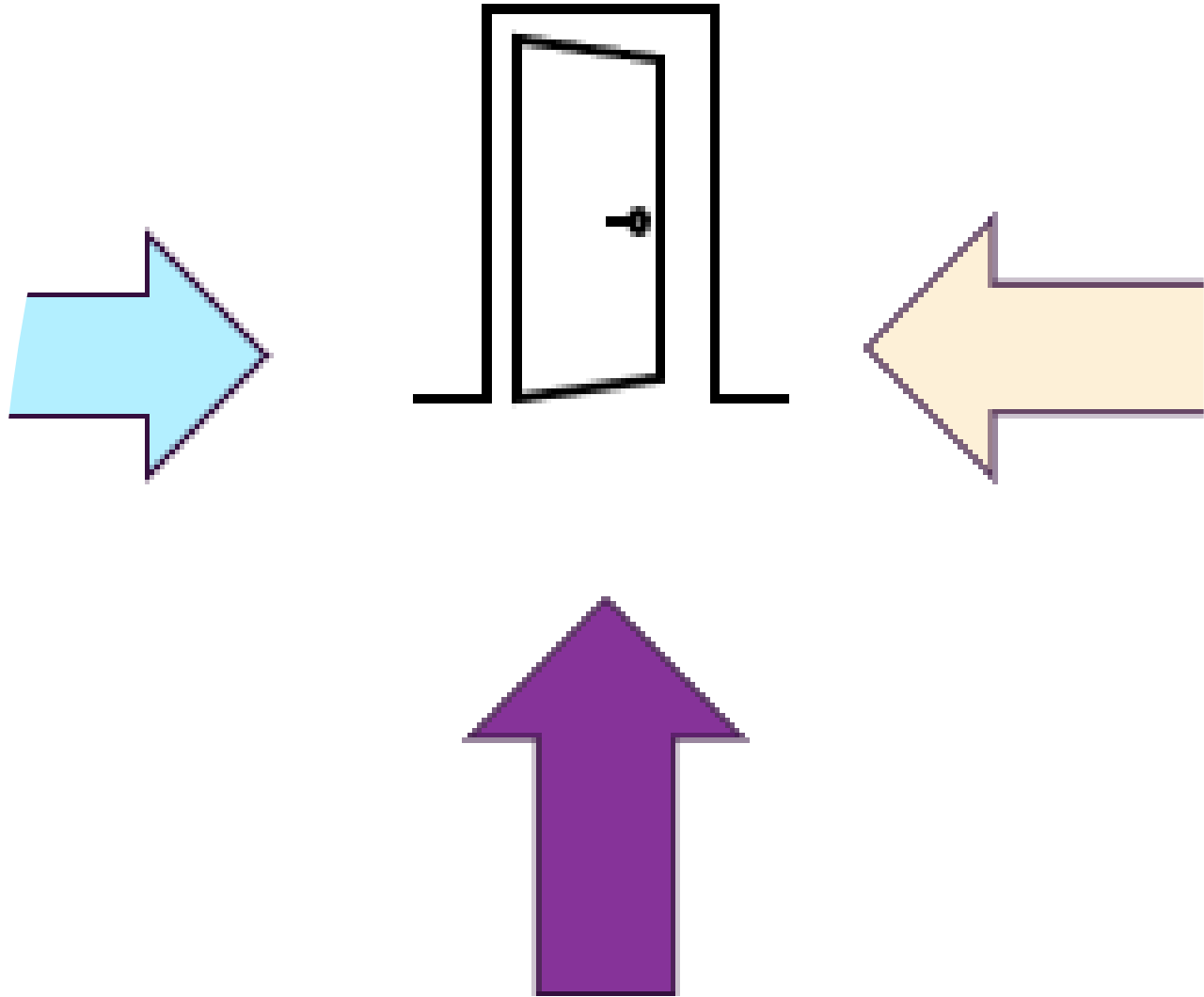
Coordinated entry

Each Continuum of Care operates a Coordinated Entry system meant to streamline access to housing resources. For families already experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness, they can contact their local access point:

[WA Coordinated Entry Access Points - January 2026.xlsx](#) | Powered by Box

Coordinated Entry

- Permanent Housing
 - Rapid Rehousing
 - Permanent Supportive Housing
- Transitional Housing





Special purpose vouchers



Family
Unification
Program

Veterans Affairs
Supportive
Housing (VASH)

Non-Elderly
Disabled (NED)



Housing for Veterans

Washington State Department of Veteran's Affairs

- Veterans Transitional Housing Program | WDVA
 - Orting, WA
 - Port Orchard, WA
- Housing Resources | WDVA
- VASH Vouchers - HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Veteran's Administration

- National Call Center: National Call Center for Homeless Veterans - VA Homeless Programs

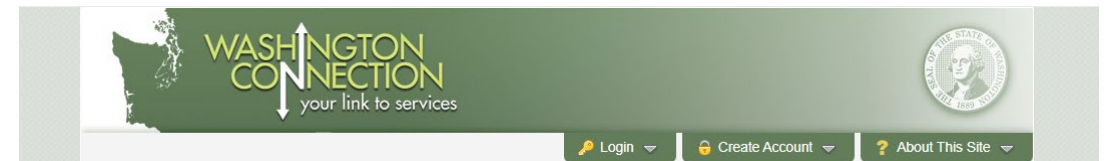


National Call Center
for Homeless Veterans
877-424-3838
va.gov/homeless

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

- Housing and Essential Needs (HEN)
- Governor's Opportunity for Supportive Housing (GOSH) Vouchers
- Long Term Supports (Adult Family Homes, Supported Living, etc.) through:
 - Home and Community Services (HCS)
 - Developmental Disability Community Services (DDCS)

Apply through [Washington Connection \(Your Link to Services\)](#)



Housing navigation

- **Foundational Community Supports**
 - For eligible Medicaid-enrolled individuals with complex health needs
 - Provides housing navigation and employment support
 - Refer through Wellpoint regardless of which MCO the client has
 - FCS Referral Form





What's available for young people?

Diversion funds:

Homeless Prevention Diversion Fund (HPDF)

Youth Diversion Infrastructure Program (YDIP)

- Youth under age 25
- Exiting a system of care
- Experiencing a housing crisis



What's available for young people?

Minor youth

- Relative Search*
- CRSs & Overnight Youth Shelters
- Transitional Living Programs
 - Facility Based
 - Host Homes
- Job Corps
- Washington Youth Academy
- Hutton Settlement



What's available for young people?

- Unaccompanied homeless youth
 - SNAP Benefits (EBT)
 - Medicaid
 - McKinney Vento
 - Public transportation

What's available for young people?

Young Adults

- Young adult shelters
- Coordinated Entry
- Independent Youth Housing Program
- Young Adult Housing Program
- Foster Care Housing Program
- Diversion Funds (HPDF and YDIP)
- The Bridge Housing



What's available for young people?

Youth and Young Adult Housing Response Team

- Ages 12 through 24 years
- Exiting a system of care
- Experiencing or at risk of homelessness



What's available for young people?

- Team members from DCYF, DSHS, HCA and/or OHY staff the sessions
- Publicly available

Youth and Young Adult Housing Response Team Office Hours

EVERY
WEDNESDAY
1 to 2 PM
(PACIFIC TIME)

The Youth and Young Adult Housing Response Team was created by HB 1905 (<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1905&Year=2021&Initiative=false>) in 2022 to respond to youth and young adults (ages 12 through 24) exiting publicly funded systems of care who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

WHAT: Two Core Members of the Youth and Young Adult Housing Response Team will be available to meet with youth, young adults, public employees, service providers, families, community members and others who are seeking more information about:

- The Response Team
- Systems of care
- Consultation and resources available to youth and young adults in Washington state.

WHY: The Youth and Young Adult Housing Response Team recognizes that there are approximately 1,000 young people per year exiting systems of care who will experience homelessness. The Response Team seeks to be available to provide consultation and support as broadly as possible.

WHERE: Microsoft Teams

Meeting Link: https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F_%23%2F%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%3Ameeting_OGE1MzY1ODEtZjk5ZC00ZWVlTHIjMjOGU2MDU5NjM4MTAx%40thread.v2%2F0%3Fcontext%3D%257b%2522id%2522%253a%2522id0e217-264e-400a-8ba0-57dce127d72d%2522%252c%2522oid%2522%253a%2522b00c8db1-8950-491a-8987-5d6146afab20%2522%257d%26anon%3Dtrue&type=meetup-join&deeplinkid=44518823-468f-4244-9a67-8096afb58189&directDl=true&msLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true

Meeting ID: 222 569 737 139

Passcode: Zz62ii

Need help? <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/join-a-meeting-in-microsoft-teams-1613bb53-f3fa-431e-85a9-d6a91e3468c9?omkt=en-US>

For More Information

Please join us for Office Hours or visit us at www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/yyahrt



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DCYF PUBLICATION PPS_0091 (01-2025)

Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) vouchers (and state-funded supportive housing services) through DCYF's Foster Care Housing Program (FCHP)

FYI vouchers and Housing Support (between 36 and 60 months of rental assistance)

- Young person at least 18 and not yet 25; (can start the process prior to age 18, but can't lease up until 18, and was dependent and out of home sometime between ages of 16 and 18.
- Must leave EFC within 180 days of lease up with a FYI voucher. (used to be 90 days – federal HUD partners just changed this timeline).



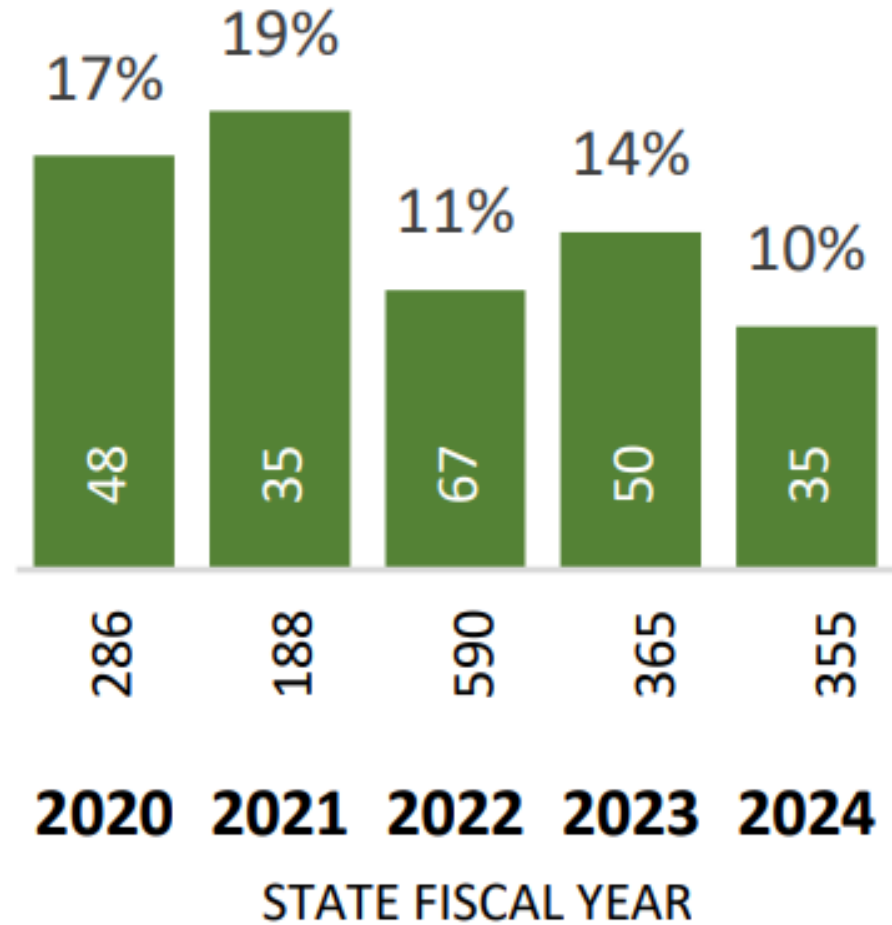
How the FYI voucher and housing supportive services referral process works

- A referral is made by a youth, a service provider, a case worker, or others supporting the youth.
- A referral form is completed that includes client demographics, information on housing status, and about the youth's dependency case. The QR code on this slide will also take you to the FCHP referral form.
- If it's a self referral, a signed ROI is not needed for the FCHP, as a consent attestation is built into the form.
- If it's a third party making the FCHP referral, a signed consent form must be submitted to: dcyf.housing@dcyf.wa.gov
- The completed automated referral is received by the regional housing liaison.
- If the youth is eligible, the regional housing liaison certifies the referral and sends it to the housing supportive services provider, which then works on the public housing authority application with the youth.



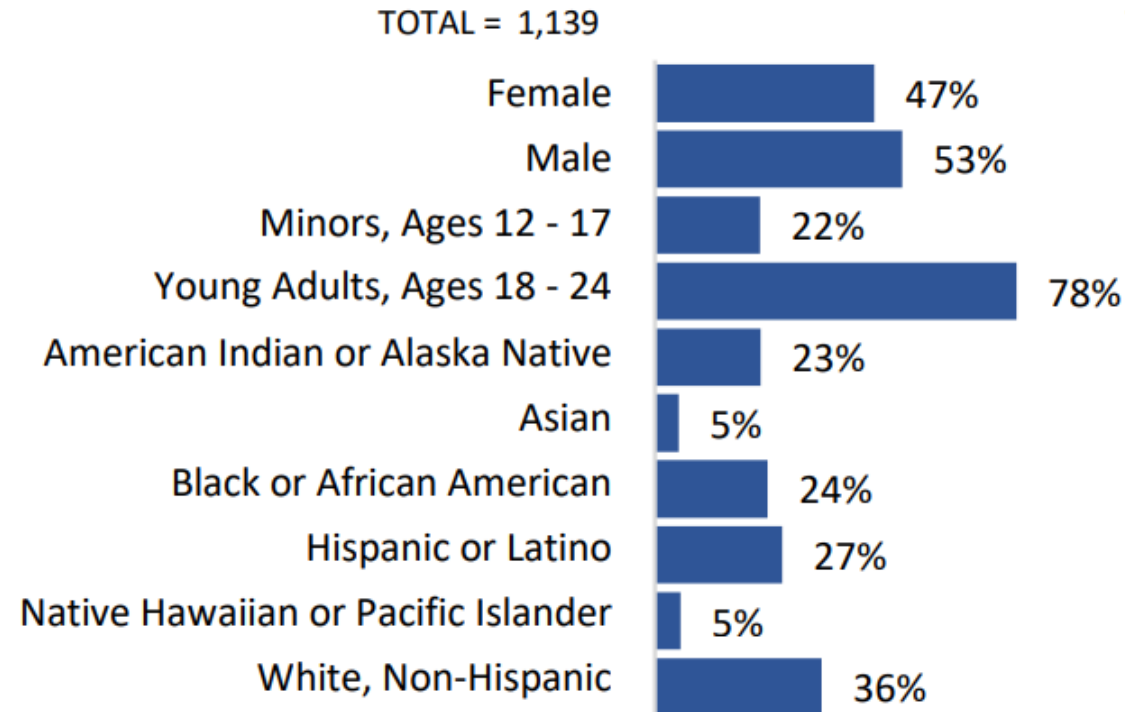
The big picture: Youth exiting foster care into homelessness

Source: Homelessness Among Youth Exiting
Systems of Care in Washington State (March 2026)



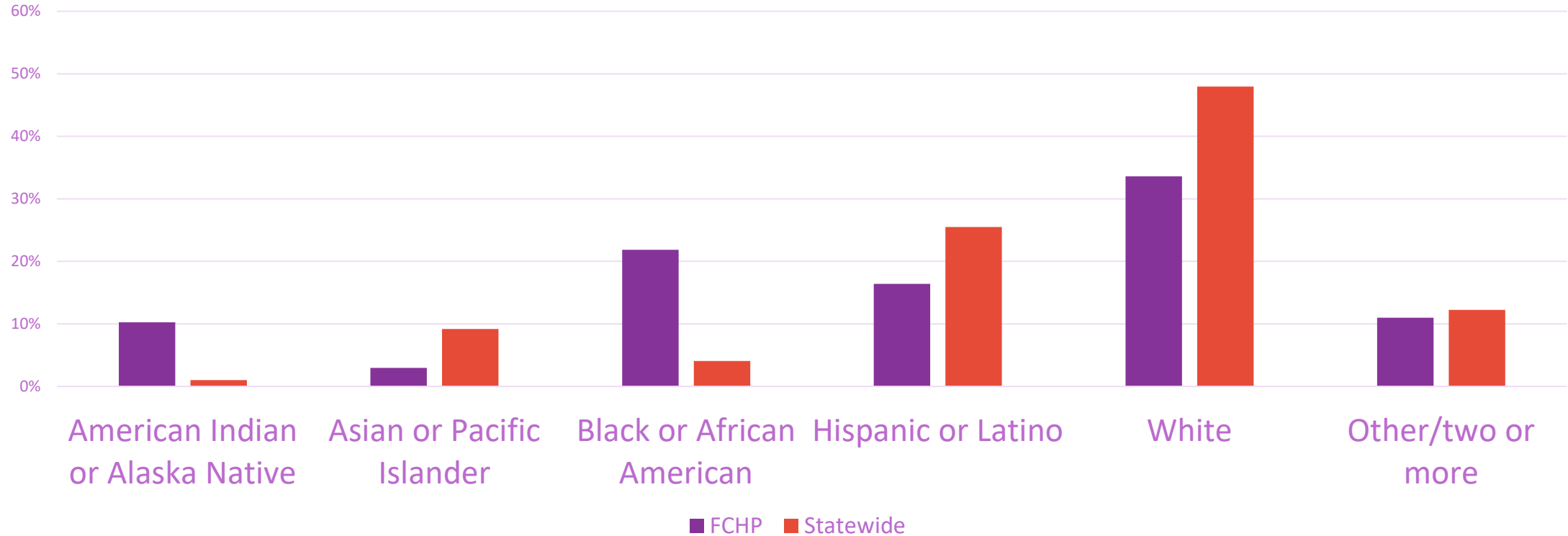
Equity within our systems ...

All homeless exits – fiscal year 2024



Source: [Homelessness among Youth Exiting Systems of Care in Washington State \(March 2026\)](#)

FCHP youth served versus statewide population data fiscal year 2024 N=426



Supports for non-parental caregivers

- Non-Needy or Kinship TANF - Financial subsidy; ~\$450/month
- Kinship Navigators
 - Kinship Caregivers Support Program
- Legal Advice and Referral for Kinship Care (LAARK) - statewide legal support



Additional Resources

Pathways to
Housing

Discharge
Planner's Toolkit

DCYF's Housing
and Basic Needs
Page

Youth and Young
Adult Housing
Response Team

Office Hours -
every Wednesday
1-2pm via Teams

Closing – Let's check in with our neighbors!

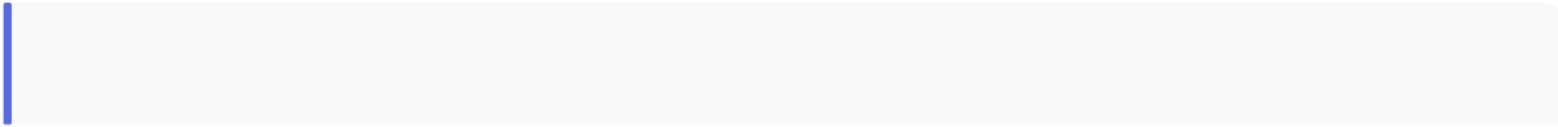
In a small group, please share:

- What's one thing you learned here?
- What can you take back to share with your unit or office?

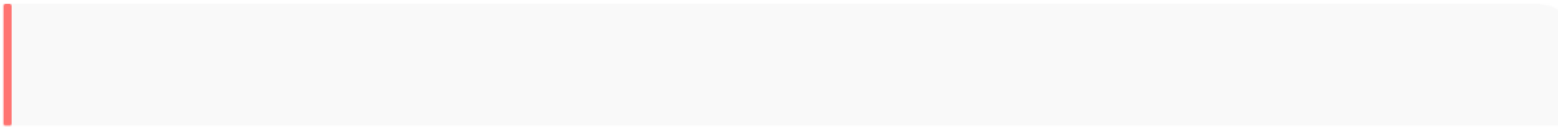


Please share your knowledge of housing resources

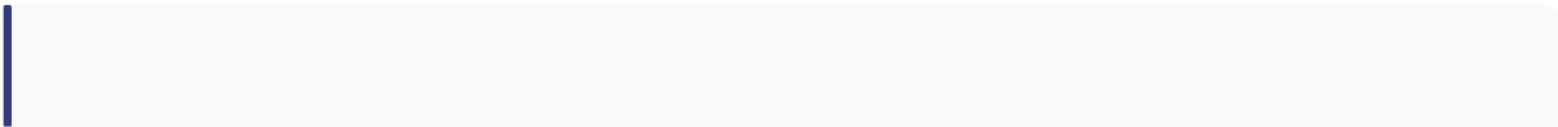
No knowledge of housing resources



Some knowledge of housing resources



Expert knowledge of housing resources



menti.com
9257 0809

Waiting for participants

Thank you!

- Jess.mayrer@dcyf.wa.gov
- Shannon.quinn@dcyf.wa.gov

