TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2014-11-19 (3)

Date: November 13, 2014

To: THA Board of Commissioners

From: Michael Mirra
Executive Director

Re: Approving Washington Youth and Families Fund Memorandum of Understanding

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Background

On March 19, 2009, THA joined with others to sign a memorandum of understanding expanding and reaffirming the Washington Families Fund (WFF). WFF supports and funds programs and policies to end family homelessness in Washington State. This resolution will authorize the executive director to sign a renewed memorandum of understanding (MOU) for an expanded Washington Youth and Families Fund. The MOU "is a statement of intent only, and is not binding upon the parties. The parties will not be liable to each other for any damages or losses arising from or relating to this MOU." Instead, the MOU denotes a commitment to work to end homelessness and to design and support programs accordingly. A copy of the new MOU is attached.

The other signatories in 2009 were Governor Gregoire, the county executives of Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties, the mayors of Tacoma, Seattle, and Everett, eleven major Puget Sound foundations including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, and the public housing authorities of Seattle, King County, Pierce County, Snohomish County and Everett. These signatories will also sign the new MOU. Governor Inslee and Building Changes are hosting a signing celebration on December 10, 2014 in Seattle.

WFF has been valuable to THA and its work. Under the leadership of Building Changes it has raised and organized public and private funds that it then grants to housing and service providers. For example, it funds the services THA provides to homeless families at Salishan and Hillside Terrace. It has provided funds to THA's McCarver project. WFF has also provided a forum for the collection of data and the arrangement of expertise for regional providers like THA to design innovative programs to serve homeless families. For example, WFF and the Gates Foundation have been the primary source of the data and expertise that allowed THA to invest in Pierce County's rapid re-housing programs serving homeless families. WFF and its signatories have also been prominent advocates for funding and policies to end homelessness.

The new MOU would continue this collaboration. It would expand its scope to include not only

homeless families but also homeless youth without families. It would also expand the collaboration to include community colleges and workforce organizations. The goal remains the same: to make homelessness rare, brief, and, for those who must experience it, a one-time event.

Recommendation

I recommend that the board approve this resolution.

TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2014-11-19 (3)

WASHINGTON YOUTH AND FAMILY FUND: APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Tacoma

Whereas, in 2009 THA signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) expanding and reaffirming the Washington Families Fund (WFF). In doing so, it joined Governor Gregoire, the county executives of Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties, the mayors of Tacoma, Seattle, and Everett, eleven major Puget Sound foundations including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, and the public housing authorities of Seattle, King County, Pierce County, Snohomish County and Everett.

Whereas, WFF has become the state's leading effort to raise and organize public and private financing, data, expertise, and program providers to make family homelessness in Washington State rare, brief and, for those who must experience it, a one-time event.

Whereas, there is must more work to do.

Whereas, the signatories of WFF seek to expand WFF to address not only the homelessness of families with children but also the homelessness of youth without families. They seek to add community colleges and workforce organizations to the collaboration. They propose to do this with a new MOU creating the Washington Youth and Families Fund. A copy is attached.

Resolved by the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Tacoma, Washington as follows:

1. the executive director is authorized to sign a new MOU in substantially the form set forth in the attachment.

Approved: (November 19, 2014)

On behalf of Arthur C Banks

Stanley Rumbaugh, Chair

Washington Youth & Families Fund
Memorandum of Understanding

We come together in celebration of the 10-year anniversary of Washington Families Fund and of the substantial collective progress we have made preventing and ending family homelessness in Washington State. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signifies both new and renewed commitments to work together on a complex issue that requires collaborative, multi-system solutions. Through continuous shared learning, testing promising new ideas, and focusing our collective resources on what works, we can make youth, young adult and family homelessness a rare event. And we can ensure that when it does happen, it is a brief and one-time occurrence.

This MOU articulates our intention to continue and expand the public-private partnership, as further described below. This MOU replaces the Washington Families Fund MOUs executed in 2004 and 2009 and changes the name to the Washington Youth and Families Fund.

RECITALS

The Washington Families Fund (WFF) was created in 2004 as a public-private partnership focused on providing services for homeless families across the state. Building Changes was selected to administer the Fund.

A new MOU was signed in 2009 to expand WFF, adding a cross-systems approach and launching pilots to test innovative new strategies in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.

Much has been accomplished since 2004:

- We have, by one measure, achieved a 35% reduction in family homelessness in Washington State.[1]
- The State has allocated $17 million to the Washington Families Fund, which has leveraged $38.5 million in investments from 25 different private funders.
- Mainstream systems—such as public housing authorities, workforce development, K-12 education, community colleges and primary and behavioral healthcare—are now working together to create housing stability for homeless families.
- WFF has supported 80 organizations in 21 counties across the state and has:
    - Developed and funded a new model of supportive housing for families with multiple barriers to stability, which is generating significant learnings about what works to support high-needs families.
    - Advanced the implementation of Rapid Re-Housing strategies in communities across Washington State.
    - Focused on employment as a key strategy for ending family homelessness.
    - Piloted new approaches to improving the way families are served, by focusing on the performance of the entire system, not just individual programs.

[1] Family homelessness was reduced by 35% in Washington between 2006 and 2014, according to the annual point in time counts as reported to the Washington State Department of Commerce. The more robust data source of Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) will be used going forward.

We have made progress, but there's more work to do.

As our understanding of homelessness and its solutions evolves, WYFF must also evolve to:

- Expand systems work statewide, building on successful pilot projects and adding new mainstream partners;
- Focus on racial disproportionately in the youth, young adult and family homelessness systems; and LGBTQ disproportionality among homeless youth;
- Improve how we capture, share and use data to guide system changes, sharpen investment decision-making and drive continuous improvements.
- Set new goals in response to improved data that more accurately tell us how we are doing in making youth, young adult and family homelessness rare, brief, and one-time;
- Add a focus on youth and young adults because:
    - Youth and young adults have unique developmental needs not being met by either the adult or family homeless systems;
    - The full extent of youth and young adult homelessness is hidden;
    - A significant portion of the 30,609 homeless students[2] in Washington are unaccompanied youth;
    - Addressing youth and young adult homelessness in the first place may prevent involvement in other systems such as foster care and criminal justice, and lead to cost savings in the long term;
    - Interventions to end youth and young adult homelessness may stop the cycle of homelessness as they become adults;
    - Better data is needed to understand the unique needs of homeless youth and young adults.

GOALS

The undersigned partners agree to pursue the following goals of the Washington Youth and Families Fund (WYFF):

1. By 2020 make youth, young adult and family homelessness in Washington State a rare, brief, and one-time occurrence. We believe this can be accomplished by developing a data-driven, high-performing system built on promising and proven practices that leverage multiple systems.

2. Better understand the full scope of youth, young adult and family homelessness in Washington State by developing data systems to support the work, with specific focus on the impacts of disproportionality for youth and families of color and for LGBTQ youth.

3. Assure public and private resources are used as effectively as possible to serve homeless youth, young adults and families or those at risk of becoming homeless.

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[2] The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act defines homeless children as individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and includes children and unaccompanied youth who are living "doubled up" with other family or friends. This is a broader definition than that of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, which does not include children and youth living doubled up.

4. Align our efforts for youth and young adults with the United States Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Framework to End Youth Homelessness core outcomes: stable housing, increased permanent connections, access to education and employment opportunities, and support of social and emotional well-being.

Measurement of Progress

In alignment with the federal Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH) measures, we will measure our progress by tracking:

1. The number of youth, young adults and families who are homeless;
2. The length of time youth, young adults and families spend homeless;
3. The rate at which youth, young adults and families return to homelessness.

These goals will be measured by reporting on youth, young adults and families who have received services as reported through the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS), and will use the following as baseline data:

Number of Homeless	Families	8,648
	Unaccompanied Youth under 18	975
	Young adults 18 to 24	4,105
Length of Time Homeless	Families	116 days
	Unaccompanied Youth under 18	36 days
	Young adults 18 to 24	74 days
Rate of returns to Homelessness	Families	9%
	Unaccompanied Youth under 18	19%
	Young adults 18 to 24	22%

The data sources will be updated as the homeless system's ability to measure the full extent of youth, young adults and families experiencing homelessness improves. HMIS data only captures youth, young adults and families who have been served by the homelessness system. Complete statewide data for youth and young adults in particular is not currently available. [3]

TERMS

Partner Roles

This public-private partnership relies on the unique strengths and contributions of its partners. Each partner agrees to:

- Collaborate with other funders and systems to contribute and align resources to meet the goals of the Washington Youth and Families Fund.

[3] Data from sources not included in this MOU may be used at WYFF Leadership Committee meetings to measure progress and provide information about homeless youth, young adults and families.

- Collect relevant data and evaluate the impact of promising practices to continually improve the work of systems serving homeless youth, young adults and families.
- Share their learning and experiences so that successful efforts may be replicated in other communities throughout the State.
- Foster connections to mainstream community systems and all resources that work to increase housing stability.
- Act as an ambassador for this collaborative effort by communicating with stakeholders and contributing to the broader community's understanding of efforts to reduce youth, young adult and family homelessness.

State of Washington

- Shall be represented by the Governor or his/her designee and supported by the State departments that most directly support homeless youth, young adults and families.
- Shall serve as the lead entity to provide best available data through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Integrated Client Database (ICDB) and other state-owner systems to evaluate progress toward meeting the statewide homeless goals articulated within.

Building Changes

- Serve as the lead administrator for the public-private partnership known as the Washington Youth and Families Fund.
- Provide capacity building and make meaning of results with grantees, private philanthropy and public entities.
- Pool, grant, and administer those resources invested directly in the Washington Youth and Families Fund to benefit communities throughout the State.

Leadership Committee

- The Leadership Committee's purpose shall be to champion the goals of the Washington Youth and Families Fund, share learning and best practices, and understand data and evaluation findings and progress toward meeting stated goals.
- Shall be co-chaired by the Governor or his/her designee and a committee member from a private philanthropy partner organization.
- Each of the signers of the MOU agree to designate one board or executive staff member to represent their organization on the Leadership Committee.
- The Governor will appoint an executive level representative from each state department that serves homeless youth, young adults and families experiencing homelessness.
- Membership adjustments may be made to the Committee provided they align with the intent and approach articulated in this MOU.
- Building Changes shall convene and provide staffing to the Leadership Committee as needed to meet the goals of the Washington Youth and Families Fund.

- The Leadership Committee shall meet up to two (2) times per year.

This MOU is a statement of intent only, and is not binding upon the parties. The parties will not be liable to each other for any damages or losses arising from or relating to this MOU. Additional partners may be added to the MOU upon majority agreement by the undersigned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed and made effective this MOU on this 10th day of December 2014.