



Seattle Human Services Coalition

2017-18 City of Seattle Budget Recommendation Portfolio for a Just and Thriving Community

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Together We're Better!

Seattle Human Services Coalition: 1987-2016



2017-18 City of Seattle Budget Recommendation Portfolio

Vision for a Just and Thriving Community

The Seattle Human Services Coalition is a multi-cultural, multi-racial community of human service providers and concerned individuals who help Seattle residents reach their full potential by providing support like food, shelter, health care, and services for people with disabilities, elders, and youth, as well as survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

We know that Seattle’s Mayor and Councilmembers share with us the desire to live in a city that is just and thriving. We have included a brief on the Vision of a Just and Thriving Community at the end of this portfolio. Toward that end, we have provided you with recommendations directly from providers on actions and investments that will move us all closer to that shared goal.

For 2017-18, SHSC created this package in a new way: we provided the opportunity for human service providers to communicate with the Mayor and City Councilmembers more directly about the opportunities they are excited about: what works, and we need to do more of, as well as innovative ideas we’d like to implement to reach our shared goals: a community where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential. We want to be part of a community where income does not limit outcomes.

Another essential part of this effort is to **dismantle and eliminate structural racism**, defined as the systemic inclusion of racist practices and policies, which withhold power from and/or bar access to resources or advancement due to race. **Dismantling structural racism will take patience, awareness, and perseverance.** The modification of existing policies and practices to prioritize the right to self-determination is critical. In order to reach our shared vision there must be services and programs that are credible and effective *for everyone*.

We recommend the City allocate all new dollars in such a way that they reduce racial disproportionality in outcomes.

1st Priority: Maintain current community-based health & human services

Community health and human services help people reach their full potential. These investments are the walk of the talk of social justice. The Mayor and City Council have demonstrated ongoing leadership and vision by sustaining and even strengthening these critical investments. However, during the protracted, unequal economic recovery, needs for these services have increased among Seattle residents while key funders have made significant cuts to urgently needed services.

Any cuts to community health and human services now from the City of Seattle would undermine progress toward our shared goals.

In order to achieve this priority goal, one critical issue will be implementing further mitigation, including cost offset funding necessary to **prevent cuts in human services due to City policy changes related to raising the minimum wage**. Three areas that are especially impacted by this policy are services for people without homes, services for elders, and early childhood education. The step up scheduled on Jan 1, 2017 will result in cuts to these supports unless our Mayor and Councilmembers take action.

2nd Priority: New investment to move us toward the realization of a Just and Thriving Community, including dismantling and eliminating structural racism.

Together we can build a just and thriving community if we make it our priority, including a budget priority. The resources currently exist: the question is, **“What are your priorities?”** Acting together and putting people first, we do have the power to reach our shared vision of a Just and Thriving Community. **The recommendations contained in this portfolio are key next steps to reaching this vision.**

In making recommendations to move toward a **Just and Thriving Community**, we view human services through the perspective of those we serve, taking into account the complex interdependence of people and the inter-relatedness of service areas. This portfolio contains recommendations that support the creation of a network of sustainable human services, accessible to all, as well as recommendations that will work to eliminate the need for emergency, crisis services.

Recommendations are listed in alphabetical order with areas of impact indicated for each recommendation because their areas of impact overlap “silos” or “service areas”. At the same time, we also acknowledge that each of these recommendations will have an impact in one or more specific areas of interest. To facilitate the understanding of the impact of each of the recommendations in the portfolio you will find a color-coded tag that indicates these impact areas for each recommendation. This is the key:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| C= Children | H= Homelessness |
| E= Elders | HC= Health Care |
| F= Food | MHA= Mental Health & Addiction |
| GBV= Gender-Based Violence
(domestic violence and sexual assault) | RE= Racial Equity |
| | Y= Youth |

Each recommendation is just two pages, or less. You will note the name of the agency or agencies that is putting each recommendation forward. A more detailed explanation of any recommendation can be obtained, if more info would be helpful.

The members of SHSC urge the City of Seattle to prioritize moving toward a just and thriving community by implementing these actions.

Twenty-Two Actions for a Just and Thriving Community

Together we can build a just and thriving community if we make it our priority.

- **Advocacy Services for Sexual Assault Victims** GBV p. 5
- **Age-Friendly Community Innovation Fund** E p. 6
- **Assessment of Teacher Diversity of Seattle Preschool Program** C, RE p. 8
- **Backpack Programs for School-Aged Children** C, F, RE p. 10
- **Community Connections through Food Banks** C, E, GBV, H, HC p. 12
- **Community-Driven Solutions to Eliminate the Barriers Faced by Communities of Color to Engage in Civic and City Processes** E, RE, Y p. 14
- **Diversion Funds for All Households** H p. 16
- **Engagement Services for Homeless Youth and Young Adults in Seattle** H, RE, Y p. 17
- **Federal Advocacy to Fund the Action Needed to End Homelessness in Seattle** C, E, GBV, H, MHA, RE, Y p. 19
- **Flexible and Mobile Advocates and Flexible Financial Assistance for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence** GBV, RE p. 21
- **High-Quality Afterschool and Summer-Learning Programs** Y p. 23
- **Homeless Youth Preparation for Opportunities** H, Y p. 25
- **Human Service Provider Participation for Systemic Change** C, E, F, GBV, H, HC, MHA, RE, Y p. 27
- **Kinship Caregivers Raising Relatives** C, RE p. 29
- **Language Access Disparities in Non-English Speaking Communities** GBV, RE p. 31
- **Life Transformation Center** F, H, MHA p. 33
- **Meal Provider Coalition Coordination** E, F, H, Y p. 35
- **Parent Child Home Program** C, RE, Y p. 37
- **Resource and Support Groups for Kinship Families** MHA, C, Y p. 39
- **Social Support for Isolated Older Adults by Strengthening Volunteer Resources** E p. 41
- **South Park Family Services** C, E, RE, Y p. 43
- **Well-Being for People without Homes and Their/Our Neighbors** H, MHA p. 45

Restore Advocacy Services for Sexual Assault Victims

Recommenders: King County Sexual Assault Resources Center, Harborview Medical Center

Description of need: Sexual assault continues to be a serious social problem affecting children, teens, and adults throughout Seattle and our region. Local headlines routinely report sexual assaults on college campuses, in institutions, at work places, on the street, and in homes, resulting in a marked increase in public awareness and concern about sexual assault. The growing understanding by the public has created a more receptive climate for victims; they are now more likely to come forward right away and to expect a supportive response and access to sexual assault specific services.

Seattle and Washington State have made significant investments in services to mitigate the impact of the victimization, to assist victims through the criminal legal process, and help them access other needed services.

In 2015, over 1,500 Seattle residents sought assistance because they, or a family member, were victims of sexual assault. This is a 10% increase over the previous year. Unfortunately, at the same time, shifts in city funding priorities for 2016 resulted in a 17% reduction in city financial support for advocacy (including legal, medical, general) as well as crisis response. As a result fewer residents were able to receive contracted sexual assault services.

Recommended action: Allow for an additional 175 victims of sexual assault (children teens, and adults) to access support and advocacy including receiving accurate and helpful information about trauma and its impact; assistance through the legal system; assistance in obtaining protection orders and other civil remedies; and connection to additional needed services.

Reinstate funds for advocacy, crisis response, and support provided by accredited sexual assault programs amounting to \$101,000 (2017) and \$ 105,040 (2018).

Value of the services: Sexual assault victim support and advocacy as provided by state-accredited Community Sexual Assault Programs are a best practice. Legal advocacy and medical response are the primary gateways to additional services, including trauma-focused therapy. The advocacy and initial response services provided by KCSARC and HCSATS are built on empirically supported principles and are shown to be effective in mitigating the immediate crisis. Legal advocacy increases the likelihood that the victim/witness will continue participation in the criminal justice process.

Impact on racial disparities: People of color, refugee and immigrants as well as other marginalized populations such as homeless youth, are typically unlikely to consider involvement with the criminal legal system or organized system of services. Many victims are vulnerable and may experience greater barriers to participating in the legal system and/or accessing other services. Sexual assault advocacy often an entry point and will increase the likelihood of individuals from these communities receiving needed assistance.

Guadalupe was 6 years old and sexually assaulted by a close family friend. The family will never forget the day she told. Her father Victor called his priest who then referred him to KCSARC for services. KCSARC was able to give Victor immediate support and information about police reporting and the medical exam. KCSARC immediately assigned a Legal Advocate and a Parent Educator. Victor and his family members attended parent education sessions at KCSARC to learn how to best meet Guadalupe's needs. In the meantime, Guadalupe participated in a child interview at the Prosecutor's Office. She was able to describe in detail the abuse she had endured for several months with the support of a Legal Advocate. Charges have been made against the perpetrator and the case is now awaiting trial.

Contact:

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Lucy Berliner lucyb@uw.edu 206-744-1600

Recommenders: Sound Generations, Wallingford Senior Center, Phinney Neighborhood Association, International Drop-In Center, Pike Market Senior Center, South Park Redevelopment Committee, Asian Counseling and Referral Services, Chinese Information and Service Center

Create Age-Friendly Community Innovation Fund

As a city and a region, changes that will enhance the quality of life, independence, and well-being of our aging population can be made. These include addressing important identified needs and taking advantage of assets and resources that an older and experienced population provides. By doing this, we all will benefit.

"An age-friendly city is a city that is friendly for people of all ages and abilities."

The Human Services Departments Healthy Communities, Healthy Families for 2016 includes an Age-Friendly Communities initiative. What is an Age Friendly Community?

- A Framework to address environmental, economic and social factors that influence health and well-being of older adults.
- Criteria developed by the World Health Organization (WHO)
- A WHO designation
- A network of communities in North America endorsed by AARP and WHO

Challenge - It is well known and documented that by 2040 the percent of residents age 60 and older in King County is projected to grow by nearly 25%. 80% of the growth is projected to happen in Seattle as well as South Urban and East Urban regions. Top concerns for older adults and people with disabilities are transportation, housing, wellness, healthcare and socialization. WHO's age friendly framework includes eight domains of livability. A number of these domains can easily be supported by our local senior centers with additional investment including transportation, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and community support and health services. However, many seniors in our communities do not have access to these basic supportive services.

What will happen if the need is not met - An Age Friendly approach builds on strengths, not just needs. It views older adults as assets and partners in solving the challenges of longevity. A needs based approach will outstrip government resources and lead to generational conflict. In contrast, Age Friendly communities bring generations together because aging is a process we all experience. Seattle residents of all ages do better when we make sure everyone has what they need to age successfully. For people of modest means, an Age Friendly approach works upstream to keep older adults and people with disabilities active, engaged and supported in their neighborhoods and communities and creates structures and services so they don't spend themselves into poverty

Recommended Action - An Age Friendly Community Innovation Fund would be based on the seven Seattle Council districts and senior centers in each district will be encouraged to apply for funding to support some key programs and services based

on one or more of the eight domains which will transform our city into a good place to grow up and grow old. We recommend an innovation fund with grants available up to \$25,000 each.

Value of Service - Modeling after the Department of Neighborhoods Small and Simple Grants, the Age Friendly Community Innovation Fund will encourage innovation, partnership and community involvement. It will allow for projects to get a good start and enable evidence based documentation for future funding. With the innovation fund being district wide and requiring community involvement this will assure that the approach is human centered and will ensure racial equity. We will prioritize those projects which work to decrease racial disparity. The Age Friendly Community Initiative also can help the city meet its ADA obligations and address ageism.

Fay is a 75-year old woman who worked in the social service sector. She retired at 70, has some health problems. She is living in a Seattle neighborhood and is not able to drive. She lives on social security and small retirement savings. She is the one of the hidden poor in that she makes too much to qualify for government funded services, but cannot afford assisted living or services in her home. She is able to pay her mortgage (less than some rentals would be), but she has very little income at the end of the month. She is in a neighborhood with a Village, which is an aging in community program that has volunteers available to help with transportation, shopping, minor home services, gardening and social engagement. Fay is availing herself of these services. She needed to go to the emergency room recently, followed by a number of doctor appointments. The village helped her through these health challenges. She is doing much better now and volunteers to produce the newsletter for her village. She also does outreach phone calls to others in need. Fay has said the following of her Village experience -

- *"Wonderful people. Could not have made it through last year without them."*
- *"I feel like I am part of the community and there is somebody who will be there when I need someone to be there. I have a second family - my real family is not available."*



We recommend an investment of \$87,500 for 2017 and \$175,000 for 2018 to begin the process of making Seattle a good place to grow up and grow old. For further information please call Cecily Kaplan, 206-297-0875 or Joanne Donohue, 206.727.6206

Assess and Monitor the current and future capacity for the Seattle Preschool Program to attract a diverse teaching staff

Recommended by: *The Child Care Directors Association of Greater Seattle and Small Faces Child Development Center*

When children are taught by a diverse set of teachers that closely matches the makeup of their own community the benefits to the children and the future of our communities are many. * Children of color benefit from the background and experiences of teachers to whom they can relate which in turn reduces the opportunity gap for those children. All children benefit from seeing authority figures from diverse backgrounds, which helps them to form a worldview free of racial bias.

- Data shows that the opportunity gap is greatly reduced when children of color are taught by a diverse teaching staff whose makeup closely reflects the cultural and racial diversity of the student population.*
- While nearly 50% of the student population of Seattle Public schools are children of color, less than 20% of the teachers are.
- As the new Seattle Preschool Program grows over the next several years we have a unique opportunity to monitor the makeup of the teacher population, and that of the future teachers enrolled at the University of Washington and Seattle Colleges new Early Childhood Education Bachelors and Masters degree programs to ensure that we are recruiting a diverse faculty of preschool teachers.
- If we do not assess our success at providing culturally responsive education from a diverse teaching staff now, we risk recreating and entrenching the teacher diversity problem that already exists in the Seattle Public Schools.

Solution: Recommended action

- The city of Seattle will assess the racial makeup of current and future preschool teachers entering the Seattle Preschool Program. Future teachers can be extrapolated based on students currently earning required credentials, such as appropriate baccalaureate programs.

Value of the action*

- Minority teachers tend to have higher academic expectations for minority students, which can result in increased academic and social growth among students.
- Minority students profit from having among their teachers individuals from their own racial and ethnic group who can serve as academically successful role models and who can have greater knowledge of their heritage culture.
- Positive exposure to individuals from a variety of races and ethnic groups, especially in childhood, can help to reduce stereotypes, attenuate unconscious implicit biases and help promote cross-cultural social bonding.

- All students benefit from being educated by teachers from a variety of different backgrounds, races and ethnic

This action can reduce racial disparities in community outcomes if the Mayor and City Councilmembers use the information gathered to guide future policy to ensure recruitment and retention of a diverse teaching staff in the Seattle Preschool Program, which in turn will have positive outcomes for children of color in reducing the opportunity gap.

We recommend an investment of \$15,000 in this action for 2017 and \$15,600 in 2018.

Data Source: *The State of Teacher Diversity in American Education, Albert Shanker Institute, 2016



For more information, contact:
John Otto, Executive Director,
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Invest in Backpack Programs for School-Aged Children

Recommenders: Seattle Food Committee

Description of Need

According to the Children's Alliance nearly 300,000 children in Washington State are food insecure¹. The consequences of hunger for these children are profound and include higher likelihood of hospitalization, increased risk of chronic health conditions, increased risk of truancy and school tardiness and in school behavior problems². Programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the School Breakfast and Lunch programs exist to help address childhood hunger but children still fall through the gaps in these programs. During the school year children may access free breakfast and lunch at school but the weekends are often a difficult time for children without access to school meals.

One solution to the weekend food gap is to send children home with ready to eat, easily prepared foods in their backpacks. As of May 2016, 79 Seattle Public Schools partner with Seattle food banks, meal programs, and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSA) to provide weekend backpacks. Some students are given a backpack with food for the weekend, while others are provided with enough food for the family. These students fall into the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act (MKV), which defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for children and youth experiencing homelessness. However, another very large percentage of students fall into the Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) program. Many of these children are unserved due to funding and capacity issues. Seattle Public Schools say that 38.9% of the students in the district are on FRL program as of October 2015 with an enrollment of 53,872!

In 2013, household food insecurity was more than twice as prevalent among children in households headed by African Americans (36 percent) or Hispanics (30 percent), than in those headed by Caucasians (15 percent). The proportion of households where children had "very low food insecurity" was between three and four times as high in black or Hispanic households as it was in a white household. These racial disparities in our community can be reduced by providing children with weekend backpacks.

Recommended Service

Invest in backpack programs for school-aged children in Seattle. Backpack programs are collaborative efforts between schools, emergency food programs, and community groups committed to providing weekly food to children experiencing hunger in our community. An investment in backpack programs for schools will enable organizations to serve a greater number of students who have limited or no access to food over the weekend. Over 2,200 students are being

¹ <http://www.childrensalliance.org/our-current-work/end-childhood-hunger>

² <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/child-development.aspx>

served weekly under existing programs, which means that approximately 500 MKV students in Seattle Public Schools are not being reached. With an investment from the City of Seattle, all MKV students and many other FRL students would be served.

Proven Approach

A Program evaluation of the Backpack Program at Feeding America by the University of Illinois has shown that backpack programs are effective in reducing food insecurity among children. Among families with low food security who participated in the backpack program 13% became food secure, compared to only 5% of non-participating families. Among participating households with very low food security 20% reported that the Backpack program had a significant impact on their budget³.

Invest Now

Programs currently operating backpack programs in Seattle report that they are spending an average of \$9 per food pack/student. This includes food and operation costs. To continue to provide 2,264 school children with a weekly food pack an investment of \$700,000 is needed.

The Seattle Food Committee recommends an investment of \$700,000 in 2017 and \$728,000 in 2018 in this action.

For more information contact:

Alison Alfonzo Pence, The Food Bank at St. Mary's, alison@thefbsm.org, (206) 324-7100 x21
Sabrina Jones, Solid Ground, sabrinaj@solid-ground.org, (206) 694-6756

³ Fiese, Barbara H. Backpack Program Evaluation. 2012. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
http://illinois.edu/cms/3431/backpack_prog_eval_execsumm.pdf

Create Community Connections through Food Banks

Recommenders- Seattle Food Committee, Seattle Helpline Coalition

Since 1984, local area food bank providers have worked together to coordinate services in the struggle to end hunger in Seattle. The Seattle Food Committee represents 26 food banks serving those in need with 18,933,064 pounds of supplemental food in 2015. Hunger remains a problem in Seattle. In 2014, Feed America's annual "Map the Feeding Gap" study reported that **268,160** individuals are experiencing food insecurity in King County. In 2015, **126,095** unduplicated individuals and **71,396** unduplicated households received food from a Seattle food bank at least once. Leaders in the food bank community believe our 71,396 families experiencing food insecurity would increase their ability for self-sufficiency by having service connections available at food bank sites. These families represent a large cross section of neighbors whose race, gender, language, age, sexual orientation or disability include barriers that contribute to dependency. This recommendation thus provides an additional opportunity to decrease these disparities by connecting our neighbors in need to the information, services and resources available to support their crisis and begin the process of re-building their life. We envision an end to hunger in our city and seek to be leaders building well-being in our communities. We believe that connecting clients to community resources is a critical strategy to end hunger. **Community Connections** support the human potential of our neighbors in need by developing a more accessible, culturally competent system of providing individuals and families experiencing food insecurity and homelessness the navigational support necessary to access emergency services, health insurance, medical care, veteran's services, social service programs, education, and employment opportunities. **Community Connections** provides the potential for thousands of individuals experiencing crisis to connect with information and service providers while picking up their food at the food bank. The SFC is convinced that by taking advantage of this opportunity to connect food insecure clients to important information and potential life changing services, Seattle's food banks and helpline's will serve as catalysts to end hunger in Seattle.

The Seattle Helpline Coalition (SHC), North Helpline, Queen Anne Helpline and West Seattle Helpline, have a long history of working collaboratively with food banks to support clients with emergency needs. Seattle Helpline's provide clients rental assistance, utility assistance, and move in assistance to prevent families and individuals from being evicted and support their ability to obtain housing. SHC will support this recommendation by providing with services with referrals and by contributing a community connections strategy that supports the unique diversity and complexity of each neighborhood while supporting provider's service delivery policies and assuring that there are no duplication of services

Community Connections seeks the employment of four (4) FTE **Service Navigator (SN)** positions to be located at food banks supporting each region of Seattle including **Southwest-** West Seattle; **Southeast-** South Park (Providence Regina)/Beacon Avenue; **Northwest-** Ballard; **Northeast-** North Helpline; and one (1) FTE at-large **(SN)** serving the **Central** area. **Service**

Navigators (SN) will have a MSW or BSW or extensive experience providing human services to a diverse community. **Service Navigators (SN)** will possess excellent resource knowledge and engagement skills for connecting clients to Homeless Shelters, Emergency Food and Health Services, Food Banks, Meal Programs, Community Health Care Clinics, Childcare Services, Domestic Abuse Services, Disability Services, Youth Development Services, Senior Services, Helpline Services, Employment, Education and Volunteer Opportunities. Each program will include a space limited desk platform, laptop computer, cell phone and printer. **Service Navigators (SN)** will be directly supervised by food bank directors and provided guidance by the Seattle Food Committee and Seattle Helpline Coalition.

Non-profit organizations and churches have traditionally incorporated referrals, social services, educational advocacy and employment support as part of their emergency food services programming. As a fundamental basic human need, food distribution at the food bank, or a hot meal often becomes a unique human interaction and opportunity for a more engaged dialogue focused on positively impacting the human potential of every client. It changed the life of Gino Larsen-Giacalone. Gino was sitting in the lobby at the West Seattle Food Bank (WSFB) one morning when a recruiter for First Student, a private school bus company participating in the West Seattle Food Bank Community Connections Program asked him if he had ever thought about being a bus driver. Gino had been looking for a job for three years. He decided to inquire about the job and soon thereafter was hired by First Student. While driving for First Student, Gino responded to an advertisement for a driver position with Solid Ground, he interviewed and was hired. Gino maintains, the community connection at the WSFB changed my life forever. "Two years ago I was in the food line and today I am employed to help serve my neighbors in need".

In order to end hunger and homelessness in Seattle, we need to help build a stable foundation in the lives of our neighbors who frequent Seattle area food banks and meal programs. Food banks provide the best community space to connect people to services and resources. Food banks serve the rich diversity inherent in Seattle neighborhoods and cultivate respectful relationships with clients. For these reasons, food banks provide an ideal environment for many who do not speak English or have other barriers to seeking assistance.

We seek your support for this recommendation to provide community connections and support services for our neighbors faced with food insecurity. We recommend an investment of \$750,000 in this action for 2017 and \$780,000 in 2018.

Sources-

2015, EFAP Statistics, Solid Ground

2015, Meal Program Coalition Data

2014, Map the Feeding Gap, Feed America

Contact-Steven J. Curry, MA, steven@westseattlefoodbank.org, 206.932.9023

Invest in Community-Driven Solutions to Eliminate the Barriers Faced by Communities of Color to Engage in Civic and City Processes

Recommender: Latino Community Fund, Non-Profit Anti-Racism Coalition, Non-Profit Assistance Center, OneAmerica, Solid Ground, South Park Information and Resource Center

THE RECOMMENDATION

Invest in community-driven solutions that create and increase the capacity of grassroots community organizations—especially those predominantly led by and accountable to communities of color—to remove the barriers to significant and sustainable civic engagement, with a focus on city budget, investments, and administrative processes.

THE NEED

Communities of color experience a disproportionate number of significant barriers to civic engagement and effective interaction with city processes. Within communities of color, **historically underserved people**—youth, elders, LGBTQ, immigrants, refugees, limited English speakers, undocumented, and disabled members of community—**face specific and unique barriers to engaging with city processes even as the outcomes of said processes often impact their lives the most** (e.g. HALA, police accountability, etc). These funds will increase the civic engagement of communities of color by supporting community self-determination in identifying and overcoming the barriers specific to each community, that keep people from engaging in city processes.

THE SOLUTION

In order to remove the significant and unique barriers that keep communities of color from civic engagement, **we recommend the City fund civic engagement development for CBOs predominantly led by and accountable to communities of color who have strong existing relationships and service provision to target communities.** These funds, entrusted to CBOs as stewards and experts on the needs of their own communities, will create opportunities for **leadership development, access and training** on navigation of city administrative processes, **development of methods for community ownership of data,** and **sustainable capacity** (to engage in the city processes) and **increased bandwidth of POC-led CBOs.** We strongly recommend this action be taken with **flexibility of funding to address the needs of a spectrum of communities with very different levels of engagement, participation, and barriers.**

Jaqueline’s story illustrates the fact that POC-led CBOs are already effective in engaging their communities and that **the solutions to removing barriers for civic engagement happen in community;** however, these CBOs are vulnerable in terms of their sustainability, capacity, and bandwidth. **This action will build upon the work already being done, and will be more effective than any other form of engagement because the leadership will come from the self-determination of the communities themselves.**

ONE OF MANY NARRATIVES:

"In 2013, I completed a leadership skills course at South Park Information and Resources (SPIARC), which gave me the skills to implement and expand my own grassroots community organization, Circulo de Mamas Seattle. Thanks to the support from South Park Information and Resources (SPIARC), Circulo de Mamas Seattle received our first grant to implement our project, Women Driving, Women Advancing, which supports Latino women in getting their driver's licenses. Having once been a non-driving woman, this project was especially important to me. A woman who can't drive, many times can't work or study; she does not have the time or resources for civic or community engagement. Many Latino women don't have their license and it is often a cause for isolation, poverty, depression, and lack of community participation. When a woman gets a driver's license, she can completely change her life. My course at SPIARC supported this work and several other projects in my community focusing on supporting Latino mothers, impacting more than 300 families in South Seattle and, 3 years later, offering ESL Classes, 1st time mom workshops, among many other projects. I was a volunteer, a member of the community, executing these projects and I am now the new Program Manager at SPIARC, this organization that gave me the opportunity to grow and develop my leadership skills and civic engagement."

~ Jaqueline Garcia, SPIARC

DATA SOURCES

- **Equity & Environment Agenda, 5/3/16.**
<http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/OSE/SeattleEquityAgenda.pdf>
- **2016 City Resolution 31634- (Page 1 of 6)**
http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/~legislativeItems/Resolutions/Resn_31634.pdf
- **2016 City Resolution 31577, Section 7A**
http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/~legislativeItems/Resolutions/Resn_31577.pdf
- **I-Team focus on African-American young men.**
<http://murray.seattle.gov/innovationteam/#sthash.3o6feEkO.dpbs>
- **City Accelerator Grant Awardee 2015, Living Cities Initiative**
<https://www.livingcities.org/blog/990-improving-public-engagement-5-cities-get-to-work>
- **Government Alliance on Race & Equity, 2015.**
<http://racialequityalliance.org/category/community-capacity-building/>

We recommend the City entrust CBOs to be stewards of funds, as [the City's Equity & Environment Agenda](#) states, "The first step to realizing equity is building trust. Many community members have expressed a wariness of government." **Successful civic engagement will only be possible through the fostering of community-led engagement and leadership development, with expert advisors and consultants to the city being from the communities themselves.** These established relationships will make this action both efficient and culturally responsive.

THE VALUE

[As Mayor Murray's I-Team has stated](#) about the City's human-centered approach, **"insights cannot be gleaned from hard data alone," but must also be heard directly from the communities of color,** who demonstrate valuable, specific expertise about their own community members. This recommended action will help the City build and foster trust and partnership with communities of color, especially immigrant and refugee communities.

This recommendation addresses civic engagement in the broadest sense of the word, based on the relationships these CBOs have with the communities they already serve and are integral members of. The expertise of these communities and the strong, established relationships already present are imperative to ensure the elimination of barriers to civic engagement is effective, efficient, culturally responsive, and sustainable.

These funds will make possible a two-way relationship with the city—**so that communities of color are part of the conversation** of design, metrics, and indicators of success for collection and reporting, promoting community ownership of data **so that communities of color can own and tell their own stories instead of having stories told of and about them;** their access to this data can be used as resources for CBOs to apply for grants and other forms of funding.

The funds used to foster the leadership in POC-lead CBOs will result in a savings for the City by directly reaching the communities in which the City wishes to, as stated in [2016 City Resolution 31634](#), "remove barriers and create opportunities for greater civic engagement" with community members themselves as the expert consultants. This recommendation also addresses [2016 City Resolution 31577](#),

[Section 7A](#) as it fosters "Community Representation" and will strengthen the City's objective to "seek guidance on City policies and investments from community bodies who demonstrate inclusive representation and voice, especially of marginalized people."

As Seattle grows and changes, POC are disproportionately affected and pushed out of the city, we **urge the funding of this recommendation to develop the ability of**

communities of color toward self-determination through the engagement of city processes that greatly affect their lives. In 2017, we anticipate time for communication, planning and coordination will be needed to build up to full potential and in 2018 the increase in funding will provide for more communities engaged.

For more information, contact: Sarah Tran, Non-Profit Assistance Center (Stran@nacseattle.org)
Regent Brown, Non-Profit Anti-Racism Coalition (regent.s.b@gmail.com)
Jaqueline Garcia, South Park Information and Resource Center (spiarc.programmanager@gmail.com)
José Manuel Vasquez, Latino Community Fund (jose@latinocommunityfund.org)

In order to support community-driven solutions to eliminate the barriers Faced by communities of color to engage in civic and city processes, we recommend an investment of \$300,000 in this action for 2017 and \$500,000 in 2018.

Invest in Sufficient Diversion

Recommenders: Catholic Community Services

Description of Need: Sufficient Diversion Funds for All Households

Seattle and King County recently declared a State of Emergency due to homelessness. There are more homeless households than there are resources to assist them. For many households the barrier to resolving their housing crisis is relatively small, it could be assistance with a deposit and application fees or a bus ticket home to family that can provide a stable living situation. However, this assistance is not always available, while what is available is a more expensive intervention such as shelter, transitional housing or permanent supportive housing. It is inefficient to funnel households into more intensive interventions than is needed to resolve their housing crisis because the needed intervention is not available.

Recommended action: Invest an additional \$1,000,000 in Diversion

The most efficient and person centered solution is to work with households experiencing a housing crisis to identify any safe alternatives they may have to divert them from the homeless service system and pair funding so that the plan can be executed, this type of program is called “Diversion”. Funding must be flexible to support a wide variety of plans that could include assistance with a deposit and first month’s rent, a bus ticket home or support mediating with a family member that may be willing to house the household. This funding should be available to all populations including families, single adults, youth and young adults and veterans. To leverage as much of the existing infrastructure as possible diversion should be available at multiple locations such as Coordinate Entry Regional Access Points (CEA RAPs), Shelters and Day Centers. To best address the racial disparities seen in those experiencing homelessness this funding should be made available at multiple community based organizations with expertise in serving the various populations that disproportionately experience homelessness.



Diversion is a proven intervention in our community. Building Changes launched a diversion pilot program that ran in 2014 and 2015 for families entering the coordinated entry system. 371 families were enrolled in the diversion pilot, 61.7% were successfully diverted. The majority of families entered a rental unit that they paid for after receiving some assistance with move in costs. The average amount of assistance per successful diversion was \$1,258.76, significantly less than the median cost for Rapid ReHousing or Transitional Housing.

To efficiently divert as many households as possible from the homeless system we recommend an investment of \$1,000,000 in this action for 2017 and \$ 1,040,000 in 2018.

Data Sources: Data on the Diversion Pilot with Families is from Building Changes.

For more information, contact:

Jana Lissiak, Catholic Community Services, janal@ccsww.org, (206) 328-5710

Preserve and strengthen engagement services for homeless youth and young adults in Seattle

Recommenders: YouthCare, Accelerator YMCA, Youth Development Executives of King County (YDEKC)

Description of need

Front-line programs to engage homeless youth are currently funded with one-time state of emergency funding, as is a new shelter model aimed at helping school-connected homeless youth in South Seattle maintain educational progress and find stability. Relationship building on the streets and with disconnected, traumatized young people takes time and consistent presence – if these programs must scale back or end their outreach programs when the one-time funding ends, months of progress may be lost. Additionally, there is a lack of services for youth experiencing homelessness in South Seattle, especially services designed to meet the needs of African American youth or youth from immigrant and refugee communities, whose experience of homelessness often differs from that of their white peers.

According to Count Us In, an annual point in time count of homeless youth and young adults, on one night in January 2016, there were 824 homeless youth in King County, including 134 youth and young adults who were literally unsheltered. At just one drop-in center for homeless youth in downtown Seattle, more than 300 homeless youth access basic services such as meals, showers, and laundry each month. More than two-thirds of homeless youth in our community are youth of color, and at least 25% identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ).

Research has shown that the most effective ways to address youth homelessness is to follow a progressive engagement model that begins with trust building and includes culturally appropriate activities. The risks of not connecting with youth on the streets and in drop-in centers are many: a national study that included data from Seattle reported that 25% of homeless youth interviewed had “agreed to be sexual with someone” for money; almost 2/3 had experienced victimization on the streets (including sexual and physical assault, robbery, or threats of violence), and almost 80% had experienced PTSD symptoms. Engaging youth who are homeless is critical for their safety, for our community, and to ensure we are not losing their potential to street violence and lack of opportunity. Culturally-informed engagement practices are crucial to ensure we reach all youth who experience homelessness with services that build on their personal and community strengths. Early intervention with youth and young adults helps us prevent a drift into chronic adult homelessness.

Recommended action

We recommend a comprehensive engagement strategy for homeless youth that preserves Seattle’s network of engagement services built up through the State of Emergency, and strengthens services in South Seattle and among providers serving culturally specific communities. This action includes:

- **Preservation of existing network of homeless youth drop-in centers in Seattle, along with funds to expand programs serving youth of color and/or immigrant and refugee youth;**
- **Sustained funding for young adult shelter space focused on the needs of unstably housed youth of color;**
- **Continued funding for youth-specific outreach teams that engage in encampments and other areas where homeless youth congregate.**

Value of the service

Engagement services must build on each other and work as a comprehensive system to be effective, and there must be “no wrong door” for a youth ready to get help. The National Network for Youth and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness both endorse a continuum model, and new research into youth shelter indicates that drop-in centers are a critical link to connect homeless youth to shelter services. At the front end, outreach teams build trust, leverage public and private client assistance/diversion funds to help youth move off the streets quickly where possible, and encourage youth to come inside for a meal and a next step. Once inside a drop-in center, youth can meet their basic needs and start to think about “what’s next,” including support to reunify with family or other supportive adults. **Co-locating case management, employment and education opportunities, and access to mental health services with drop-in centers provides a natural next step for youth.**

In Seattle, we are also seeing the impact of youth-specific outreach teams working in partnership with Evergreen Treatment Services’ REACH team and the City’s Multidisciplinary Outreach Teams (MDOTs). Since January 2016, our youth outreach workers have connected with 90 youth living outside, building relationships and connecting them to services including shelter, medical care, case management, and veterinary services. Many were new to services, but with repeated contacts have begun trusting outreach workers and enrolled in case management services. We have an opportunity to sustain this work in 2017 and 2018.

Impact on racial disparities

If current outreach and drop-in providers cut back on hours due to reduced funding, the impact will be disproportionately felt by youth of color, who make up about half to two-thirds of the client base (depending on the program). Thus, ongoing funding for the current system of engagement is critical.

Additionally, a study of 205 homeless youth in San Francisco indicated that African American youth were much more likely than white homeless youth to have some connection to family, including having been able to stay with family on a recent night. They were also much less likely to have accessed a homeless youth service (only 18% had accessed outreach or drop-in services, compared with 51% of white homeless youth). Additional resources must be committed to shelter and drop-in services that are not explicitly called out as “homeless youth services” in order to better serve this population. In order to effectively serve these youth, services must engage families and other natural supports in the young people’s lives. A model of a shelter program designed to serve youth in this way is being implemented with state of emergency funding in the International District, and we recommend that this continue and possibly expand to other neighborhoods in South Seattle.

Summary Sentence

We recommend an investment of \$950,000 in this action for 2017 and \$988,000 in 2018.

- \$350,000 – youth-specific outreach and drop-in services currently funded under state of emergency (needs to be sustained after December 2016);
- \$350,000 – young adult shelter beds in South Seattle currently funded under state of emergency (needs to be sustained after December 2016);
- \$250,000 – expansion of services tailored for needs of youth of color and/or immigrant and refugee youth. Plus 4% increase in 2018 for wage increases, inflation, and other increased costs of doing business.

For more information, please contact:

Melinda Giovengo, Executive Director, YouthCare at Melinda.Giovengo@youthcare.org

MURRAY* SURGE STRATEGY

building federal advocacy to fund the action needed to end homelessness in Seattle



We can't end homelessness here in Seattle by going it alone. Substantial federal re-investment in affordable housing, as well as mental health and chemical dependency treatment, are necessary here and are needed in communities across the country. **This is a national challenge which we must address together to effectively solve.**

This action is recommended by the members of the Seattle Human Services Coalition.

Traditional federal advocacy is done locally, to our own federal representatives. This is what the City of Seattle does now. That alone won't work in this case because our federal reps in Congress already agree with us. We need a strategy that reaches recalcitrant Senators and Representatives across the country. Traditional "issue-oriented" advocacy also won't work, by itself, because it divides the stakeholders up into issue silos which subdues the possibilities for a surge of broad-based community action.

To create a popular, unstoppable surge, what we need is a strategy with **SYNERGY** built in.

The synergy comes from identifying those networks of people, connected to each other across the country, who stand to benefit from reaching a common goal. In this case some of those groups are already working to secure federal reinvestment, like

- National Low Income Housing Alliance
- National Coalition for the Homeless

Other networks are concerned with this issue, but may not be working together. They include groups of public policy makers, like

- Local Progress: *a network of hundreds of local elected officials from around the country committed to a strong economy, equal justice, livable cities, and effective government.*
- The United States Conference of Mayors
- National League of Cities

Other networks connect people who are impacted by homelessness, but may focus their federal advocacy within limited issue areas like racial equity, food, early childhood education, community health, domestic violence and sexual assault, disabilities, and seniors. These national groups often don't include funding for affordable housing on their own advocacy agendas, but their members could have a big impact locally with their own congress members.

Others may be active federally, but are not yet connected to a broader surge around housing and homelessness, like • Catholic Charities- Parish Organizing Project

- National Human Services Assembly
- national network of street newspapers
- national network of state and local human services coalitions
- NAACP
- Policy Link's national Convergence Partnership
- Western Regional Advocacy Project

If we all come together for a time-limited PUSH to achieve some specific goals that will benefit all of us and all the people we serve, we will be able to succeed and make a significant, lasting impact on all our communities.

We will also connect business, higher education, hospitals, and faith communities. We may be able make those connections most effectively through national organizations, or through local connections across the country via elected officials or human service providers.

Racism also impacts housing and homelessness so to be effective we will use a race and social justice lens as we organize.

One example of what this affordable housing goal could be is to create 7 million affordable homes.

If this happens over a 10-year period, we may need to increase HUD funding for section 8 and building homes to \$175 billion each year for 10 years. This may sound like a big number out of context, but in the federal budget it is a whisper. *Just two submarines!* But we get ahead of ourselves.

Among the first things we will need to do to build this synergistic surge, is

build the relationships and identify the specific goal we have in common.

This work will require a central coordinator/organizer and the ongoing development of an inclusive, equitable shared decision making process. It must be understood from the start to be a multi-year process. Building this mega-network will take time, energy, vision, and skill. The members of the network will also have to identify strategic “push points” and create action plans for each of the different federal representatives we want to influence. And then we will need to mobilize the advocacy surge, through all the different networks.

Making it happen... The development of the Surge Strategy will be responsive to information and relationships developed in the course of the work, and there are landmark steps[†] in the process for the first year.

Who can pay for this work? Looking at the lists of potential participants, cities look like those who have the most to gain and the greatest access to resources. The City of Seattle could step up to make the first investment and work to bring other cities to the table to ante up in the years to come.

Who can do this work? It must be someone who has credibility in all the communities who will be joined. We recommend the Seattle Human Services Coalition to implement this strategy nationally.

What will it cost? **2017** = \$187,000 **2018** = \$194,000

Until we make it clear we are all in this together, we will be left alone to address this challenge separately. None of us will ever be successful alone. We can secure this reinvestment from the federal government, if we realize this connection and act together. This **surge strategy** will make it possible.

For more information, contact Julia Sterkovsky, Executive Director, Seattle Human Services Coalition, shsc@shscoalition.org, 206/325-7105, 4759 15th Av NE #308, Seattle, WA 98105.

*Inspiration from Seattle Mayor Ed Murray’s November 2015 statement, “Seattle is facing an emergency as a result of the growing crisis in homelessness. The City is prepared to do more as the number of people in crisis continues to rise, but our federal and state partners must also do more. Cities cannot do this alone. Addressing homelessness must be a national priority with a federal response.”

[†]Description including landmark steps available on request.

Action: Increase the number of “flexible and mobile advocates” and flexible financial assistance for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Recommender: the Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence (formerly King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence)

Description of need:

Domestic violence (DV) is a major public health problem that profoundly impacts Seattle residents. In Seattle, an estimated 132,000 women and 86,000 men a year experience some form of intimate partner violence, and many also experience sexual violence. Numerous studies document the devastating physical, emotional and economic consequences caused by domestic violence, including it being **the #1 cause of homelessness for women, children, and youth, as well as a significant contributor to poor physical and behavioral health for many adults and children.** A recent CDC study (NISVS Report 2010) demonstrated that significantly fewer than 50% of survivors nationally are able to access the services they need to achieve increased safety, economic and housing stability, and well-being. With area shelters turning record numbers of survivors and their children, increasingly victims of abuse in Seattle are forced to choose between living on the streets or living with repeated, often daily violence. And our entire community pays the cost in lost lives, lost productivity, property destruction, criminal and civil legal responses, healthcare costs, mental health services, and other social service expenses.

Solution: Fund 7 FTE flexible, mobile advocates for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Advocates will provide services in a manner that is survivor-driven, flexible and geared towards each specific survivor’s needs and priorities. Advocates will be able to meet survivors in locations that are convenient and accessible to them. Activities advocates will engage in include:

- ✓ Providing emotional support and information about domestic and sexual violence
- ✓ Assessing danger and safety planning
- ✓ Identifying and removing barriers to services and justice
- ✓ Assisting survivors in accessing the specific services they identify they need, and advocating for them in the criminal and civil legal, housing, medical, mental health, child welfare, financial/ economic, education, and other systems
- ✓ Providing parenting support and education
- ✓ Helping survivors and their children build/rebuild social support
- ✓ Engaging in outreach, community engagement, and inter-agency collaboration
- ✓ Providing information, support, training and consultation to friends, family, community members and professionals trying to support survivors and hold abusers accountable

Advocates will also have access to flexible assistance funds to address key concrete financial barriers faced by survivors receiving advocacy services, such as housing and utility assistance, relocation costs, education, job training, legal/medical fees, transportation, food, and other needs identified as interfering with each survivor’s ability to create safer and more stable lives.

Value of the service

Survivors who these receive services will report increased ability to define and address their priorities and report improvements across multiple “domains of well-being” as defined by the Full Frame Initiative <http://fullframeinitiative.org/> :

- Increased economic and housing stability
- Meaningful access to services
- Social connectedness
- Increased safety

- Increased mastery/self-efficacy

Research has demonstrated that providing advocacy services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence is an **evidence based practice**, leading to increased **safety, self-efficacy and higher quality of life** for survivors and their children (Sullivan, Cris: 1999, 2000, 2002, 2004, Michigan State University). Gates Foundation funded “Domestic Violence Housing First” pilot projects have demonstrated that flexible, survivor-centered advocacy is particularly important. A recent evaluation of this model (focused on DV survivors who were homeless or at immediate risk of becoming homeless) found that the program was successful in helping 86% of clients gain or **maintain stable housing**, and that it also decreased the level of danger for most participants. Survivors also identified that the individualized services and flexibility of the program, coupled with the financial assistance we were key to:

- rooting survivors in the community.
- helping improve survivors’ mental health and chemical dependency issues.
- fostering survivors’ sense of dignity.
- enabling survivors to define their own goals.
- enhancing culturally relevant services.
- making services inclusive of survivors of all genders.
- supporting parenting and children’s well-being.
- preventing homelessness, saving lives, and giving hope.

Pilot program participants had this to say about the impact of this program:

“[This program] has been a life-changing experience for me and my children.”

“The services and support have given me a chance to start over.”

“Having someone to talk to who wasn’t judging me or didn’t have an agenda was lifesaving.”

“In an abusive relationship when you lose yourself and focus entirely on the other person, your self-image is really damaged. The program has helped me with that, because I can see that I’m capable of writing a check, I’m capable of taking care of some things. I get help, but I can pay my own rent. The program helps me feel self-sufficient.”

Racial disparities in community outcomes

The majority of people served by this recommendation will be people of color and refugee/immigrant survivors of abuse. According to the CDC study cited above, women of color are at significantly higher risk of abuse than white non-Hispanic women, and experience more significant negative impacts as a result of the violence. Similarly, the WA State Coalition Against Domestic Violence found that refugee and immigrant women are at higher risk for DV homicide. The majority of survivors currently being served by Seattle-funded domestic violence programs are survivors of color and/or refugee and immigrant survivors; the flexible mobile advocacy model is particularly suited to smaller, culturally specific providers, allowing them to add capacity and provide housing and other forms of assistance without requiring significant capitol infrastructure. **This recommendation will not only increase the capacity of the entire victim services system, it will make a broader, more comprehensive set of culturally appropriate and linguistically accessible services available to marginalized survivors.**

We recommend an investment of \$875,000 in 2017 and 901,000 in 2017 to fund 7 flexible, mobile domestic violence advocates.

Approximately 300 additional survivors of violence and abuse, and their children, will be served each year, averting potential injury, death, homelessness, mental health issues, and behavioral problems.

For more information, contact: Merril Cousin, Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence, merril@endgv.org, 206.568.545

Invest in a system of high quality afterschool and summer-learning programs

Recommenders: Youth Development Executives of King County

Children and youth need engaging, active opportunities to develop social, emotional and academic skills in order to grow up healthy and resilient, and avoid the need for intervention as young adults. Young people spend only 20-25 percent of their awake time in school, leaving 75-80 percent of their hours up for discretionary activities throughout the year. There aren't enough high quality, coordinated, culturally relevant opportunities for young people in Seattle to engage in during afterschool hours and during the summer that not only keep them safe, but also help them to develop the skills they need for success in school and life.

In the May 9, 2016 edition of the Seattle Times, it was reported that Seattle has the fifth highest achievement gap between white students and black students¹ in the nation – and the largest gap in the state. While these gaps are persistent and pervasive across the city, the re-segregation of Seattle's schools² in the years after bussing, has concentrated low income, youth of color in particular schools in the South end of Seattle, and in pockets across the city. The achievement gap points to the need to first and foremost close the **opportunity gap** to ensure youth of color, and low income youth, have **access** to additional supports in our city.

While the family and education levy has provided additional resources to many struggling schools, Seattle is still far behind other communities that have built **high quality afterschool and summer systems** to ensure youth are engaged and building skills during their out-of-school hours. The Wallace Foundation, through several decades of afterschool system funding identified 3 critical components of effective systems of programs: (A) coordination, (B) quality standards and (C) data systems.³ Components of each recommendation are underway in Seattle, but with more attention on all 3 components, we could better ensure youth are getting the supports they need.

Current Situation in Seattle

While there are many organizations poised to provide outstanding school-year and summer learning opportunities, funding for direct service programming is insufficient to serve Seattle's youth. Funding from the Family and Education levy is not distributed city-wide, and many neighborhoods are under-supported with these voter-approved funds.

Within Seattle, organizations serving Seattle Public School youth are facing compounding factors making it increasingly difficult for families to find high quality care:

- **Space for programming:** Unprecedented enrollment and mandated class-size reductions are putting a strain on available space in school buildings to provide afterschool programming and childcare. To date, more than 19 licensed elementary afterschool programs have been displaced and may in some cases need to shut their doors.

¹ <http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/data/seattle-schools-have-biggest-white-black-achievement-gap-in-state/>

² <http://www.thestranger.com/feature/2016/04/13/23945368/how-seattle-gave-up-on-busing-and-allowed-its-public-schools-to-become-alarmingly-resegregated>

³ <http://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/after-school/coordinates-after-school-resources/Pages/Citywide-Afterschool-Coordination-Going-Nationwide-An-Exploratory-Study-in-Large-Cities.aspx>

- **Bell-time Shifts:** In 2016-2017, bell-time shifts will have many unintended consequences on student's experiences before and after the regular school day. Many elementary school families have previously only needed an average of 2 hours of care. Many of these families, with much earlier release times, will now need 4 hours of care. Additionally, the later release time for High Schools and Middle Schools will result in sibling care being eliminated as an option in many cases.
- **United Way decreased funding:** Beginning in 2017, the United Way of King County will not fund any programs focused on early (K-2) elementary school.

Compounded, these changes within our schools may result in a large disruption in quality care options for children, particularly at the Elementary level.

Success Story

Ellie (not her real name) struggled in school. Her teachers noted aggression and an inability to read social cues, and were beginning the process of obtaining special education services for Ellie. By working closely with Ellie, Spanish speaking staff members of her afterschool program were able to determine that Ellie's academic and behavioral challenges were stemming from her difficulties with English rather than from other causes. Staff was able to partner with the school to get Ellie the appropriate language help she needed. As a result of this early intervention Ellie is flourishing. Ellie is just one example of a young person served by a high quality expanded learning opportunity who saw great gains due to her participation. Community based organizations are often better positioned to truly understand the challenges young people are facing and ensure that all the children served will grow socially, emotionally and academically.

Recommendation: Build high quality, coordinated afterschool systems

We recommend investing in expansion of the already existing network of elementary and middle school afterschool programs to ensure they are able to meet increasing demands for service due to the bell-time change and increasing enrollment; mitigate space costs due to class-size reductions; and engage in system building components in coordination with Seattle Public Schools.

Funds are needed to support:

- **Direct service** funding for staffing and operations;
- **System Components** including Youth Program Quality initiative (including cultural competency), data access and coordination;
- **Mitigation funds** for space (low cost rent, support for off-site programs or space modifications to meet licensing requirements);
- **Youth Program Directory** (www.youthprogramdirectory.org) to ensure it includes a comprehensive listing of Seattle youth programs.

2017 Recommendation: \$3,020,000

2018 Recommendation: \$3,140,800

- 20 schools X \$100,000 = school or nearby-site based comprehensive afterschool program. Funds could be leveraged with private philanthropy for system building work as well as school district funding through Family & Education Levy, Title 1 and other discretionary funds.
- \$1,000,000 in space mitigation funding within the City of Seattle
- \$20,000 for Youth Program Directory

For more information contact: Jessica Werner, YDEKC, 206.336.6912 | jwerner@ydekc.org

Help Homeless Youth Prepare for Opportunities

Recommenders: YouthCare, Accelerator YMCA, Youth Development Executives of King County (YDEKC)

Description of Need

Employment and education are the surest way to independence and long-term success for our homeless and disconnected young people. Youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability often lag behind their housed peers in job experience, and the survival skills that keep them safe on the streets do not transfer well into the workplace. Low-barrier employment skill building programs are an effective way to help disconnected youth develop workplace skills and gain stability, enabling them to successfully participate in further job training and educational opportunities.

Youth living in encampments or bouncing from couch to couch of relatives and friends can struggle in relatively high-barrier opportunities like YouthCare's YouthBuild program, or Year Up Puget Sound without first having the opportunity to build soft skills and work on barriers to stability. The City of Seattle has invested tremendously in youth employment opportunities such as internships and other work-based learning experiences, while investments for the most disconnected young people have fallen short. At the same time federal resources for these young people have also declined, leaving existing programs without the resources to continue.

Recommended Action

Maintain existing resources for low-barrier services that serve the most disconnected youth. Specifically, a trio of successful programs in the Working Zone Consortium will lose federal McKinney Vento funding in mid-2016 and will be forced to close their doors. As a result, the city will lose **100 training spots per year** for homeless youth. **We recommend that the city fund comparable programs that move high-needs youth to greater stability and employability.**

Effective programs will have small cohort sizes, be co-located in trusted locations where youth already feel safe (for example, homeless youth drop-in centers, community centers, alternative high schools, etc), and use a strength-based, trauma-informed approach to engaging with homeless youth.

Value of the Service

Low-barrier skill building programs are a perfect bridge for homeless youth engaged through street-based outreach to take the next step into services. Currently, programs offered at YouthCare, the Accelerator YMCA, and other providers around the city serve as this bridge to help reconnect homeless youth in this way. Employers consistently report that they want to hire candidates who have soft skills like team work, problem-solving, and flexibility, which are exactly the skills that these low-barrier programs help bolster.

Data from existing programs show that they are successfully building both skills and stability for the most high needs youth. Of the 100 youth enrolled in Working Zone programs last year, 60%

transitioned into stable housing, and 24% entered permanent housing. 70% of clients demonstrated three new job skills and improved employability.

Impact on Racial Disparities in Community Outcomes

Youth of color are disproportionately represented among homeless youth – 65% of homeless youth are youth of color. Youth of color face higher rates of unemployment – while youth unemployment is 13% in our city, African-American youth face unemployment rates of 28%.

Youth who have been disconnected from educational systems, employment, and support systems who are living outside or bouncing from couch to couch have not had the opportunity to develop the soft skills that most job training programs require; low-barrier engagement programs help youth develop these skills and the confidence to take the next step.

Low-barrier skill building programs for high needs youth have an opportunity to target homeless youth of color and help support them to take advantage of opportunities like the Mayor’s Youth Employment Initiative.

Summary sentence

We recommend an investment of \$350,000 in this action for 2017 and \$364,000 in 2018. This represents current cost of operating 3 low-barrier programs in partnership with nonprofit providers, and a 4% increase to account for inflation, minimum wage increases for youth employees, and increased cost of doing business.

For more information, please contact:

Melinda Giovengo, Executive Director, YouthCare at Melinda.Giovengo@youthcare.org



20-year-old Alicia was living in her car with her partner and her dog, after leaving home because of family conflict exacerbated by economic constraints. Alicia dropped out of school after completing 8th grade and had never held a job.

Luckily, she found YouthCare and learned about the Tile Project, a pre-employment training program designed for young people like Alicia to help learn workplace expectations and financial management skills.

Alicia’s Tile case manager also referred her to GED tutoring at YouthCare, and was soon able to pass all the practice exams. She also participated in job readiness classes, learning how to create a resume, cover letter, and references sheet, as well as how to search for jobs online and use email to apply for them.

One of the first on-line applications Alicia did in the Tile Project was to a local clothing company; she got an interview. Because of her interview practice in the Tile Project, Alicia felt prepared and hit the interview out of the park! She was offered employment soon after and began her very first job.

With her case manager, Alicia and her partner are learning how to budget and plan for an apartment, and how to search for apartments and work with landlords. With a combination of arts-based project work, strong case management support, and access to complementary education services, the Tile Project helped a young woman build confidence, job skills, and stability.

Coordinate Human Service Provider Participation for Systemic Change
This action is recommended by the Seattle Human Services Coalition.

Description of Need

Human service providers sit in a unique position in our community's infrastructure: we are engaged with individuals who make use of services for a variety of reasons and circumstances, AND we see a big picture of the patterns created by all the influences and energies combined. We see the driving forces and we see what is missing. We see the positive results in successfully supported lives.

Our community health and human services system has been built by individual people who saw a need and pulled together the resources to address it. The community-based organizations that by and large run our human services infrastructure each emerged from the strength of individual and civic passions, but often lack a way to bring the expertise together across agency or "service area" lines to learn from each other and then to pass what we have learned onto the larger stakeholder group, which includes government and other funders as well as the community at-large.

When we then combine our experiences and ideas, the synergies often result in efficiencies and innovation. We can achieve things together that we can't do separately.



Recommended service

Coordinate and organize in several distinct areas to produce systemic improvements, enabling providers and policy makers alike to move together toward our goals of just and thriving communities.

Services to Coordinate Human Service Provider Participation for Systemic Change, 2 FTE's will:

- One FTE focuses on coordinating provider participation with each other and ongoing regional collaborative processes that will contribute to reducing silos and increasing equitable racial outcomes. (Such as coordination of long term collaboration across sectors like outcomes alignment, data alignment, regional funding, national funding, and health and human services transformation.)
- One FTE focuses on increasing coalition effectiveness through three SHSC member coalitions who do not have their own staff. (disabilities, seniors, anti-racism, advocacy, early learning, or meals)

This action will increase the value of the City of Seattle's current investment by:

- Increasing capacity for human service providers to come together and work more effectively with each other.
- **This will also serve to make community-based organizations more effective partners with government and other funders as we work toward shared goals.**
- This work will also reduce silos, increase effectiveness and efficiency, as well as increasing investments from other jurisdictions, and ultimately prevent the need for, thus reducing the costs for, emergency services.

This action will reduce Racial Disparity in Outcomes as the Coalition brings together human service providers to work with groups that include program participants, and other groups working to eliminate racism, to create a new responsive, structure designed to eliminate racial disparities in outcomes. The Coalition’s work will increase awareness and education on structural racism as well as mobilizing stakeholders to develop and explore equitable structural models and practices.

Measurable Impact: Increased community engagement with the decision making process, resulting in more equitable representation and policy changes, and so more effective solutions, will mean negative disparities will be reduced in our community in the long term.

Leverage other investments: This action leverages the investments made through the City of Seattle’s Human Services Department, the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative, and will ultimately make those investments more effective. It begins to allow alignment of the work of all government entities working to build well-being by focusing on the causes of race-based disparities at the state, county, and local levels.



SHSC recommends an investment of \$184,000 in this action for 2017 and \$191,360 in 2018.

For more information contact: Julia Sterkovsky, Seattle Human Services Coalition, 206/325-7105, jsterkovsky@shscoalition.org

Support for Kinship Caregivers Raising Relatives

Recommenders: African Americans Reach and Teach Health Ministry (AARTH), Catholic Community Services/King County Kinship Collaboration, Sound Mental Health

This recommendation is one of the building blocks needed to build well-being so that Seattle residents reach their full potential, moving us all toward the vision of a just and thriving community.

Not surprisingly, when children remain connected to their families instead of entering foster care, they are better able to adjust to their new environment, are less likely to experience behavior and psychiatric problems, and experience fewer school disruptions. Although children in kinship care may do better on average than youth in foster care, the mere fact that children are living with family is not sufficient to ensure their outcomes are comparable to children raised by their parents.

Description of the need: Over 3,000 family members in Seattle are raising their relative's children, representing roughly 30% of the total number of kinship families in King County. The reasons for grandparents, aunts, uncles, or other familiar adults to take on parenting vary greatly and commonly include child abuse or neglect, incarceration, disability, addiction, economic hardship, and/or homelessness. In Washington State, children in kinship care comprise 34% of all kids in foster care. More often than not, relatives step in to parent without any state involvement whatsoever, and with limited support to carry on that role. For every one child placed with relatives by the child welfare system, 11 are living with relatives without any child welfare involvement.

Children in kinship care are more than twice as likely to use substances such as alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, and other illegal drugs as children living with parents. Children in kinship care are more than twice as likely as children raised by parents to report that they usually get C's, D's or F's in school. Children in kinship care are 1.7 times as likely to not participate in afterschool activities. Interestingly enough, children in foster care are more likely to participate in afterschool activities compared to children in kinship care. This may be due to their greater access to resources for afterschool activities. In regards to basic needs, children in kinship care are 2.6 times as likely as children raised by parents to report having to cut meal size.

Assuming such a sudden parenting role creates significant stress upon kinship caregivers as many lack financial resources, are unfamiliar with current parenting resources, and often struggle with their own health concerns. An estimated 61% of kinship caregivers are grandparents. Thirty-five percent of kinship grandparents in King County are disabled. Fifty-six percent of grandmothers reported difficulty in accomplishing daily chores. Kinship caregivers experience high rates of depression and high frequency of multiple chronic health problems.

Solution: Recommended actions

- Expand support for agencies and caregivers in King County to join together in the coordination of kinship resources in King County. We recommend funding the balance of the King County Kinship Collaboration project coordinator position to 1.0 FTE with benefits, and the associated operating expenses. (\$111,000/yr)
- Provide one-6 week *Powerful Tools for Caregivers* class per year specifically for kinship caregivers in King County and led by leaders with specialized experience and training in providing kinship support. Washington State is pioneering this evidenced-based practice for kinship caregivers, and individuals are now trained to provide this training. Funding is necessary for recruitment, supplies and trainer stipends. (\$2,000/yr)
- Provide one -6 week *Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP)* workshop per year for kinship caregivers in King County. This is an evidence-based curriculum. Funding is necessary for supplies, trainer stipends, recruitment, and other related expenses. (\$5,500/yr)

- Provide respite activities for caregivers by funding children’s activities such as during the 2.5-hour classes described above, and hosting family events such as joint celebrations and birthday parties for children with caregivers present. Recommended activities would be provided in a welcoming place for children and caregivers, and adapted to be mindful of the effects of trauma, transition, and other concerns faced by children in kinship care. (\$5,000/yr)
- Fully fund Kinship Support groups. Support groups are an excellent peer support model that caregivers identify as crucial to their caregiving work. Eight groups currently operate with limited to no paid staffing. Without formal support, such groups historically fail. Funding is necessary to provide support group leader reimbursement, supplies, and outreach. This recommendation is in addition to the funding recommended separately by Sound Mental Health at \$12,000/yr. These recommendations are complementary, and not competing. (\$20,000/yr)
- Hire a consultant to work with caregivers and partner agencies on a kinship center/Treehouse model for kinship families. Children without an open child welfare case are not able to access resources available to foster children, such as Treehouse. Although they have experienced similar trauma in their lives, they are not granted the same opportunities to overcome their obstacles. We recommend a direct pathway for children in kinship care to access educational support, recreational activities, and in-kind resources. The ideal consultant will have experience developing private-public partnerships, experience with kinship care, and value involving kinship caregivers in program planning. Funding would be for 2 years, to include development of future partnerships. (\$5,000/yr)
- Fund a second 1.0 FTE Kinship Navigator for Seattle, including related operating expenses. Washington State currently funds 1.0 FTE Kinship Navigator for King County; however, because of the high rate of poverty among kinship families in King County, that position is focused primarily on addressing the immediate financial concerns of kinship families, such as preventing eviction due to non-payment of rent, preventing utility shut-offs, and addressing immediate clothing and furnishing needs. A second navigator will allow comprehensive, holistic, culturally-relevant support to engage with kinship families in addressing multiple needs from a client-centered perspective. (\$150,000/yr)

Value of the service: Not only do the recommendations above promote a community-wide support network in tune with the needs of kinship caregivers, but they also provide the opportunity for the City of Seattle to be a model for other communities. The Department of American Ethnic Studies at the University of Washington is positioned to conduct evidence-based research on the effectiveness of the CDSMP and Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshops on the health outcomes of kinship caregivers. In order to simultaneously increase resources available to kinship families, we recommend exploration of the Treehouse model for kinship families because it is an “integrated, research-based service delivery model ..” which includes material and educational support, and opportunities for extracurricular engagement.

Impact on racial disparities in community outcomes: African American children are twice as likely to live with relatives (1 in 5). The above models promote the health and well-being of primarily older, African American women, as they work to ensure children in kinship care overcome higher rates of poor grades, substance abuse, food insufficiency, and non-participation in afterschool activities, compared to children living with their parents. Over 60% of active participants in the King County Kinship Collaboration are from an African American background. The intended models focus on involving caregivers directly in the development of programs to ensure that services are culturally-relevant and value the passion and strengths that bring kinship caregivers into their role.

We recommend an investment of \$298,500 in this action for 2017 and \$310,440 in 2018 (4% inflation).

Data Sources: Annie E Casey Foundation Kids Count Policy report, 2012. Healthy Youth Survey of 10th graders in WA State, 2014; US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2010-2014; Fuller-Thomson and Minkler, 2000; Burton, 1992; Minkler and Roe, 1993; Dowdell, 1995; Minkler et al, 1997.

For more information: Jennifer Louch, Catholic Community Services of King County, jenniferlouch@ccsww.org, 206-328-5270

Rectify Language Access Disparities in Non-English Speaking Communities

Agencies Recommending Action: API Chaya

One of the key building blocks needed for any person to reach their full potential is the ability to communicate. Addressing language access barriers will help eliminate institutional discrimination, currently a common experience for someone who speaks little to no English, by providing communities the knowledge and resources needed to be able to communicate their rights and needs to the institutional systems intended to support them.

According to the US Census, 26% of King County residents speak a language other than English at home. When these individuals need to access social services such as housing or health services, or interact with law enforcement, they run the strong risk of being misunderstood or not understanding the consequences, which can be dire. Although many of these systems are required to provide interpretation services, it is at the discretion of the provider to assess the person's language ability and often, interpretation is not offered or even denied.

When interpretation is not provided, a range of inequities can occur including receiving the wrong medical treatment, not being represented in court to the full extent provided by law and even being misunderstood at the scene of a crime where the victim is taken into custody. There have been several cases when survivors of domestic or sexual assault were themselves arrested because the perpetrator can speak English and the victim is unable to adequately provide their perspective. This disparity widens the gap between mainstream and marginalized communities, fueling disparity and injustice.

Title VI, U.S. 1964 Civil Rights Act

Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin for those received federal funding, including,

“failing to provide meaningful access to individuals who are limited English proficient (LEP).”

Proposed Next Steps Toward a Solution

- Increase awareness of language rights in immigrant and refugee communities.
- Improve service providers' understanding of how to work with people who are LEP, especially those who have experienced trauma.
- Utilize consistent messaging among many agencies to have the deepest impact possible.

For example, in 2015 API Chaya worked with Mei (name changed for confidentiality), a Chinese human trafficking survivor who speaks limited English. Mei needed dental care, but her dentist repeatedly refused her a translator, and within hours, had haphazardly pulled all of her teeth after claiming another would give her a new set at no cost. Because of Mei's culture, she was not going to question a medical professional, even though she did not understand what he was saying. Mei looked as if she aged decades in a day. She secluded herself inside, not wanting to talk with anyone, not able to get a job, not able to eat solid food.

Unfortunately, this type of experience happens with alarming frequency. To complicate matters further, even when interpretation is offered, the interpreter often does not understand the person's experience of violence and/or how trauma has impacted them and may not accurately reflect their intended sentiment.

Proposed Solution: A two-pronged approach to address this language access and racial disparity.

1. **Awareness Campaign and Tools:** Create a cohesive campaign to educate non-English speaking/LEP communities on their language access rights and service providers in their responsibility to provide such services. To develop a multi-media campaign that social service agencies can use to communicate to their constituents. An example of a tool could be small cards with their native language on one side, and English on the other with phone numbers for interpreters, that individuals can give to service providers. Funding could support the creation of campaign materials to pilot this program, a platform to gather people's stories and/or training for social service agencies on the use of the materials.
2. **Trauma-Informed, Culturally-Specific Training:** Support training curricula for service providers on how to assess and support someone with limited English skills. This training should be provided by an agency or agencies with extensive experience in both cultural/linguistic accessibility and in working with survivors of trauma. Training should also be provided for interpreters to better understand the culture and effects of trauma, in order to better enable them to provide accurate translation during moments of crisis or legal action.

As a result of this work, more LEP people will know their rights and be able to advocate for themselves and their needs. Further, service providers and law enforcement will be able to better address these disparities with more education around their responsibilities and tools to support individuals with limited to no English-speaking ability.

We recommend an investment of \$465,000 in this action for 2017 and \$483,600 in 2018, which includes a 4% increase for inflation.

For more information, please contact:

API Chaya

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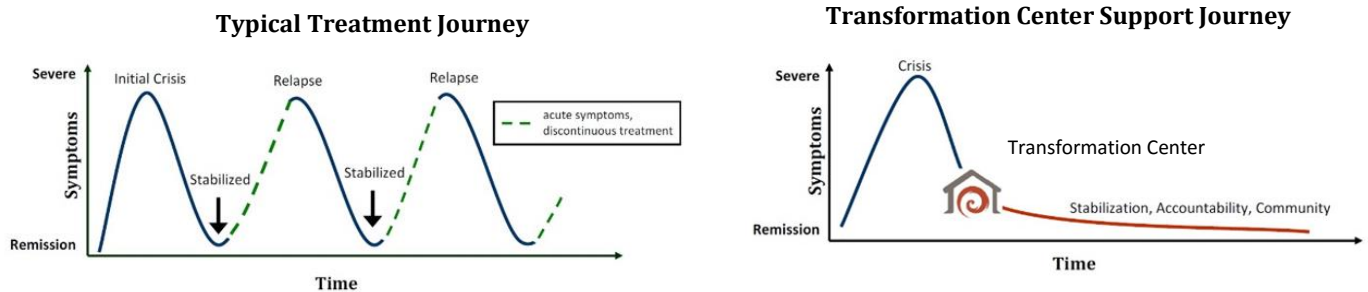
Invest in a Life Transformation Center

Recommender: Recovery Café

The *recommended action* proposes an effective and compassionate response to homelessness, addiction and mental health challenges that empowers both those who struggling on the margins, and the larger community to be a part of resolving our current homelessness crisis. We recommend an investment of \$500,000 in this action for 2017 and \$500,000 in 2018 for operational support of this new life transformation center.

Homelessness in Seattle is at an all-time high and while increasing the amount of affordable housing is a critical need, there are also critical interim steps that should be taken to address significant underlying issues that contribute to this problem. Reports on the determinants of homelessness show that states with lower mental health expenditures have higher rates of homelessness (WA State is ranked 48th in the country for mental health spending)ⁱ. Providers estimate that at least 50% of our homeless population is suffering from addiction/mental health challenges. A City of Seattle analysis found that homeless people have limited information about services; 67% learned of available services through word of mouth, while only 10% reported learning of services from an agency or programⁱⁱ.

A compassionate and effective response that synergizes the collective efforts of providers, as well as harnesses the multiplier effect of healing, healthy community that embraces a person, is initiating a *drug and alcohol free life transformation center* in South Seattle specifically to support women and men struggling with homelessness, addiction and other mental health challenges. As part of a larger *recovery oriented system of care*, the center would provide stability, resources and a community of care along the entire continuum of a person's need for assistance. Whether in crisis, new to recovery, in long-term recovery, after a relapse, during a difficult life change, or mental health transition, the center would be there as a refuge of care with evidence-informed support. In a recent report, Many Minds Collaborative found that the human-centered recovery center model currently operated in downtown Seattle reduced the incidence of crime among center participants, reduced the likelihood of alcohol or drug relapse, and reduced the number of emergency room visits (Recovery Café Data Analysis, June 2015).



The life transformation center will help individuals to establish life stability, as well as prevent additional significant crisis, saving taxpayer money and alleviating additional trauma and suffering for the person. To achieve this, the center would offer:

- A beautiful, welcoming, drug and alcohol free community space that includes free, nutritious meals; coffee, tea and lattes; access to a computer lab, phone and fax; and opportunities to meet with case workers from other service providers and access services such as a Dental Van and a monthly health clinic;
- Volunteer opportunities for program participants to learn new skills, improve communication skills, develop leadership abilities, and contribute to a healing community;
- Educational classes that focus on the underlying causes of addiction, relapse prevention, coping skills, physical wellness, and art therapy;
- Referral services to community partners with complimentary services to help participants gain and maintain housing, healthcare, mental health services, legal assistance and other social services.

Our homeless crisis disproportionately effects people of color. As one example: while African Americans make up less than 8% of Seattle's population, the number of homeless African Americans is triple thatⁱⁱⁱ. A recovery center in the Denny Triangle echoes this statistic in that the number of African Americans served is 18%. In a compelling and heartbreaking presentation at Recovery Café, Dr. Benjamin Danielson shared that the zip code you live in is a significant indicator of your life expectancy^{iv}. One factor in this reality is Early Childhood Adversity, which creates challenges for children well into adulthood (also known as Adverse Childhood Effects, ACEs). Dr. Danielson shared the following graph on how cultivating and nurturing *resilience* can help address ACEs as well as reduce intergenerational transmission. This would be a focus of the transformation center.

RESILIENCE: We are learning about factors that moderate stress-related ACE effects and factors that show promise for reducing inter-generational transmission of ACEs.

1 – Individual Resilience

Feeling of social/emotional support

2 – Individual Resilience

Size of the social circle one can count on for in-person help

3 – Community Resilience

Reciprocal exchange in social capital:

Intergenerational closure social capital:

Collective efficacy

4 – Community Resilience

'Bridging' social capital:



A transformation Center in South Seattle where there is more racial diversity will support the community outcomes of 1) ensuring greater access to technology (through a computer lab and education); 2) improved access to community center programming for immigrants, refugees and communities of color; and 3) access to employment and life skill training through the School for Recovery.

A transformation center in South Seattle would provide assistance to a population that has borne a disproportionate share of the suffering that homelessness causes.

The Transformation Center will utilize the skills and talents of people culturally representative of the community, will offer services in a culturally sensitive manner and will be a place of education and advocacy for racial equity.

Finally, in addition to serving those directly in crisis, the model is an opportunity for home-blessed people who are seeking a way to help be a part of the solution. This proposed center provides a way for people to directly engage in addressing the problem. A current center utilizes over 500 volunteers a year in the Denny Triangle including teachers, doctors, nurses, artists, families, church groups, youth groups and businesses. The center provides a tangible way to strengthen our community involvement and investment in ending homelessness (which at times can feel like an intractable problem) by empowering and harnessing the collective efforts of those with housing and those without in this mutual endeavor. In his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize, Martin Luther King Jr. pointed out that *“In the final analysis, the rich must not ignore the poor because both rich and poor are tied in a single garment of destiny. All life is interrelated, and all men are interdependent. The agony of the poor diminishes the rich, and the salvation of the poor enlarges the rich.”* This proposed transformation center is a vehicle to bring those who have all they need to thrive and those who don’t together.

Homelessness is a complex, tragic and solvable challenge. This proposed action not only provides a place for people to flourish during the day, but also it provides a structure to exit homelessness utilizing providers, people being served, and the larger community (which moves us to a more just and thriving community for all). The following is a speech that a Café Member recently gave to a group of Recovery Café supporters:

My name is James. When I was 9 years old I started drinking. My grandfather thought it was funny when I had some of his beer so that is how I started. By the time I was 13, I was drinking and smoking weed every weekend with friends. This led to harder drugs and eventually full blown addiction. When I first came to Recovery Café I was homeless, struggling with addiction, hearing voices, and having hallucinations. Today I have permanent housing. On September 5th I will have 4 years of sobriety. I no longer hear voices or have hallucinations and I am employed full time at Ross, and looking for additional part time work. There is one more thing I’d like to share with you - on November 30th 2015, I visited my doctor, and she told me that because of the life changes I have made regarding diet and exercise I no longer have type 2 diabetes. I stand before you today a much different person than I was when I first came to Recovery Café. Thank you for recognizing such a valuable service that is instrumental in transforming my life. I am grateful you are making that opportunity possible for more people. I hope you each have a wonderful weekend.

For more information, contact: David Uhl • Recovery Café • david.uhl@recoverycafe.org • 206-374-8731 x116

ⁱ All Home Resource: Byrne, T., Culhane, D., et. al., “New Perspectives on Community-level Determinants of Homelessness” (2013): [Article and Summary](#)

ⁱⁱ Seattle Homeless Needs Assessment 2009, City of Seattle

ⁱⁱⁱ Price, M. (2013). Seattle: A White City with a Black Homeless Problem. *Seattle Times*.

^{iv} Recovery Café Discussion on Social Determinants of Health, Dr. Ben Danielson presentation 6/27/14

Recommended Action: Coordinate Meal Provider Coalition

Recommender: Meals Partnership Coalition Members

Meal providers are seeking re-established support for a dedicated meal provider coordinated system that would provide comprehensive support, capacity building and extensive data collection, for the non-profit meal provider system in Seattle.

Background in building strong, healthy communities: Since the inception of the Meals Partnership Coalition in 1998 our collaborative coalition has grown from 7 members to more than 98 in 2016. In 2015 alone, 98 meal providers served 4,182,411. MPC members provide no-cost/low-cost prepared meals to low-income and no-income community members, both housed and un-housed. Currently MPC supports its members with monthly roundtable meetings to share resources, education, and information. Funding for a re-established dedicated meal provider coordinated system would allow for the accurate collection of data needed for the continued creation of an equitable meal system for all community members; meals served, client diversity, unduplicated client services, needed and program referrals. Meal programs serve a diverse population who are underserved in their communities and are unable to access appropriate nutritional options to meet their dietary needs, including culturally appropriate meals, diabetic friendly, gluten and lactose intolerant, heart friendly, life style and faith based choices. MPC members strive to provide the highest quality, nutritionally dense, meals to help ensure those we serve are able to reach their full potential to become active participants in moving all community members towards living in a just and thriving community.

Without the much needed dedicated coordination specific to meal providers we lose the opportunity to accurately track the data needed to assure equity and efficiency in the emergency food system.

Emergency meal providers face many challenges within their daily operations. These challenges include chronic under-funding, lack of stable volunteers, employee turnover, loss of funding due to a depressed economy, essential quality meal ingredients, resource, and equipment shortages. All of these challenges have a cumulative effect on meal programs and cause significant difficulties for meeting the needs of vulnerable populations. Without the systemic and individualized support provided by a dedicated meal program coordinated system, meals providers are left without a voice at the table, have to turn away clients when they exceed their capacity, and many have had to close their doors permanently, leaving gaps in service for those struggling with hunger.

Thousands of vulnerable clients served by meal programs rely on these programs for their nutritional well-being. There is an unquestionable need for the meal system to be supported with a dedicated meal provider coordination effort specific to the unique needs of meal providers, to connect all the member programs with each other, connect programs to more food donors and volunteers, in order to create a seamless system, eliminate duplicated services, prevent a waste in resources, and re-establish a much needed voice to advocate for increased support through local, state and national systems. For those Seattle residents who lack kitchen and storage facilities, or who have exhausted other food based services, Seattle meal programs are fill the hunger gap; serving in food deserts, breaking down racial inequities in the food system, and creating bridges for refugee populations to connect with services in their community.

By re-establishing funding for a dedicated meal provider coordinated system we will be able to provide:

- Physical and technical resources; food and equipment acquisition, and transportation/distribution to help programs build their capacity.
- Meal Program Specific trainings on safe food handling, nutrition planning, menu planning, building program efficiencies, resource planning, and meal delivery to help reduce the risk of medical complications within vulnerable populations due to malnutrition and food borne illnesses in the un-housed community.
- Build community awareness and support related to hunger issues within communities of color and diverse cultures, assisting in hunger education outreach in neighborhoods, schools, media and within local and state government.

Building the capacity of the management of a supportive meal provider network, the coalition will identify and work towards defining outcomes for programs to meet the nutritional needs of all community members, facilitating collaborations within the emergency food system. Many of our meal program members serve in communities without resources, in particular, in communities of color. These communities tend to be situated near the most under-resourced and lowest performing schools, environmental hazards, furthest from jobs, limited in transportation options, and without access to healthful, affordable food. Communities of color have greater obstacles meeting nutritional needs, and have a higher incidence of living in identified food deserts. Thus a coordinated meal program system to support programs serving in these communities, is even more essential to move towards a more equitable food system.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, accurate data tracking and resource distribution will allow Seattle's meal providers to begin to address the creation and service of the 21,035,000 meals that are still missing each year for those struggling with hunger in Seattle.



Mayor Murray serves with OSL at City Hall

We recommend an investment of \$140,000 in this action for 2017 and \$145,000 in 2018.

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Parent Child Home Program

Recommenders: Atlantic Street Center, Children’s Home Society of Washington, Chinese Information and Service Center, El Centro de la Raza, Neighborhood House, and Southwest Youth and Family Services.

According to Mayor Ed Murray at a recent Education Summit for the City of Seattle, “In Seattle Public Schools, students of color met third-grade reading standards at a rate 30percent lower than their white classmates. They graduate at a rate 24 percent lower than white students. And a third of Seattle students of color attend a high-poverty school, while a third of white Seattle students attend a private school.” (Seattle Times; April 30, 2016) In a 2014 report by Dow Constantine on kindergarten readiness, he referenced data that in Washington State, “The United Way estimates 50 percent of the children entering kindergarten are not “ready to learn” and are starting school as much as two years behind in language and learning skills. This initial ‘kindergarten preparedness gap’ foreshadows gaps in third grade reading, fourth grade math, high school drop-out rates, and college preparedness – with only 30 percent of Washington high school graduates ready for college-level science and only 45 percent ready for college-level math.” Kindergarten readiness is the cornerstone of academic achievement.

The Parent Child Home Program (PCHP) focuses on the readiness gap by supporting parents during the critical early years of their child’s development. PCHP has erased the disparities related to poverty, race and ethnicity in educational readiness and achievement. A longitudinal study from ORS Impact shows that the successes PCHP grads experience and take with them to the first day of kindergarten sticks with them for years to come. The highlights include:

1. **Kids are more ready for kindergarten.** PCHP graduates score higher on readiness scores than both the comparison group – and Washington State average!
2. **Increased English Language Proficiency.** More PCHP graduates, compared to the comparison group, demonstrated higher levels of English proficiency when they entered kindergarten.
3. **Increased academic performance at Grade** PCHP graduates significantly out-performed the comparison group in reading and math. They also performed higher in math than the statewide average.

This study shows that reaching these children early in life is eliminating the opportunity gap – not only do these kids out-perform their peers who didn’t go through the program, they are out-performing state averages. This is a proven program for our kids, with longitudinal benefits that will help reduce disparities and help Seattle achieve the goals of all children ready to learn and achieve their potential.

As United Way implements a planned reduction in its investment in PCHP, we need the City of Seattle to help us build on this opportunity and extend the value of their investment in our children to leverage and serve more children and families in Seattle. By increasing investments in this program, we can continue to scale up this effective intervention and leverage other private funding and local opportunities such as Best Starts for Kids. It is critical that we maintain capacity so we can achieve these goals.

Tim Burgess recently shared the story of Ella and Olivia in his City View Newsletter.

"Ella is three months old, a firstborn child. She lives with her family in Seattle zip code 98118 in the Rainier Beach neighborhood in the city's far southeast corner. Her mom and dad both work two jobs to make ends meet but still fight to rise above the poverty line. As new parents, they struggle with the challenges, wonder where they will find affordable, high-quality childcare to match their different shifts. Ella faces a mountain of obstacles as she begins her life.

Olivia is also three months old, also the firstborn in her little family. She lives in Seattle zip code 98117 in the Ballard neighborhood at the opposite northwest corner of the city. Olivia's parents each have high paying jobs with flexible hours, leaving her at a private childcare center on her mom's route to work. Olivia receives more support than she knows; she's lucky to be living in Ballard.

Ella's and Olivia's zip codes are different by just one digit; their likely life trajectories are worlds apart. By the time Ella and Olivia make it through our public education system, they will likely end up in very different places. And with different levels of education, earning power, and external supports, and the research shows the story will likely repeat for their own children."

But we can change these outcomes with a strong investment in Parent Child Home Program. We have evidence and we have stories that show the efficacy and impact. Atlantic Street Center is one of many providers of PCHP. *"As a young, single parent, Janiesha said it's difficult to know how to teach her children new things, but the program has helped. Maliyah likes the educational games her home visitor brings and she's learning the alphabet and her numbers."* Maliyah will start school ready to learn and her mother is growing in confidence and skills to carry these gains for her child well into the future.

An investment of \$3 million by the City of Seattle for 2017 and \$3.12 million in 2018 will enable the City of Seattle and the community partners who provide Parent Child Home Program to deliver this effective program and serve over 500 families, helping low income children have a strong foundation for their educational future and increasing parent-child verbal interaction, skills and confidence so they can have profound impacts on their children's academic performance.

For more information, contact:

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Steve Daschle, Southwest Youth and Family Services; sdaschle@swyfs.org; 206-937-7680

Invest in Resource and Support Groups for Kinship Families

Recommender: Sound Mental Health Family Resource & Support Groups

Due to increased homelessness and a veritable epidemic of drug addiction, there are more and more children in Seattle and the surrounding communities being raised by relatives and fictive kin. Predominantly this means grandparents. By providing the means and the venue to decrease isolation and stigma while increasing education, resources and support, the SHSC has an opportunity to touch two very needy demographics: both our valued seniors and our future – their grandchildren. When needs for children to live healthy lives and the caregivers are supported we build a community of vital, active people who are able to care for themselves and their loved ones.

Data shows that the number of kinship households in King County is over 10,000 and almost one third of those (3,000) live in the Seattle City Limits. Of that number, almost a third (2,300) works full or part time in the City Limits. (Note: Upwards of 8% of all the children in the state of WA are in Kinship care.) As our City falls prey to the rampant proportions of the current Heroin abuse, more & more children come into care. With a foster care system strained to the breaking point, these children are at high risk to fall through the proverbial “cracks” that land them outside of a decent education, upbringing, etc. Public benefit shortages for older adults are another issue we resolve for Kinship families.

If the needs of these children and their caregivers are not adequately met; the prognosis is more damage to the health of these kids and their caregivers. We know this translates to more addiction, more dropping out of school, more trauma and physical, mental and emotional devastation. The grandparents/relative/kinship caregivers are excluded from most, if not all, types of state funding, including cash stipends, reimbursement for necessary furnishings and travel, respite, clothing vouchers, educational supports, etc., upon which foster families can always rely. The families are no less deserving, just because they are relatives, than foster families. But it surely looks that way sometimes.

Family Resource & Support Groups (such as those facilitated and funded by Sound Mental Health via our Parent & Kinship Coordinators). The work we currently perform with grandparents and others who are Kinship Caregivers includes working with families 1:1 and in groups around needs in almost all life domains. We also host events, workshops and trainings. We help make sure Kinship families can access basic needs – something as simple as getting nutritious food to eat on a fixed income or transportation to appointments - get assistance for family court matters, find relative support services, etc. We are often able to physically stand next to these folks at the child’s school or in the community, helping to coach them to success in their Kinship Caregivers role.

Value of the service What could be more human centered (and humane) than placing a child who has faced trauma, neglect and other challenges in the arms of people with whom s/he has a physical and cultural connection? Foster Homes are some good and some bad; group homes are almost always a less positive placement; incarceration (what happens to many abandoned, abused, ill children) is the very worst. Most children placed in Kinship Care with a relative or family friend will tell you unequivocally that they would prefer “family” to strangers, any day. We know that throughout history the Family Unit has been the place where we learn trust, a sense of self, culture and heritage; how to love and live together. These children and their Kinship Caregivers deserve support in this endeavor.

Cultural norms in African American, Native American, and Asian American communities have often created Kinship Families “undetected;” as such, additional resources in this area will disproportionately benefit families of color. In many families of color, raising the children of relatives is the norm.

Many African American families face barriers in dealing with state agencies and often rear relative’s children without any formal supports. In the Native American community, in Greater Seattle, it is culturally very important to keep a child connected to their Tribe and their culture with the Tribal Elders sometimes taking on the roles of surrogate parents. Due to a long history of hardship, the Native community faces barriers and trauma in dealing with foster care or similar systems. Asian American grandparents, often first generation in the USA, face cultural barriers as well and are the least likely racial/cultural/ethnic group to seek assistance or support of any kind in raising their grandchildren. In our Kinship groups we have managed to include a wide range of families from racial and ethnic backgrounds. While Washington state statistics show 66% of grandparents raising grandchildren are White and not Hispanic, our Sound Mental Health Kinship Groups have been consistently 45% White and not Hispanic **at most**. In the City of Seattle, this is even more true.

We recommend an investment of \$12,000.00 in this action for 2017 and \$14,000.00 in 2018.

Data Sources: AARP, The Brookdale Foundation Group, Casey Family Programs, Children Defense Fund, Generations United, American Community Survey, US Census, Healthy Youth Survey, Washington State BRFSS,

For more information, contact:

Jody Schreven	Sound Mental Health	jodys@smh.org	206-604-2099
Cathy Callahan-Clem	Sound Mental Health	cathyc@smh.org	206-459-6467
Theresa Winther	Sound Mental Health	TheresaW@smh.org	425-653-4918

Action: Expand social support for isolated older adults by strengthening volunteer resources

Recommenders: Full Life Care

Building a Just and Thriving Community

Social connection and physical activity are essential building blocks for healthy aging and healthy communities. Older adults are vital members of our community and engaging volunteers of all ages to reach out to them we can reconnect those who have become socially isolated. By facilitating this reconnection, we increase awareness and empathy as well as foster intergenerational connections that impact the emotional health of our residents – both young and old. These are building blocks of a strong and healthy community.

Need

Data shows that in King County, the population of those 85 and over is rising quickly and will nearly double over the next two decades. Furthermore, in the next 10 years, nearly 1 in 4 King County residents will be over 60 years of age, and life expectancy is increasing. Seattle has the second highest percentage of older adults in the population of county sub-regions. (Source: Seattle/King County Area Plan on Aging, 2014-15 update). The need for community-based support will continue to increase as the demographics in our community change.

We know that older adults and individuals with chronic illnesses or serious disabilities often end up isolated without access to services that can help maintain their health and independence.

We also know that social isolation often leads to depression, deteriorating health, and ultimately can lead to costly institutional interventions. The Centers for Disease Control, indicates that depression not only causes suffering for the affected individual, but also takes a toll on families and the community at large. They estimate that “The economic burden of depression” was over \$210 billion in 2010. This includes direct and indirect costs (CDC, 2016). In our aging population, costs to the community often take the form of high utilization of emergency resources, such as calls to 911 for reassurance.

Solution

A companionship program would address this urgent community need by pairing older adults with community volunteers for regular companionship visits to strengthen their support networks. The program helps to improve the mental, emotional, and physical health of the participant by providing a connection to community resources, and ensures that someone in the community is watching out for the safety and well-being of older adults.

Enhanced education, training, and support for volunteers will improve and expand social connections with and among isolated older adults in Seattle. This impacts the whole community, creating a positive support network for older adults, and relieving effects of depression and preventing unnecessary utilization of emergency resources, assisting our elders to live to their full potential.

Currently, more than 100 elders are paired with volunteers, with more than 80 elders awaiting a match through ElderFriends. **This recommendation seeks to increase the numbers of Seattle’s elders who can access a program like the ElderFriends program**, in order to meet growing demands and to improve

education and support for volunteers in order to increase connections for older adults. This funding would be utilized to manage the volunteers needed through a Program Coordinator to oversee the program's operations. The Program Coordinator, who could be full-time with resources from the contracting organization in addition to this investment, will be responsible for training and developing volunteer talent, managing program gatherings, outreach to elders as well as partnerships with referrers, such as Aging and Disability Services case managers. Such organizational resources to be leveraged by the City's investment could include other funding as well as internships, like ElderFriends' AmeriCorps Match Coordinator to manage the pairings.

Human Centered Approach

"Social support can be critical for those older adults who rely on family, friends, or organizations to assist them with daily activities, provide companionship, and care for their well-being (CDC, 2016)"

In order to be most effective, program "pairs" must be customized based on common interests, preferences, and proximity to provide a basis for genuine connection between elders and volunteers. In addition to training volunteers for regular one-on-one visits, other opportunities for shared connections must be introduced such as ElderFriends' quarterly social events which cultivate a sense of community between participants, and where many additional friendships are forged.

Addressing Racial Disparities

By investing in a Program Coordinator, the program will have greater capacity to assess and address barriers to involvement by both elder participants and volunteers in communities of color. Specifically, this attention will allow a program to assess their accessibility to volunteers and elders in communities of color under-represented in pairing programs to date so that recruiting, outreach, and engagement practices can be improved.

Featured Friends: Evelyn and Mohammed



"Volunteering with ElderFriends has taught me empathy for people with disabilities and those, who, like my elder friend face challenges with speaking English and connecting with other seniors as a result." -*Evelyn*

"Since I met the volunteer from ElderFriends, there was a significant effect in my life. I have better and happier days. I can talk and express about my experiences. My depression becomes less after this relationship because I am living by myself after my wife died. I get motivated to do new things in my life to decrease my depression and loneliness." -*Mohammed*

We recommend an investment of \$35,000 in this action for 2017 and \$36,400 in 2018.

Data sources:

Area Plan on Aging: http://www.agingkingcounty.org/docs/AreaPlan2014-2015_Update.pdf

Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/basics/mental-illness/depression.htm>

For more information, contact: Ginger Seybold, Full Life Care, gingers@fulllifecare.org, 206-224-3790

Invest in South Park Family Services:

from isolation, to education, employment, entrepreneurship, and community leadership.

Recommenders: South Park Information and Resources Center (SPIARC), and Southwest Youth and Family Services (SWYFS)

THE RECOMMENDATION

Invest in family services centers in Seattle that nurture families by providing resources that will connect members of the community with employment, education, and increased entrepreneurship, as well as provide opportunities and programs for the whole family, especially those who are most vulnerable such as children and pregnant women.

THE NEED

Families need service centers, a place where they can find resources for the whole family. They need a bridge to connect outside resources and opportunities to become stable and strong. The South Park neighborhood is one of very low incomes, high diversity, and large population of families with young children. Basic programs like youth support, ESL, parenting, housing, home-visit, and educational programs are examples of some of the supports that would strengthen families in South Park. Right now SPIARC provides such services to some residents, but SPIARC is only able to open our office for direct services 3 days a week for 6 hours per day, losing the opportunity to help more families. Without the support of family service centers, families will continue to be isolated, not knowing how to navigate the system to find opportunities, which will maintain them in a state of poverty as they are unable to flourish in all aspects of society.

THE SOLUTION

The community requires more accessibility to family services in order to have an attainable and measurable improvement in the well-being of the families, increment the engagement of local leaders in South Seattle, therefore this recommendation will allow a family center office to remain open for 5 days up to 8 hours per day.

THE VALUE

Currently there are 5 programs in place that have a positive impact in more than 300 families in South Park.

1) **ESL Classes** for parents twice a week. 2) **Promotoras**

Program is a group of women that are developing leadership skills to become community advocates, also

In 2013 SPIARC offered ELLA: Empowering Latino Leaders to develop leadership skills. One participant completed this training and gained the necessary skills to grow her own grassroots community organization, Circulo de Mamas Seattle. In the course, she learned how to develop a project and apply for grants to fund her projects. Her organization received its first grant to implement a project to support Latino women to get their driver's licenses. This project was very special for her because she herself was unable to drive, which was quite a limitation for her. She implemented Women Driving, Women Advancing in 2014, supporting 15 women. Her project was successful and 100% of the participants were able to get their driver's licenses. One of these participants was Gladys, who is now a very active volunteer and a Promotora (community advocate), and is one of the most active participants in the projects of SPIARC. She is currently working to develop her own project to support Latino families that have children requiring special education. This story about Jaqueline and Gladys is a great example of how just one project can have a long term positive impact in our community, 3 years after Jaqueline completed ELLA program, she is the new SPIARC Manager and is working to develop more resources for our community.

receiving training to promote services, programs and information. 3) ***Women Driving, Women Advancing*** offers support to Latino women to get their driver's license so they can become independent and productive. 4) ***Playing Basketball for a Healthy Life*** where for the first time many Latino adults are getting involved in a sports activity with the goal to improve their health. 5) ***Entrepreneurship development for Latino families***. In addition to assist start-up businesses, we are setting up a Cooperative business among the Promotoras.

SPIARC is a good example of a family service office in complete synchrony with the needs of the community, focusing in underserved families, a significant number of homeless as well, connecting people with social services such as Orca Lift, Utilities discount program, assistance to get an ID, informing about the minimum wage, as well connecting clients with educational, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Jaqueline and Gladys's stories (**see sidebar**) illustrates the strong connection between the family services center's projects and their effectiveness not only to connect people with services, but also for developing leadership skills and community engagement.

THE EXPECTATION

We provide services and programs for underserved communities, especially for non-English speakers, immigrants, homeless, and low income families. We show people we serve how to navigate systems and identify opportunities. We connect them to additional resources to reach their full potential. The families need a facilitator that acts as a bridge to connect with the opportunities and resources. SPIARC is a good example in how customized this assistance can be, by providing bilingual and bicultural staff, making easy for the families to approach and gain their desired Self-Advocacy, self-sufficiency and becoming productive by generating revenue as they become Start-up businesses.

→ In order to offer services and programs to support the underserved families in South Park we recommend an investment of \$150,000 for 2017 and \$156,000 in 2018 ←



Picture from *Women Driving, Women Advancing* workshops from May of 2016.

For more information contact:

Analia Bertoni, SPIARC Board President, analiachi@yahoo.com, (206) 295-6040

Jaqueline Garcia SPIARC Program Manager, spiarc.programmanager@gmail.com, (206) 249-5504

Steve Daschle, Executive Director of South West Youth & Family Services, sdaschle@swyfs.org, (206)-937-7680

Build Well-being for People Without Homes and Their/Our Neighbors ***Recommender: The Seattle-King County Coalition on Homelessness***

Because there is a huge amount of work going on both publicly and behind the scenes that affect City of Seattle budgets and policies related to homeless services and affordable housing, the members of the Seattle-King County Coalition on Homelessness submit this **placeholder recommendation** to indicate that much work is needed and in what general areas. We anticipate that in July and August the Coalition will be able to refine these recommendations.

Solutions: Recommended action

The broad principles of our recommendations are below:

- Sustain the \$7.3M in one-time State of Emergency funding in 2017 and 2018 which was added during the fall 2015 budget process. (Note: We hope to see robust reporting/evaluation of the State of Emergency expenditures by Seattle and King County. Depending on this evaluation, we will probably recommend continuing some expenditures and re-directing or adjusting others.)
- Implement specific recommendations of the Mayor's Emergency Task Force on Unsheltered Homelessness that remain wholly or partially unfulfilled.
- Cease city policies and practices that expend staff time and other public resources on activities that disproportionately burden and quite possibly discriminate against people who are homeless and extremely poor
- Review city department policies, practices, and procedures to assist and support the health and well-being of people who are living homeless whenever feasible by improving access to public restrooms, showers, drinking fountains, and handwashing facilities in libraries, community centers, and other public facilities.
- Address the effects of implementing the \$15 minimum wage among human service providers that receive City contracts, so that current service levels can be maintained, at a minimum.

Value of the services

We know there are many different reasons that people lose their homes and so we need to provide a variety of human-centered **paths out of homelessness** that are appropriate for each person, as well as secure, healthful **options to increase survival** in the meantime.

For more information, contact:

- Alison Eisinger, Seattle-King County Coalition on Homelessness, alison@homelessinfo.org, 206/357-357-3148

Together we can build a just and thriving community, if we make it our priority.

Summary of Investments Needed for Actions	2017	2018
Advocacy Services for Sexual Assault Victims GBV p. 5	\$ 101,000	\$ 105,040
Age-Friendly Community Innovation Fund E p. 6	\$ 87,500	\$ 175,000
Assess & Monitor the current and future & capacity for the Seattle Preschool Program to attract a diverse teaching staff	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,600
Backpack Programs for School-Aged Children C, F, RE p. 8	\$ 700,000	\$ 728,000
Community Connections through Food Banks C, E, GBV, H, HC p. 10	\$ 750,000	\$ 780,000
Community-Driven Solutions to Eliminate the Barriers Faced by Communities of Color E, RE p. 12	\$ 300,000	\$ 500,000
Diversion Funds for All Households H p. 14	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,040,000
Engagement Services for Homeless Youth and Young Adults in Seattle H, RE, Y p. 15	\$ 950,000	\$ 988,000
Federal Advocacy to End Homelessness in Seattle C, E, GBV, H, MHA, RE, Y p. 17	\$ 187,000	\$ 194,000
Flexible & Mobile and Flexible Financial Assistance for Survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence GBV, RE p. 19	\$ 875,000	\$ 901,000
High-Quality Afterschool and Summer-Learning Programs Y p. 21	\$ 3,020,000	\$ 3,140,800
Homeless Youth Preparation for Opportunities H, Y p. 23	\$ 350,000	\$ 364,000
Human Service Provider Participation for Systemic Change C, E, F, GBV, H, HC, MHA, RE, Y p. 25	\$ 184,000	\$ 191,300
Kinship Caregivers Raising Relatives C, RE p. 27	\$ 298,500	\$ 310,440
Language Access Disparities in Non-English Speaking Communities GBV, RE p. 29	\$ 465,000	\$ 483,600
Life Transformation Center F, H, MHA p. 31	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Meal Provider Coalition Coordination E, F, H, Y p. 33	\$ 140,000	\$ 145,000
Parent Child Home Program C, RE, Y p. 35	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,120,000
Resource and Support Groups for Kinship Families MHA, C, Y p. 37	\$ 12,000	\$ 14,000
Social Support for Isolated Older Adults by Strengthening Volunteer Resources E p. 39	\$ 350,000	\$ 364,000
South Park Family Services C, E, RE, Y p. 41	\$ 150,000	\$ 156,000
Well-Being for People without Homes and Their/Our Neighbors H, MHA p. 43		
Grand Total	\$ 13,435,000	\$ 14,215,780



We share a vision of a Just and Thriving Community

We choose to work together to build, nurture, and sustain a community where all people have access to the basic necessities, opportunities, resources, and respect to reach their full potential.

In the world we know today, **racism and other systemic inequities hold us back from equality of opportunity and freedom for all.** Economic systems are stacked in favor of those with wealth and power, and undervalue the assets and resources in middle and low income families and communities.

We also share the understanding that freedom and justice for all includes both equal opportunity as well as personal responsibility and shared accountability.

The vision of a Just and Thriving Community serves as a catalyst and inspiration to bring us together to act on this vision.

Motivation comes from the changes we will see as we all make progress in becoming a just and thriving community, including:

- economic, environmental and social sustainability;
- freedom from inequity based on race, color, national origin, age, income, veteran status, education level, gender, physical, intellectual, or mental disability, religious belief or practice, sexual orientation, or by language, cultural practices or institutional racism;
- safe and affordable housing;
- adequate nutritious food;
- access to quality physical, mental, and behavioral health care;
- living wage jobs to support self and family;
- affordable and available community activities;
- universal, transformative, empowering quality education;
- high quality, affordable child care that is conveniently located and meets the needs of working parents;
- freedom from physical harm as well as mental and emotional coercion; and
- a sense of being included and connected, with the value of each individual recognized and honored.

*We want our children to
inherit a better world.*



Tenets for Change

We believe adoption of the following principles is critical to forward movement:

- Every person is valuable.
- It is an essential human right for every person to have access to the basic necessities and resources for human survival and advancement.
- Human services must be operated, staffed and funded in a way that allows for services to be offered in a manner that is humane, holistic, emphasizing physical and cultural accessibility. People who are in need must not be devalued for having needs, nor should they be devalued in the delivery of services.
- Collaborative partnerships must be established between funders, government, educators, human service providers, media, police, the criminal justice system, and the community at large to reach our shared goals.
- Public Finance reform is essential to build and maintain healthy communities and community services.
- On-going assessment and evaluation of basic beliefs and practices is a critical responsibility for every individual in our society to ensure that we do not endorse policies or practices limiting access to crucial resources.

Framework for moving forward

Understanding of the context of our current environment will play a role in how we move forward toward our shared vision of a Just and Thriving Community.

1. Economic Trends

Unmet needs are on the increase in part due to economic trends like increasing income inequality and globalization policies that favor capital over labor. These must be addressed in order to see sustainable change in our communities.

2. Social Determinants of Health

The greater the ratio of spending on human services relative to medical services, the better the *health* outcomes achieved. While the U.S. spends far more on medical care than other nations, the U.S. also allocates proportionately less to human services and prevention, with the result of life expectancy lagging behind other developed nations. We must build a sustainable network of life cycle services needed to support strong, healthy communities, including both services needed in a crisis and ongoing service that provide the building blocks to success.

3. Structural Racism

Disparities in outcomes exist relative to race in a wide variety of economic, social, and health outcomes. All of these are connected to social institutions such as education, criminal justice, medical care, banking, housing, and employment. Identifying and dismantling the ways that racism influences the value sets within those systems is necessary to reaching our vision of a just and thriving community.

4. Quantifying Success

We all want our work to produce the most successful results possible and we want to measure those results. We also want to make sure that data collected by human service providers is useful to reaching our shared goals and worth the cost to collect it. This also brings up questions of who are human service providers accountable to and how do we honor the role of program participants in determining what success is and how to measure it.

5. Regional Roles

It is decreasingly effective for any of the players in the region to “go it alone.” Not only will the work of individual players be less effective than it could be, but the whole will be less able to reach our shared goals. We need to come together as providers, communities, unions, governments and other funders to determine our roles and create a true partnership.

*We can accomplish more together
than we all can separately!*

For more information, contact Julia Sterkovsky or Michelle Peñaloza at the Seattle Human Services Coalition, shsc@shscoalition.org, 206/325-7105.

