



Key Terms List

ACTIVELY HOMELESS

As of the last day of the reporting month, the number of actively homeless unaccompanied young people **under the age of 25** on a community's By-Name List. Actively homeless individuals may reside in shelter, transitional housing, or in a location not meant for human habitation (on street, beach/riverbed, in car, etc.). They also may be fleeing domestic violence or unsafely/unstably couchsurfing or doubled up.

ANCHOR COMMUNITY INITIATIVE (ACI)

The Anchor Community initiative is the flagship project of A Way Home Washington. The goal is to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness in local communities by supporting them to reach functional zero or "Yes to Yes". The focus population is youth and young adults who are unaccompanied by a parent or guardian and between the ages of 12-24 years old.

BALANCE OF STATE (BoS)

Thirty-four small-to-medium sized counties in Washington State that are grouped together in one continuum of care (CoC).

BY AND FOR ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS

Organizations or programs that are created by community, for community. Specifically, we are interested in knowing more about the integration and collaboration your homelessness system has with LGBTQ-, QTBIPOC- and BIPOC-serving organizations that are also run by LGBTQ, QTBIPOC and BIPOC leaders. Also referred to as by/for organizations.

BY-NAME LIST (BNL)

A By-Name List is a real-time accounting of young people who are experiencing homelessness in a community. The list is used to triage the needs of young people experiencing homelessness, match them with the appropriate interventions to permanently end their homelessness, understand needs relative to resources, and measure progress toward ending homelessness for young people.

BUILT FOR ZERO (BFZ)

Built For Zero is an initiative made up of more than 90 communities working to reach Functional Zero. Learn more [here](#).

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & DIVERSION FUND (HPDF)

A flexible, low barrier fund that leads to rapid housing solutions outside of the homeless system.

CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORK GROUP (CBHWG)

Refers to the Children's Behavioral Health Work Group (Governor's Task Force)

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (DCYF)

DCYF is a cabinet-level agency focused on the well-being of children in Washington State.

CHILD WELFARE ADVOCACY COALITION (CWAC)

Refers to the Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Includes the webinars, training, resources, cross-community peer learning opportunities and learning sessions hosted by AHWHA.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS (CS)

Refers to the nonprofit organization [Community Solutions](#).

COORDINATED ENTRY (CE)

A process communities have in place to ensure that all people experiencing homelessness can quickly connect to assistance to help resolve their homelessness and prioritize housing resources based on need and vulnerability. (For more on how HUD defines coordinated entry, see this [HUD Notice CPD-17-01](#).) A By-Name List is broader than a coordinated entry priority pool, and communities use both to work toward reducing and ending homelessness.

CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (CQI)

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is a deliberate, defined process which is focused on activities that are responsive to community needs and improving population health.

CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC)

A regional or local planning body (designated by HUD) that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless populations.

COMMERCIALY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN TASK FORCE (CSEC)

Refers to the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Task Force

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (DCYF)

Refers to the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families.

DOUBLED UP/COUCH SURFING

Unaccompanied youth and young adults who are staying with others in situations that are unsafe or unstable. This can include staying with friends and family and situations where the young person does not have control over how long they can stay.

END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS NOW CAMPAIGN (EYHN)

Refers to the End Youth Homelessness Now Campaign, based in Seattle.

EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC)

Refers to the Extended Foster Care Program which provides an option for young people aging out of the system in which they were a dependent of the state of Washington to opt in to continue receiving foster care services from 18-20 years old.

FAMILY RECONCILIATION SERVICES (FRS)

Refers to the Family Reconciliation Services program within DCYF, which works with youth ages 12-17 who are in conflict with their family or have runaway status. FRS services work to resolve crisis situations and prevent unnecessary out of home placements.

FUNCTIONAL ZERO (Fz/FZ)

A set of measures communities across the country use to determine whether a community has functionally ended homelessness. Anchor Communities strive to reach this benchmark for unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults. Communities that reach functional zero have shown they have the capacity to:

- prevent most homelessness;
- quickly identify all the unaccompanied young people who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability at any given time; and
- quickly resolve homelessness with connections to safe and stable housing.

When a young person says “Yes, I need help,” a community is able to say “Yes” back – Yes to Yes!

GENDER DIVERSE

Any youth who identifies as a gender other than the sex that was assigned to them at birth.

HOMELESSNESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION LIST (HMIS)

Refers to Washington State Department of Commerce Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) used by service providers to collect and manage data gathered while providing housing assistance to people already experiencing homelessness and households at risk of losing their housing.

INFLOW

The total number of unaccompanied young people under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness who have entered a community’s By-Name List over the course of a reporting

month. This includes young people who are newly identified, returning from permanent housing, or returning from inactive.

IN-PATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Publicly paid residential treatment programs for young people experiencing mental health and substance use disorders. For more information on how young people are being discharged from inpatient treatment to homelessness see AHWHA's report [here](#).

LGBTQ+

Young people who identify on the LGBTQ+ spectrum including, but not limited to, young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning.

MCKINNEY-VENTO

The federal McKinney-Vento act defines homelessness as students who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including those unstably or unsafely housed. For the purposes of ACI, students that are between the ages of 12-24, are unaccompanied (not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) and are currently experiencing housing instability under this definition are also considered homeless under the [ACI definition](#).

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

An MOU is a nonbinding agreement that states each party's intentions to take action, conduct a business transaction, or form a new partnership.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS (NAEH)

The NAEH is a nonpartisan organization working to end homelessness nationally. Learn more [here](#).

OFFICE OF HOMELESS YOUTH (OHY)

The Washington State Office of Homeless Youth, a key partner of AHWHA based in the Washington State Department of Commerce.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OSPI)

Referring to the Office Of Superintendent Of Public Instruction run by Superintendent Chris Reykdal, OSPI is the primary agency charged with overseeing public K–12 education in Washington state. Working with the state's 295 public school districts and 6 state-tribal education compact schools, OSPI allocates funding and provides tools, resources, and technical assistance so every student in Washington is provided a high-quality public education. OSPI is housed in the Old Capitol Building in Olympia.

PERMANENT HOUSING PLACEMENTS

This refers to an exit destination designating that a young person moved into permanent, non-time-limited housing over the course of a reporting month.

POINT SOURCE YOUTH (PSY)

PSY is a national nonprofit working to end youth homelessness across 50 cities and towns within 10 years. Learn more [here](#).

PUGET SOUND TAXPAYER ACCOUNTABILITY ACCOUNT (PSTAA)

Refers to an account within the State treasury as a part of transportation funding legislation. Read more [here](#).

QUALITY DATA (QD)

Quality Data is data that lives up to and has accuracy, completeness, consistency, reliability and is up to date.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI)

Sexual orientation describes who a person is attracted to, and gender identity describes the ways in which a person identifies and/or expresses their gender. Everyone has a sexual orientation and gender identity. SOGI is often used as shorthand for talking about collecting sexual orientation and gender identity data.

THEORY OF CHANGE (ToC)

A theory of change is a purposeful model of how an initiative—such as a policy, a strategy, a program, or a project—contributes through a chain of early and intermediate outcomes to the intended result. Theories of change help navigate the complexity of social change.

UNACCOMPANIED

Young people who are not in the care of a parent or legal guardian; young people who are experiencing homelessness while disconnected from their families.

USICH CRITERIA AND BENCHMARKS

The US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) created a [set of criteria and benchmarks](#) communities must achieve for the federal government to designate that a community has ended homelessness.

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES (WACF)

The Washington Association for Children & Families, a nonprofit association of YYA service providers in Washington state.

WASHINGTON COALITION FOR HOMELESS YOUTH ADVOCACY (WACHYA)

Refers to the Washington Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy, a statewide partnership of providers, funders, and advocates working to improve the lives of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

YES TO YES

Young people experiencing housing instability can access services they need and want quickly, without leaving their home community, and are stably housed in the process.

YOUTH ACTION BOARD (YAB)

Youth Action Boards are made up of directly impacted young people using their lived experiences to inform policy and create systematic change in community efforts to end youth and young adult homelessness. Anchor Communities commit to coordinating and supporting a local YAB to identify key areas of improvement, solutions, and support implementation of system changes based on their lived experience and expertise.

YOUTH

A young person between the ages of 12-17.

YOUNG ADULT

A young person between the ages of 18 through 24.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT HOMELESSNESS

Young people between the ages of 12-24 unaccompanied by a parent or guardian who are unsheltered or living in places unfit for human habitation, in shelter, or unsafely or unstably housed. This includes young people who are fleeing domestic violence and trafficking, and those who may be unsafely or unstably couchsurfing or doubled-up.

YOUNG PEOPLE OF COLOR

Young people who identify as: Latinx (of any race), Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, Asian, Multiracial, and American Indian or Alaskan Native.

KEY ACRONYMS

BFZ - *Built For Zero*

BNL - *By Name List*

CQI - *Continuous Quality Improvement*

HMIS - *Homeless Management Information List*

MOU - *Memorandum of Understanding*

QD - *Quality Data*

ToC - *Theory of Change*

YAB - *Youth Advisory/Action Board*

ACI - *Anchor Community Initiative Alumni Group*

CS - *Community Solutions*

CBHWG - *Children's Behavioral Health Work Group (Governor's Task Force)*

CSEC - *Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Task Force*

CWAC - *Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition*

CYF - *Children, Youth and Families One Table*

DCYF - *Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families*

EFC - *Extended Foster Care (a part of DCYF)*

EYHN - *End Youth Homelessness Now campaign*

FRS - *Family Reconciliation Services (a part of DCYF)*

NAEH - *National Alliance to End Homelessness*

OHY - *Office of Homeless Youth Prevention & Protection (Dept of Commerce - State of WA)*

PSTAA - *Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account*

PSY - *Point Source Youth*

WACF - *Washington Association for Children & Families*

WACHYA - *Washington Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy*

OSPI - *Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's*