



CHILD WELFARE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	1
Executive Summary.....	1
Background	3
State Pilot Program Supports Housing Assistance for Reunification	3
Local Community and State Partnerships Leverage Federal Housing Vouchers	3
In 2023 the Legislature made the program permanent and expanded it.	4
A Statewide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Creates the Conditions for Change	5
Implementation of WA’s Child Welfare Housing Assistance System Reaches Milestones	5
Some System Gaps and Challenges Persist, Others Are Addressed	7
Conclusion	9
Appendix C: Child Welfare Housing Assistance Program Stakeholder Group.....	15
Appendix D: Foster Care Housing Program (FCHP) Data.....	16

Executive Summary

This report has been prepared in response to SSB 5256 (2023) “Making permanent and expanding the child welfare housing assistance program.” The report contains information on the \$5.255M Child Welfare Housing Assistance Program and an additional \$2.374M proviso from the 2023 –25 biennial budget which funded the creation of the Foster Care Housing Program (FCHP) for youth housing assistance. As specified in SSB 5256 this report must include:

(7) Beginning November 1, 2024, the department shall annually report data and outcomes for the child welfare housing assistance program to the legislature. At a minimum, when available, the report must include the following information:

(a) Distribution of the child welfare housing assistance program by race, geography, ethnicity, and gender including a discussion of whether this distribution was equitable; and

(b) Any recommendations for legislative changes to the child welfare housing assistance program.

In 2019, under a proposed two-county pilot Child Welfare Housing Assistance Program (CWHP) authorized by SB 5718, DCYF (receiving only one bid) contracted with Reliable Enterprises to provide the “Homecoming” program, first to eligible families in Lewis County, and later across DCYF Region 6. The law required DCYF to provide housing vouchers, rental assistance, navigation, and other support services to eligible families to shorten children’s time in out-of-home care (prioritizing reunification). The Reliable contract was signed at the end of 2020, and service commenced in early 2021, during the eviction moratorium related to COVID-19.

Since 2019, two major changes allow DCYF to provide access to child welfare housing assistance to hundreds of eligible youth and families statewide: 1) expansion in the eligibility and geographic reach of CWHP, and a 2) change in HUD policy related to the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) federal housing voucher, allowing more Public Housing Authorities to participate. In FY 24 alone, DCYF provided housing supportive services through contracts to 705 families and youth. Numbers increase each year as DCYF and regional contractors enter written agreements with Public Housing Authorities in more counties.

State-Funded Expanded Eligibility and Reach

In 2023, under SSB 5256, the Legislature made the program permanent and expanded the geographic reach of the program to serve more counties. The 2019 SB 5718 Pilot Program had served only families with dependent children who were seeking to reunify.

Through SB 5256 in 2023, the Legislature expanded eligibility to serve child welfare involved families through prevention and reunification. Specifically, eligibility included:

1. Families with a dependent child where housing is a remaining barrier to reunification
2. Families with a child who is a candidate for foster care to promote prevention

Together these two eligible groups are served in the state’s Child Welfare Housing Program (CWHP). In a separate 2023 budget proviso, the Legislature provided funds to serve youth who are exiting foster care, and under that direction DCYF established the new Foster Care Housing Program (FCHP). These eligibility changes

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Partnership, Prevention and Services Division | Approved for distribution by Vickie Ybarra, Assistant Secretary

bring the state's CWHP and FCHP into alignment with HUD's child welfare-related eligibility criteria of the federal Family Unification Program (FUP) voucher, and the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher. State and federal programs can now serve the same three populations. The changes and flexible funding have also allowed DCYF to authorize services to youth and families who cannot use a federal voucher for a variety of reasons (such as income, background, or lack of vouchers).

Federal Voucher Policy Change

In 2018 HUD created the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher program and changed policy, allowing any interested Public Housing Authority that wished to participate to get up to 25 new FYI vouchers, without having to compete. DCYF can now work with all interested Public Housing Authorities for youth, and DCYF can also expand services to families by encouraging those Public Housing Authorities to set aside some of their existing Housing Choice Vouchers for families.

Prior to 2023, child-welfare involved youth and families could access federal housing vouchers in only ten mostly urban counties that had won FUP competitions. These two changes allow DCYF and partners to offer access to vouchers and other state-funded flexible support to eligible youth and families in all 39 counties across all six DCYF Regions, as long as DCYF has a local Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Public Housing Authority.

FY 24 Program Outcomes

In FY 24 across Regions 4 and 6, CWHP funded services were provided to 437 families, and an additional 27 families served near the end of the year in Region 3. In addition, 241 young people are currently leased up on federal youth housing vouchers (statewide) due to the availability of FYI vouchers and state flexible supports.

Report Summary

This report summarizes the historical background that created Washington's CWHP and FCHP. The report describes the structure necessary in each community to create and support a federal child welfare housing voucher program. It shows how expansion of the pilot program into a statewide effort has been crucial. It describes a two-year effort to work with housers (Public Housing Authorities and nonprofit owners of housing units), the courts, the Office of Public Defense (OPD), and other partners to develop and gain support for the system. It provides an update on statewide program implementation, including information about key performance indicators. It reviews some challenges with implementation. Although SSB 5256 mentions Legislative recommendations, none are included in this report.

Original Date: December 11, 2024 | Revised Date: December 20, 2024

Partnership, Prevention and Services Division | Approved for distribution by Vickie Ybarra, Assistant Secretary

Background

State Pilot Program Supports Housing Assistance for Reunification

Under SB 5718 (2019), the legislature established the Child Welfare Housing Assistance Program (CWHP) Pilot to address the housing needs of families seeking to reunify with a dependent child. SB 5718 required DCYF to provide housing vouchers, rental assistance, navigation, and other support services to families with a dependent child in order to shorten the length of time the child remains in out-of-home care when housing is a primary barrier to reunification. The legislature provided funding, which DCYF used to contract with Reliable Enterprises to provide these services to up to 25 eligible families in Lewis County. DCYF later adjusted the Reliable contract to provide services across DCYF Region 6. Funding associated with SB 5718 was used to create a project-based Youth & Family Housing Program Manager position at DCYF and funded the Reliable Contract at \$636,000 per year.

Since early 2021 when the program launched, Reliable Enterprise's "Homecoming" Program (the name used locally) received 379 total referrals from DCYF, has been able to serve 311 of the referred families (some were not able to meet eligibility certification requirements and other factors), and has more than 180 families (previously involved with child welfare) currently housed in various counties across Region 6. The Pilot Program provided services in a way that showed enough need and effectiveness to justify statewide expansion, and DCYF worked with partners to develop the scaffolding for a statewide child welfare housing system that had not been possible prior to legislative investment.

Local Community and State Partnerships Leverage Federal Housing Vouchers

Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) offer federal housing vouchers of many types, to various eligible groups. These vouchers are most often called "Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs)" or "Section 8 Vouchers." In 1990, Congress created a way for HUD to allocate some HCVs for use by the child welfare system. This program was called the Family Unification Program (FUP), and vouchers were allocated to PHAs based on a national competitive grant process.

In Washington State, prior to 2023, child welfare housing vouchers were provided to eligible families in only ten counties served between 10 Public Housing Authorities that had won competitions. HUD holds Public Housing Authorities accountable for the utilization of these vouchers which must be administered in partnership with a Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA), such as DCYF, via agreements and Memorandums of Understanding.

Every time a Public Housing Authority asks HUD for FUP vouchers, HUD requires DCYF to agree to "provide or secure a commitment for the provision of" housing supportive services, so that the voucher holder can be successful in securing and maintaining housing. DCYF has contracts in all regions except for Region 5 to provide for housing supportive services which support families to secure housing and utilize the vouchers...

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In order to successfully implement these services, effective partnerships between Public Housing Authorities, DCYF, and contracted community-based providers are required at the community level. Effective partnerships also include other programs within the Public Housing Authority, local government, the Office of Public Defense (OPD), and the family courts. Setting up these partnerships requires considerable time and resources, and frequently requires additional investments to be made by county governments and philanthropic interests.

In 2023 the Legislature made the program permanent and expanded it.

Under SSB 5256 (2023), the Legislature made permanent and expanded eligibility for the child welfare housing assistance program to include both families with a dependent child where housing is a remaining barrier to reunification, and families with a child who is a candidate for foster care (prevention). The Legislature provided additional funding so these services can be implemented statewide and more eligible families could be served. The Legislature also clarified that housing did not have to be the only remaining barrier to reunification before a family was eligible for assistance. Additionally, through a separate but similar budget proviso, DCYF established the Foster Care Housing Program (FCHP), providing similar assistance to youth who have exited foster care.

These legislative changes bring the eligible populations (prevention, reunification, transition from foster care) for state funded housing assistance into alignment with HUD's federal housing voucher programs for youth and families with child welfare involvement. The budget investments also authorize the provision of housing assistance to youth and families who are eligible but cannot access a housing voucher for a variety of reasons (ex. income, background, or a lack of voucher availability). Prior to 2023, child welfare involved youth and families could access federal vouchers in FUP counties, but without the contracted housing assistance that the Child Welfare Housing Assistance Program and related budget provisos makes possible.

When HUD launched the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) voucher program for youth in 2018, they allowed **any** Public Housing Authority to access up to 25 vouchers (and another 25 if they filled those) once they had established agreements (a local MOU) in place with the public child welfare agency to "provide or secure a commitment for the provision of" supportive services. These two changes — expansion of voucher authority at the federal level, and the addition of state funding being provided by the Legislature in 2023 — provided the foundation that allowed DCYF and its partners to expand the offer of federal housing vouchers to eligible youth and families in all six DCYF Regions, beyond the ten counties that had been offering FUP.

In other counties, not only are FYI vouchers now available from HUD for youth, but Public Housing Authorities seeing results can opt to set aside other Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) for the use of DCYF involved families. Public Housing Authorities have made HCVs available for eligible families so far in Cowlitz, Lewis, Mason, Kitsap, and Yakima Counties, expanding CWHP's reach. The expansion is made possible through a statewide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Public Housing Authorities and non-profit housing providers with apartments, coupled with local MOUs in each participating community. Other states also have the authority to expand beyond FUP with FYI, but most do not have funding for the HUD-required housing assistance services that was provided by the Legislature.

Original Date: December 11, 2024 | Revised Date: December 20, 2024

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A Statewide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Creates the Conditions for Change

In 2012, the Public Housing Authorities and the nonprofit agencies that own apartments (these two groups are also referred to as “the housers”) pledged 1,000 vouchers and housing units to DSHS’s Children’s Administration to prevent or shorten dependencies and support exits from foster care. While this 2012 agreement created some success in the nine counties receiving FUP vouchers, there was no funding mechanism to provide the required housing supportive services. This meant that the effort was only marginally successful, and only in certain communities, creating a challenge of equity of access.

On Feb. 13, 2024 the housers signed a new statewide MOU agreement with DCYF, pledging 2,167 vouchers and housing units statewide (see Appendix D). This agreement describes the processes to be used in each DCYF Region and Public Housing Authority jurisdiction to connect eligible clients with available vouchers and provides a mechanism for measuring program success over time.

Implementation of WA’s Child Welfare Housing Assistance System Reaches Milestones

Since 2021, DCYF has met quarterly with The CWHP Stakeholder Group (see Appendix C) to assist the Agency in the design of the program as specified in RCW 74.13.802. The passage of HB 1227 increased the courts’ interest in getting housing supports to youth and families showing up in their proceedings to prevent and reduce the impacts of child welfare involvement.

In addition to the Stakeholder Group, DCYF partners with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Child Welfare Housing Subcommittee to align the child welfare housing assistance program with the HUD requirements. Both of these groups have led efforts to expand and improve housing assistance in Washington state, to increase court involvement and training.. With the authority and funding provided by the Legislature, DCYF is implementing a statewide system of child welfare housing assistance as follows:

- **Statewide Housers MOU:** In early 2021, DCYF worked to implement the CWHP as a pilot in DCYF Region 6. In early 2022, the Administrative Office of the Court’s (AOC) Housing & Child Welfare Subcommittee sought to renew conversations about a MOU between DCYF and the housers, based on the efforts with DSHS back in 2012. After two years of discussion, involving members of the subcommittee, DCYF, AOC, and several Public Housing Authorities and nonprofits, DCYF and the housers were able to formalize their partnership with a signing ceremony on Feb. 13, 2024, in the Senate Rules Room, where Secretary Hunter and the housers leadership signed an agreement.

This statewide or “umbrella” MOU is connected with local MOUs in each participating PHA jurisdiction/county for both families and youth. The MOU is also invoked in each of the dozen contracts that provide housing assistance for families and youth in each of the DCYF Regions. The MOU spells out roles and tasks and timelines. DCYF and the housers are collaborating on an accountability matrix based on the MOU that will enable both parties to track progress over time, including the amount of money that would otherwise have been spent on foster care that was prevented by offering housing support to prevent or shorten placements. The MOU represents a significant commitment from the housers, and has been discussed with many representatives of the courts. The MOU allows/encourages

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local Public Housing Authority jurisdictions and non-profits to enter into local MOUs with DCYF and its housing assistance contracted providers.

- **Contracts for Housing Assistance:** Contracts to provide housing assistance to launch and sustain each voucher have been executed in all six DCYF regions across four providers for youth, and five providers for families by early FY25. DCYF planned for a solicitation process by the end of calendar year 2024 to select the final contracted provider of supportive services to families in Region 5. DCYF made a decision to run a competitive solicitation in Region 5 after a Request for Information (RFI) showed over half a dozen agencies were interested in delivering services to families in the region. This contract was placed on hold due to funding constraints. A list of currently contracted providers by DCYF Region is in Appendix A.

The contracts outline the services that can be offered to child welfare eligible clients who get vouchers. It also describes services for those for whom vouchers are not available or those who can be connected with sustainable sources of rent in other ways (veterans' benefits or other benefit programs, for example, or more often, employment). Services include navigation assistance to support youth and families to become document ready and fill out the Public Housing Authority voucher application and look for safe and stable housing, and to make a housing plan. Housing plans are client-specific and driven by their own goals. The plan addresses a client's prior history with housing and can help to address credit or eviction problems or criminal records in a way that helps property managers see the progress that the clients have made to become effective renters.

Contractors also help clients find sources in the community to pay for housing deposits, first and last month's rent, utility hookups, and other costs, and, when funding is available, can pay for housing lease-up costs directly. Contractors also provide ongoing case management to ensure that the rental experience is positive for both the client and the property management, and can prevent evictions, address communications problems, and help clients with their transition to their next home after program graduation.

- **Outreach to Hispanic/Latino Families:** In Region 6, DCYF has engaged in specific outreach to Hispanic/Latino families through partnership with the Migrant-Bilingual Programs of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Educational Service Districts serving SW Washington. Although information was provided to members of the network, those opportunities alone have not measurably increased the number of Hispanic/Latino clients. DCYF will continue to follow up with the Migrant-Bilingual network and is identifying and reaching out to groups in Region 6 that work specifically with Hispanic/Latino families.
- **Regional Housing Liaisons:** DCYF has hired three FTE Regional Housing Liaisons, to serve two DCYF regions each, with responsibility for recruiting PHAs that are willing to explore administering federal child welfare housing vouchers certifying youth and families as eligible for housing assistance; educating referents about the availability of and referral process for services; managing contracts and

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Partnership, Prevention and Services Division | Approved for distribution by Vickie Ybarra, Assistant Secretary

local MOUs; building and sustaining effective community partnerships to build the local child welfare housing system; and identifying prospective property owners willing to partner with DCYF. These positions are critical for the effective implementation of housing assistance in each region as they will help map the housing navigation journey for DCYF clients in 39 counties across six regions statewide.

- **Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) TA grant:** In early 2024, DCYF was informed about an opportunity to apply for a national technical assistance opportunity offered by philanthropic funders through the Corporation for Supportive Housing. CSH has already worked effectively with King, Snohomish, and Spokane Counties, and DCYF sought to get CSH's assistance with statewide coordination of child welfare housing systems development. The opportunity focused especially on two areas where DCYF hopes to improve access to services through effective partnerships: 1) with American Indian/Alaska Native populations, and 2) with youth and families with direct lived experience of child welfare programs and the challenges of getting access to safe and stable housing. These two areas were a major focus of CSH's solicitation, and DCYF's application, and Washington was awarded technical assistance under this opportunity.

Washington will be in a cohort with Alaska and Wisconsin and is looking forward to learning and sharing with CSH and the two partner states. CSH and DCYF have agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the responsibilities of each party. DCYF will nominate a Core Team of staff and advisors from a variety of sectors, will participate in training, and attend CSHS online and in-person training sessions and events.

CSH will consult with DCYF on various elements of the statewide plan for effective deployment of child welfare housing assistance and will help DCYF coordinate the efforts of the SSB 5256 Stakeholder Group, the AOC Child Welfare Housing Subcommittee, and other efforts. DCYF looks forward to more effectively partnering with Tribes and with youth and families with lived experience and appreciates CSH's focus on improving equity and reducing disparities.

Some System Gaps and Challenges Persist, Others Are Addressed

Child welfare housing partners have identified several system gaps and opportunities that continue to pose challenges for the implementation of the Child Welfare Housing Assistance Program, including:

- **Contracting Delays:** Setting up a relatively new statewide system of housing services takes time to implement. DCYF must follow DES policies regarding the procurement and contracting of goods and services. Additionally, because RCW 74.13.802 specifies DCYF should consult with a stakeholder group on the design and implementation of services, time was needed to work with this stakeholder group to inform the process for selecting new contractors.

Based on feedback DCYF received from the stakeholder group over the summer and early Fall 2023, DCYF ran a Request for Information (RFI) to provide an opportunity for organizations that have not historically contracted with the state to express their interest in delivering services. Over twenty agencies expressed an interest in delivering these services across the state, some of which represent

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by and for organizations¹ working with marginalized communities. From the list of interested agencies, DCYF was able to narrow in on which agencies had the capacity to deliver services across their entire Region and from there began the process of executing contracts with individual providers.

Additionally, time was needed to revise the scope of work for these services in response to recent legislative changes to the program expanding eligibility and create contract templates. Taking the time to be strategic and thoughtful in the execution of contracts resulted in implementation delays and an underutilization of funding in FY24 as new providers were getting underway. However, now that almost all contracts for services are in place statewide (with the exception of Region 5 for housing assistance to families), DCYF expects to fully utilize all funding appropriated in FY25.

- **Coordinating “Concrete Goods” funds with “Logistical and Financial Supports”:** DCYF already provides some financial assistance for basic needs, via DCYF’s concrete goods program when it is central to addressing a safety, well-being, stability, or reunification issue for a family with an open DCYF case. A DCYF social service specialist can authorize concrete goods up to \$500 per referral. Each service referral is limited to 60 days. Referrals over \$500 require additional supervisor or leadership approval.

Funding associated with SSB 5256 authorized DCYF to provide additional but separate logistical and financial support to eligible youth and families to address similar needs for housing or other basic necessities. This caused confusion amongst some DCYF caseworkers and staff regarding how each resource can be utilized and how to coordinate them most effectively. DCYF Housing and Concrete Goods staff are working in collaboration to provide guidance and training that clarifies what costs can be covered by each program.

Contracts for housing assistance have been updated to specify how funds may be used to provide logistical and financial Supports to families and youth receiving child welfare housing assistance, apart from DCYF’s existing concrete goods resources, which are time limited (60 days) in availability and scope. Contractors gather data about each client, youth, or family’s needs, and track which organization or funding source pays for which housing need. This will allow DCYF to gather spending data on housing logistical and financial expenditures under the CWHP and FCHP and Concrete Goods funds, both to prevent duplication and also to show the effects of each set of investments and their coordinated application.

- **Training and Awareness of Program Services:** Because DCYF was primarily focused on the implementation of contracts for services in FY24, there had not yet been a coordinated strategy or timeline for conducting trainings, developing communications, and general awareness raising about these services. Additionally, because the field offices in the nine FUP PHA jurisdictions already had existing processes in place for staff and external partners to make referrals to PHAs for federal

¹By and For Organizations are operated by and for the community they serve. Their primary mission and history is serving a specific community and they are culturally based, directed, and substantially controlled by individuals from the population they serve.

vouchers, this further complicated the housing staff's efforts to provide consistent education regarding how the program was to operate statewide. Now that the majority of contracts are in place across the state for these services, and the Regional Housing Liaisons are on board, DCYF will be able to commit time and resources toward educating DCYF field offices, Public Housing Authority staff, courts, referral organizations, and other partners about these services.

- **Waiting Lists and Scope Limitations for Program Services:** Prior to legislative investments in 2023, waiting lists for vouchers and/or supportive services existed in the nine FUP counties, due to a lack of provider capacity, voucher availability, and/or available housing units. While budget appropriations in FY24-25 allowed for services to become available statewide, waitlists still exist in communities with the largest number of vouchers needing to be filled.

There are over 1,100 vouchers committed in Region 4 (King County) for child welfare involved families with about 315 still available to be filled as of November 2024. DCYF continues to certify families in Region 4 as eligible, but contractors do not have the capacity to serve every eligible family with current resources, and as a result there are more than 100 families waiting for supportive services in Region 4 as of November 2024. Under current funding levels, contractors in Region 4 are only able to handle about 10-12 new referrals a month, resulting in contractors narrowing their focus to families with a child already in an out-of-home placement and not families who are at risk. DCYF is working with the Region 4 Public Housing Authorities to identify other housing supportive services that can be provided on a voluntary basis until additional funding becomes available to address the larger needs.

In addition to waiting lists, scope limitations are a challenge. Throughout the state, PHAs are serving families with vouchers when available and appropriate, and with other flexible housing assistance when vouchers are not. DCYF and its partners in Region 4 seek to offer those same services, in order to meet the broader need.

Other Regions outside Region 4 also have a need for additional resources — either due to referral volume, transportation to address the Regions' vast geographic size, or necessary improvements to reach more communities and reduce patterns of disproportionality of service delivery. These patterns are being identified and monitored by DCYF, worked on in local teams, and Regional Housing Liaisons will help find the solutions that can be found until additional funding becomes available to address the larger needs.

Conclusion

The Legislature's establishment of a statewide system of child welfare housing assistance, through the CWHP for families and the FCHP for youth, provides an opportunity for DCYF caseworkers and partners to meaningfully help families prevent and shorten dependencies, and support young people's effective transition from foster care into community life. As HUD expands DCYF's ability to reach out to more Public Housing

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Authorities/counties (with additional youth vouchers that can help to identify/repurpose family vouchers), and local partner's child welfare housing systems come together in each of Washington's 39 counties, navigational pathways emerge, housing is accessed and sustained, and new property owners — who can provide a community service, be compensated with predictability, and access case managers to support tenant's needs — have a new reason and method to bring additional housing units to the table.

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Appendix A: Contracted Housing Assistance Providers by Region and Program

NOTE: The Public Housing Authorities listed may provide vouchers (separately), but these contracts are for housing assistance (navigation, logistical and financial, and case management) only.

Region	Child Welfare Housing Program	Foster Care Housing Program
1	Spokane Housing Authority	Catholic Charities of Central Washington
2	Yakima Housing Authority; Walla Walla Housing Authority	Catholic Charities of Central Washington
3	Housing Authority of Snohomish County	YouthNet
4	Catholic Community Services	YMCA of Greater Seattle: Social Impact Center
5	TBD	Olive Crest
6	Reliable Enterprises	Olive Crest

Original Date: December 11, 2024 | Revised Date: December 20, 2024

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Appendix B: Child Welfare Housing Program Service Delivery Data

Period of Reporting: FY 24 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

Source: Catholic Charities for Region 4 data; Housing Authority of Snohomish County (HASCO) for Region 3 data; Reliable Enterprises for Region 6 and all other data.

Notes:

1. Contracts for CWHF services were in place with providers in Regions 3,4, & 6 with the contractor in Region 6 offering services to a few families from other regions with DCYF approval.
2. Providers in Region 3 began services in May 24', therefore fewer families were served overall.
3. County of referral means where the DCYF case is located, whereas County of residence means where the household is living.

Table 1. Households by DCYF Region

DCYF Region	Referred	Served	Exited
1	0	0	1
2	0	1	0
3	27	27	0
4	159	204	132
5	1	4	0
6	231	228	158
Other/Unknown	0	2	0
State Total	418	464	291

Table 2. Households by County of Referral

County	Count	Percent	Region
Clallam	8	2%	6
Clark	64	15%	6
Cowlitz	25	6%	6
Grays Harbor	22	5%	6
King	159	38%	4
Kitsap	1	0%	5
Lewis	28	7%	6
Mason	18	4%	6
Pacific	6	1%	6
Skamania	2	0%	6
Snohomish	27	7%	3
Thurston	58	14%	6
State Total	418		

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Table 3. Households by County of Residence

County	Count	Percent	Region
Benton	1	0%	2
Clallam	9	2%	6
Clark	63	14%	6
Cowlitz	27	6%	6
Grays Harbor	18	4%	6
King	204	44%	4
Kitsap	1	0%	5
Lewis	31	7%	6
Mason	17	4%	6
Pierce	3	1%	5
Pacific	6	1%	6
Snohomish	27	6%	3
Thurston	55	12%	6
Out of State	1	0%	n/a
Unknown	1	0%	n/a
State Total	464		

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CHILD WELFARE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2024 REPORT

Table 3. Demographics of Individuals Served by Region

	Region 4		Region 6		Total	
Gender	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Man	261	45%	89	30%	350	39%
Woman	316	55%	160	53%	476	53%
Transgender or Non-Binary	*	0%	*	2%	*	1%
Different Identity	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Unknown	14	0%	46	15%	60	7%
TOTAL	592		300		892	
Race & Ethnicity						
American Indian or Alaska Native	27	5%	16	5%	43	5%
Asian	12	2%	*	1%	15	2%
Black or African American	119	20%	10	3%	129	14%
Hispanic/Latino	33	6%	18	6%	51	6%
Multiracial**	158	27%	*	2%	163	18%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	*	1%	12	4%	20	2%
Unknown	14	2%	63	21%	77	9%
White	221	37%	173	58%	394	44%
TOTAL	592		300		892	

Note: Because families of color are disproportionately represented within the child welfare system overall, further analysis is underway to evaluate equitable distribution of housing resources by race and ethnicity.

*DCYF does not report cell sizes with numbers fewer than 10 to protect privacy.

**WSRDAC/M=No

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Appendix C: Child Welfare Housing Assistance Program Stakeholder Group

SSB 5256 requires DCYF to consult with a stakeholder group consisting of parent allies, parent attorneys, and social workers managed by the Office of Public Defense, the Department of Commerce, housing experts, community-based organizations, advocates, and behavioral health providers to assist DCYF in design of the child welfare housing assistance program.

Regular participation consists of the following individuals and organizations:

- Ambrosia Eberhardt, CHSW Family Impact Manager;
- Andrew Calkins, Bellingham Housing Authority;
- Lisa Wolters, Seattle Housing Authority;
- Lowel Krueger, Yakima Housing Authority;
- Andrew Johnson, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH);
- Andy Skinner, Reliable Enterprises;
- Charles Smith, Mockingbird Society;
- Emily Pitcher, Seattle YMCA;
- Jeffrey Oakly, King County;
- Jennifer Westerman, HOSSWA;
- Senator June Robinson;
- Senator Rebecca Saldana;
- Karrina Guilbault, OCLA;
- Kelly Warner-King, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC);
- Kris Isom, Casey Family Programs;
- Laurie Lippold, Partners for Our Children;
- Michael Mirra, Co-Chair of the Housing & Child Welfare Subcommittee of AOC's FTC Committee;
- Robert Smith, DCYF Office of Tribal Relations;
- Ron Murphy, Casey Family Programs;
- Ruth Anne White, National Center for Housing and Child Welfare;
- Judge Sharonda Amamilo,
- Thurston County Court; Sheila Morley- Family Impact Network Executive Director;
- Shrounda Selivanoff, Tonia McClanahan, Lisa Dabalos-McMahon, Jason Bragg, & Jacob D'Annunzio - Office of Public Defense Parent Representation Program

DCYF thanks these individuals and organizations for the many improvements to policy and program implementation that they have influenced along the way.

Appendix D: Foster Care Housing Program (FCHP) Data

The Foster Care Housing Program was created in 2023, through a separate legislative budget appropriation similar to that of the Child Welfare Housing Assistance Program. The FCHP provides identical housing assistance to young adults, ages 18 through 24, who've exited foster care. Contracts for FCHP were in place in all six DCYF regions by spring of 2024.

Table 3. Foster Care Housing Program (FCHP) Service Data, FY24

Region	Certified referral made to PHA for a housing voucher	PHA issued housing vouchers in total	Leased up with a voucher	Not eligible for a voucher
1	6	0	0	1
2	16	17	10	0
3	40	12	17	5
4	280	174	132	7
5 & 6	117	37	22	21
Total	459	240	181	34

Original Date: December 11, 2024 | Revised Date: December 20, 2024

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