

## Building Changes at a Glance

### Homelessness in Washington State

On any given night in Washington state, 20,000 people will experience homelessness. Families with children are one of the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. Homelessness among families deprives children of the stability they need to succeed in school, build relationships, and maintain physical and mental health. Today's homeless children are at risk of becoming tomorrow's homeless parents and single adults.

### Building Changes' Mission

Building Changes believes that everyone deserves the opportunity for a home, a healthy life and a good job. We unite public and private partners to create innovative solutions through expert advice, grantmaking and advocating for lasting change.

### How We Work

Building Changes partners with government entities, private funders and nonprofit service providers to end homelessness. We create lasting change through programs and policies that pair housing with social services that get people experiencing homelessness connected to public benefits, education and the employment training needed to stabilize their lives. Our programs impact the lives of 8,000 people annually in Washington state.

- ❖ **Grantmaking and Evaluation:** Building Changes leads the Washington Families Fund, and other funds, which make grants to agencies with the best models for ending family homelessness and strengthening communities throughout the state.

We identify, support and evaluate innovative programs for families across Washington state that:

- Centralize access to housing and support services
- Link families to services and affordable housing so they don't become homeless
- Rapidly re-house families who are homeless
- Provide tailored services to meet people's needs
- Increase access to jobs through education and training
- Inform national strategies for other homeless populations

The Washington Families Fund is an innovative and groundbreaking public-private partnership that provides grants, consulting and capacity-building training to service providers throughout the state in support of programs that provide housing and social services to homeless families. We learn from our work and improve outcomes for by collecting and evaluating data about the families served by our programs.

- ❖ **Consulting and Technical Assistance:** Building Changes consults, trains, plans, researches and shares best practices that deliver creative solutions to address the underlying causes of homelessness.

Our expert advice gives agencies tools to help people address the issues fundamental to ending homelessness:

- Quickly find long-term housing
- Develop skills, earn living wages and improve self-sufficiency
- Maintain housing and employment with appropriate levels of assistance

We support the development and implementation of countywide ten-year plans to end homelessness. We work in partnership with the Workforce Development Councils to develop and implement innovative programs. We lead the Economic Opportunities Initiative, an 18-month, federally funded program created to improve economic recovery for homeless and low-income individuals in rural and urban communities.

- ❖ **Advocacy and Communications:** Building Changes uses its expertise, experience and partnerships to shape public policy and affect how resources are best used to end homelessness.

We improve the way communities across Washington state prevent and end homelessness. We gather evidence and raise awareness about what works and use it to:

- Allocate resources
- Change public policies
- Increase public and private funding

## How You Can Help

Help us end homelessness in Washington state. Building Changes needs the involvement of people like you. Please consider making a gift by going to our website: [BuildingChanges.org](http://BuildingChanges.org). Your support enables us to:

- Ensure that housing and support services are available to homeless children and their families
- Create better employment opportunities for homeless youth and adults
- Work for policy and funding reform at the local, state and national levels
- Raise awareness and understanding about the causes of and solutions to homelessness