



Washington Families Fund High-Needs Family Profile

The Washington Families Fund is a public-private partnership that seeks to expand the availability of supportive housing by providing stable, long-term funding to agencies with the best models for ending family homelessness and strengthening communities throughout Washington state.

The Washington Families Fund High-Level Service Model is intended for agencies that serve chronically homeless families who are experiencing co-occurring disorders and multiple barriers. This model focuses on permanent supportive housing with intensive wrap-around services. Since 2008, Washington Families Fund programs have served 69 High-Needs Families—composed of 78 adults and 105 children. The profile below represents the average High-Needs Family served by the Fund and is based on data collected through baseline assessments of 57 families—composed of 66 adults, 88 children, and an additional 35 children living away from the household—over one year.

- The head of household is female, 33 years old, and single.
- She has two to three children, including at least one child living away and an open Child Protective Services (CPS) plan.
- She has been homeless 10 times in her lifetime and has been “doubled up” living with others 16 times in her lifetime.
- She has experienced a high incidence of trauma, most likely physical or sexual violence.
- She has one or more indicators of mental health conditions, including anxiety, moderate or severe depression and impaired mental health functioning.
- She has received treatment for substance abuse.
- She may have a criminal history, including a felony conviction and time spent in jail or prison.
- She is not currently employed and reports a disabling condition that prevents her from working.
- The family’s main source of income is state welfare benefits. Most families are in debt.

85 percent of High-Needs Families have three or more barriers to obtaining housing and services, including:

Substantial histories of homelessness and residential instability:

- Average number of times homeless in lifetime: 10
- Average number of times doubled up in lifetime: 16

Significant rates of trauma, health issues, and substance abuse:

- Experienced physical or sexual violence: 93%
- Mental health condition: 70%
- Chronic or ongoing medical problem: 63%
- Received substance abuse treatment: 63%

High occurrences of child separation and CPS involvement:

- At least one child living apart: 42%
- Open CPS plan: 25%

**BUILDING
CHANGES**
END HOMELESSNESS
TOGETHER

