

Anchor Community Initiative
Memorandum of Understanding

We come together to forward collective planning and progress toward preventing and ending youth homelessness in Washington State. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signifies both new and renewed commitments to work together on a complex issue that requires collaborative, multi-system solutions. Through continuous shared learning, testing promising new ideas, and focusing our collective resources on what works, we can make youth, young adult and family homelessness a rare event. And we can ensure that when it does happen, it is a brief and one-time occurrence.

Our primary focus is the estimated 13,000-15,000 unaccompanied young people ages 12-24 experiencing homelessness in Washington. This effort adopts the definition of “homeless” within the state’s Homeless Youth Act of 2015 that includes young people who are precariously housed, as well as those who are surviving on the streets and in emergency shelter. We want to build a truly statewide system that is data-informed, performance-driven, holds young people and families at the center, and will be sustained by the OHY.

THIS MOU ARTICULATES OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND OUR PARTNERSHIP, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED BELOW.

MUTUAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. The overall objective of this MOU is to:
 - 1.1. Describe and define the roles and responsibilities for the development of quality real-time data, through establishment of data sharing agreements between partners
 - 1.2. Facilitate the goal to reduce YYA homelessness to functional zero by having Service Providers available to recommend policy amendments to coordinate new and existing programs in the Walla Walla Community Homelessness system to address inflow (prevention, diversion & outreach) and outflow (expediting young people gaining housing).
 - 1.3. Monitor and invest in the goal of attaining and sustaining functional zero (the number of young people experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness is no greater than the current month housing placement rate).

To support the objective of this MOU, partners will agree to support the goals and objectives by:

1. Identifying staff who can support the goals and objectives listed in the MOU
2. Identify youth in your system who experience homelessness
3. Refer for coordinated entry support through BMAC
4. Participate in adding names to the Walla Walla county bi-name list
5. Participate in maintaining the bi-name list for accuracy
6. Participation in diversion and prevention efforts as it’s appropriate to the service providers’ programs mission and services.
7. WWC coordination admin support taskforce of the council on housing dissemination of information per this agreement.

Scope of Agreement

A. A Way Home Washington (AWHWA)

AWHWA shall support the coordination of the Anchor Community Initiative (ACI). The ACI is designed to support communities in developing their local infrastructure of services within the continuum of Prevention, Emergency Response, and Long-Term Housing and Support Services.

AWHWA shall use a coaching model: providing each community with a second coach, in addition to your Lead Coach. We have two experienced consultants who will each be assigned alongside the lead coach to one of the communities over the next several months. They bring a wealth of experience working with communities, both locally and nationally, and will share their expertise on the By Name List as well as other subject matter expertise. Coaches will support the Coordinator and Leadership Team.

B. The ACI Core Team

Core Team shall meet twice a month.

The structure and purpose of these meetings will include:

To focus our work and these meetings on achieving and maintaining quality data in each community through the use of a By Name List and utilizing this data to achieve Functional Zero.

We will do this by:

- Utilizing the By Name List Scorecard - included in appendix)
- Leading, supporting, and empowering the community to complete the By Name List Scorecard
- Receiving tools, resources, and support to help guide through this process and identify ways to build the system to address needs/gaps that are identified by the Scorecard.
- Determining who will serve as the lead entity to provide best available data through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Integrated Client Database (ICDB) and other state-owned systems to evaluate progress toward meeting the statewide homeless goals articulated within.

JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This MOU is a statement of intent only, and is not binding upon the parties. The parties will not be liable to each other for any damages or losses arising from or relating to this MOU. Additional partners may be added to the MOU upon majority agreement by the undersigned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed and made effective this MOU on this _____ (date).

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