



# 2019 Legislative Agenda

WA Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy

## PRIORITY AGENDA

### Invest in Data-driven & Equitable Innovation

*Measure success and support solutions that target racial disproportionality.*

- **Washington Youth and Families Fund (WYFF):** \$6 million per biennium to support public-private partnership that invests in innovative approaches to youth and family homelessness.
- **Homeless Student Stability Program (HSSP):** Improve housing stability and supports for students experiencing homelessness in Washington State; increase funding to \$6 million per biennium.

### Strengthen What Works

*Expand access to proven culturally relevant programs.*

- **Shelter & housing for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness:** \$4 million per biennium to increase emergency shelter, young adult housing, and other Office of Homeless Youth programs.

### Build System Capacity

*Support comprehensive responses that promote racial equity and involve the whole community in caring for young people.*

- **Anchor Communities Initiative:** \$4 million per biennium to support services in four Washington communities (Walla Walla, Pierce County, Yakima, and Spokane) as they build a system to end youth homelessness.
- **Wraparound support for college students experiencing homelessness:** Provide case management, housing, showers, and lockers for students experiencing homelessness.

### Reform System Response

*Replace punishment with support and reduce the over-representation of youth of color in the justice system.*

- **New approach to non-criminal offenses:** End practice of jailing minors for truancy, running from foster care placement, or violating ARY/CHINS petitions.
- **Expand community supports for families and youth in crisis**
- **Build a victim-centered system:** Address the commercial sexual exploitation of children by exempting minors from arrest for the charge of prostitution.

In 2015, the Legislature identified six key strategies to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness: stable housing, family reunification, permanent connections, education, employment, and social/emotional well-being.

These approaches must be paired with a focus on racial equity and undoing racial disproportionality. WACHYA's 2019 priority legislative agenda advances each of these strategies and moves us towards our vision of every young person in Washington having safety, stability, and the support needed to thrive.

*The Washington Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy (WACHYA) is a statewide partnership of providers, funders, and advocates dedicated to improving the lives of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. WACHYA's vision is that every night, every homeless youth in Washington state has a safe place to stay and the support they need to thrive and achieve healthy adulthood.*



WA Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy

# 2019 Legislative Agenda

## SUPPORT AGENDA

### Expand YV Lifeset

- Build capacity with proven, high-intensity services for transition-age youth. Sustain and expand the YVLifeSet program in King County and introduce in a new jurisdiction.

### Support Collective Impact Recommendations

- Legislative and budget recommendations to advance education equity for students experiencing homelessness and foster care.

## About WACHYA

The Washington Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy (WACHYA) is a statewide partnership of providers, funders, and advocates dedicated to improving the lives of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. WACHYA's vision is that every night, every homeless youth in Washington state has a safe place to stay and the support they need to thrive and achieve healthy adulthood.

*Liz Trautman, Chair | Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, The Mockingbird Society | [liz@mockingbirdsociety.org](mailto:liz@mockingbirdsociety.org)  
Shoshana Wineburg, Vice Chair | Public Policy & Communications Manager, YouthCare | [shoshana.wineburg@youthcare.org](mailto:shoshana.wineburg@youthcare.org)*