



The Washington Families Fund High Needs Family Program: Preliminary Evaluation Findings

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HOW ARE WE CONNECTING THE DOTS?





State of Washington – Health Care Reform Initiatives

- ✓ HealthPlanFinder
- ✓ Apple Health Expansion
- ✓ HealthPath Washington
- ✓ Health Homes

- ✓ 2013 – Establishing Accountability Measures for Service Coordination Organizations (HB1519)
- ✓ 2014 – Adult Behavioral Health Task Force (SB 5732)

- ✓ 2013-2014 – WA State Health Care Innovation Plan
 - ✓ Accountable Communities for Health (ACHs)

CONNECTING AND LEVERAGE POINTS: Advocacy, Policy, Practice, Evaluation

Individual Level:

- ✓ Knowledge
- ✓ Coverage
- ✓ Access

System Level:

- ✓ Recognition of Housing as a Social Determinant of Health

- ✓ Shared Accountability for Outcomes including ***Housing Stability***

- ✓ Permanent Housing & Services as avenue to Improve Health Outcomes

- ✓ Integration of Health Care, Behavioral Health, Housing and Community Social Services System to Improve Population Health

WASHINGTON FAMILIES FUND

Administered by Building Changes

- 25+ funding partners, including:
 - Gates Foundation
 - State of Washington

Funds over 45 programs around Washington State

Two Services+Housing Programs

- Moderate Needs Family Housing
- High Needs Family Housing



HIGH NEEDS FAMILY PROGRAM GOALS

Increase access to services

*Increase housing and family
stability*

Create cost effective solutions





HIGH NEEDS FAMILY PROGRAM

Housing

- *Housing First approach*
- *Primary focus on housing stability*
- *Tenancy not dependent on service engagement*
- *Scattered-site or single-site*

Services

- *Wide array of services available, but not required*
 - *On-site services*
 - *Cross-provider coordination*
- *Strengths-based case management*
- *Harm reduction approach to substance use*

FAMILY ELIGIBILITY

Family Definition

- *At least one adult age 18 or older*
- *At least one child under age 18*

Multiple Episodes of Homelessness

Income Less Than 20% Area Median Income (AMI)

Service Needs and Housing Barriers

- *serious and persistent mental illness*
- *chemical dependency*
- *domestic violence or other trauma*
- *HIV/AIDS or other chronic illness*
- *child protective service involvement*
- *criminal history*



UNDERSTANDING THE FAMILIES SERVED

Family Characteristics

Housing Barriers

Assets

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS*

RESPONDENT BACKGROUND

- *90% female*
- *Average age 32 years*

FAMILY COMPOSITION

- *13% with another adult*
- *Average of 2.3 children under age 18 (67% with child under age 6)*
- *42% have at least one child away*

HOMELESS HISTORY

- *91% homeless at least once in last 2 years, median of 2 times*

INCOME

- *Average monthly income of \$512, primarily from TANF*
- *14% with no income*

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS*

HOUSING BARRIERS

- 73% have 3 or more barriers
- 61% have 1 or more mental health indicators
- 22% positive 'screen' for substance abuse
- 23% report physical or sexual abuse in past 6 months; 88% lifetime abuse
- 50% report a chronic medical condition; 20% report an unmet medical need; 57% report an unmet dental need
- 21% have a child living away due to CPS involvement; 10% in foster care
- 34% report past felony conviction



OVERALL TAKE-AWAYS THUS FAR

**Families who stay in housing
for at least a year improve on:**

- *Residential stability*
- *Employment*
- *Income*
- *Family reunification*
- *Substance abuse*
- *Current trauma*
- *Healthcare access*
- *Dental needs*

EARLY TAKE AWAYS

- *Access to behavioral health outpatient services is increased for HNF families compared to comparable families in both public housing and emergency shelter*
- *Use of the ER actually increases for families in the HNF compared to both comparison samples*
- *Families who stay longer in the HNF program appear to have more access than those who exit before 12 months*

Where to from here

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Please see the following links for more information about the evaluation.

Most recent Year 5 Report: <http://www.buildingchanges.org/librarytype/evaluation-results-westat/item/789-washington-families-fund-high-needsfamilies-year-5-evaluation-report>

Full slide deck of preliminary findings from a June 2014 webinar by Westat:

<http://www.buildingchanges.org/library-type/evaluation-results-westat/item/799-washington-families-fund-high-needs-families-preliminary-evaluation-findingsjune2014>