

Office of Homeless Youth Prevention & Protection (OHY) Overview

House Human Services, Youth, and Early
Learning Committee

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF HOMELESS YOUTH

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Washington State
Department of
Commerce

We strengthen communities



HOUSING AND
HOMELESSNESS



INFRASTRUCTURE AND
BROADBAND



SMALL BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE



ENERGY



PLANNING AND TECH
ASSISTANCE



COMMUNITY
SERVICES AND FACILITIES



CRIME VICTIMS AND
PUBLIC SAFETY



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Guiding vision

Every family and youth in Washington has the individualized support they need so that no young person has to spend a single night without a safe and stable home. Every community has services that are equitable, accessible, effective, responsive and coordinated.

Scope

Youth: ages 12-17

Young adults: ages 18 through 24

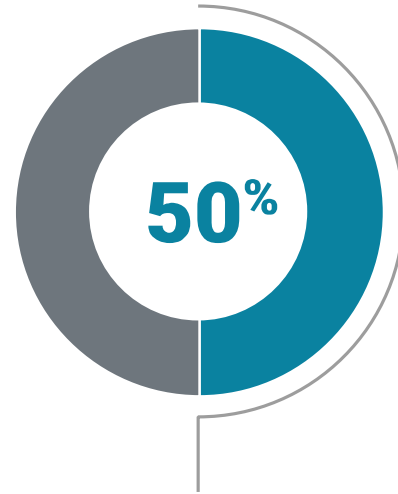
Unaccompanied: Living on their own, without a parent or guardian, and without a safe, stable living arrangement

5 key components:

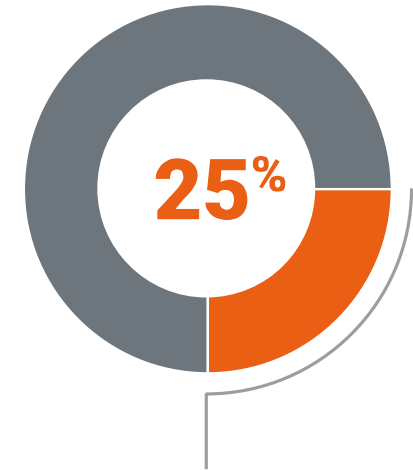
1. Stable housing
2. Family reconciliation
3. Permanent connections
4. Education and employment
5. Social and emotional well-being

Key demographics

About **13,000**
youth and young
adults experience
housing instability
in a given year



**50% OF HOMELESS
YOUTH ARE YOUTH
OF COLOR**

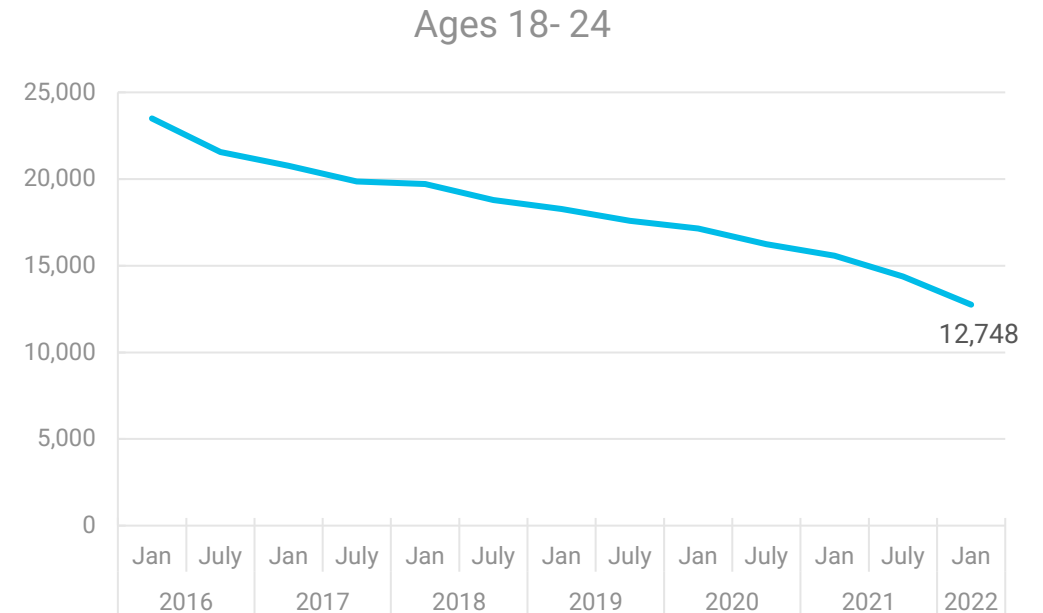
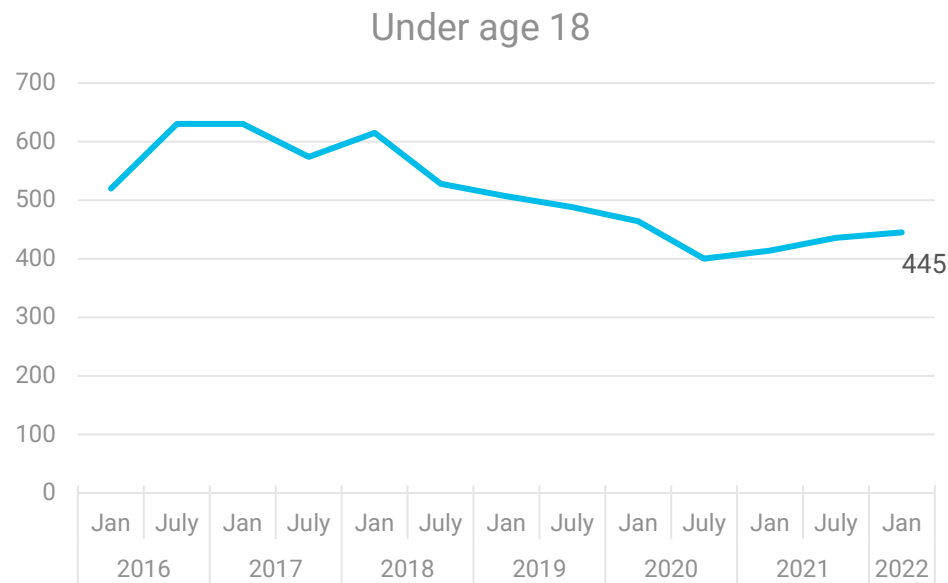


**AT LEAST 25% OF
HOMELESS YOUTH
IDENTIFY AS
LGBTQ**

Data sources: Washington State Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); Center for American Progress, Seeking Shelter: The Experiences and Unmet Needs of LGBT Homeless Youth

Housing instability trends

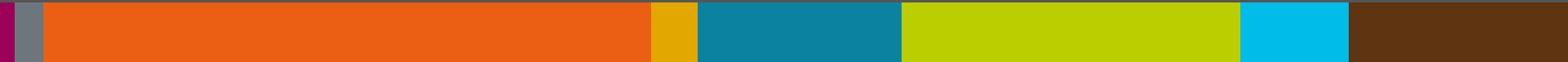
Monthly counts, January 2016 to January 2022



Data source: Snapshot of Homelessness in Washington State, based on combined Medicaid, Economic Service, and HMIS populations; prepared by DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division for Washington State Department of Commerce.

<https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/hnpkedlkifogzx8i892cu0k34nzsrbtp>

OHY Programs



Residential programs for youth under age 18

Program	Ages served	Referral source	Length of stay
HOPE Center	12-17	Self-referral, tribes or DCYF	30 days, may be extended to 60 or longer with approval from Commerce
Crisis Residential Center (CRC)	12-17	Self-referral, tribes, law enforcement, court or DCYF	15 days
Secure CRC	12-17	Law enforcement or court	5 days
Transitional Living Program (TLP) pilot	16-17	Self-referral	No limit (Up to age 18)

There are currently 46 HOPE beds, 52 beds in combined HOPE/CRC facilities, 12 CRC beds, 8 SCRC beds, and 15 TLP beds.

Programs for young adults, 18 to 24 years old

Young Adult Shelter provides emergency shelter beds.

Young Adult Housing Program provides rental assistance, transitional housing and case management.

Independent Youth Housing Program provides rental assistance and case management for young adults who were previously in foster care or are currently enrolled in Extended Foster Care.

Outreach and services

Street Outreach Services: Connects youth and young adults to services, housing, and diversion assistance through community-based outreach and/or daytime drop-in centers.

Ancillary Therapeutic Services: Behavioral health services for youth engaged in OHY programs.

Homeless Student Stability Program: Provides diversion, housing navigation, financial and/or rent assistance, housing stability case management and other services to students and their families experiencing homelessness, and to unaccompanied students experiencing homelessness.

Prevention programs

Flex funding/ diversion: Flexible financial assistance to help young people meet basic needs, secure housing, and avoid homelessness.

System of Care grants: Support interventions that prevent youth and young adults from exiting publicly funded systems of care into homelessness.

Housing Stability for Youth in Courts (H-SYNC): County-based model to prevent exits to homelessness from county juvenile detention facilities.

Key initiatives

Anchor Community Initiative: Partnership with A Way Home Washington to end youth and young adult homelessness in selected communities.

Transitions from public systems: Ensuring youth exit foster care, the justice system, inpatient behavioral health and OHY programs to safe, stable housing (SSB 6560, 2018; 2SHB 1905, 2022)

Prevention: Supporting a Steering Committee of lived experts to guide efforts to prevent youth homelessness and other negative outcomes.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program: HUD grants that support 34 counties to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Governor's budget

- Maintains current levels of funding for all OHY programs (preserves \$6.5 million in programs that were set to expire).
- Funds an across-the-board increase in homeless service grants to keep up with inflation and increased costs of wages, rent and goods (\$6.4 million).

**Thank you in
advance for
your support**



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Thank you!

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