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United Way of King County

2016 Community Impact Report

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This annual Community Impact Report, produced by the Planning and Public Policy team in Community Services, provides context for our strategies, information on our annual results and progress toward our five-year strategic plan goals.

Together, we're building a
community where **people have
homes, students graduate, and
families are financially stable.**





Context

- Poverty & hunger down
- Employment & income up
- Inequality persists
- Housing affordability worse
- Shifting immigration, diversity in language and culture challenging



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The next few slides provide some background on the status of community need in King County and contextual factors that influence our results.

Poverty and hunger have finally started to drop with employment and incomes rising. The growing economy is helping us here, lots of people in our community are better off. We still have plenty of work to do as homelessness continues to increase and inequality persists.

King County is increasingly diverse with many cultures and perspectives contributing to our strong and vibrant community life. Shifts in immigration to King County, bringing diversity in language and culture also pose challenges for human service providers.

Hunger/ Food Insecurity Declined in 2015

Down 0.8% to 12.9%

WA ranked 20th for food security



- In Washington, 12.9% of households were food insecure in 2015, down from 13.7% in 2014. King County data is not available yet, but is generally similar to the state.
- Washington now ranks among the 20 most food secure states in the U.S.

Poverty Declined between 2014 and 2015

King County rate down 1.5 points to 9.7%

Child poverty down 2.5 points to 15%

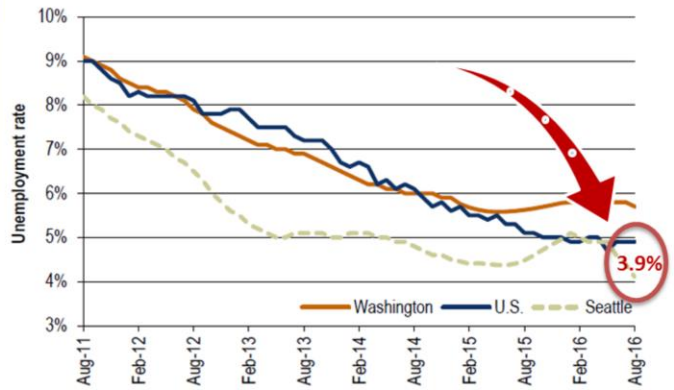
Deep poverty unchanged at 5.2%



- It is very good news that poverty is finally declining after years of elevated levels since the recession. The poverty rate in King County is not quite down to pre-recession levels but is on the way.
- Poverty in the United States declined to 13.5 percent in 2015, a 1.2 percentage point drop from 2014.
- Washington was one of 23 states with statistically significant declines in their poverty rates during that period.
- **Nearly one in seven children live below the poverty line.**
- the federal poverty level of \$24,250 for a family of four. Deep poverty is 50% of that or less. The percentage of people living in deep poverty in the area remained statistically unchanged at 5.2 percent. So the poorest of our neighbors are not benefiting from the recovery so far.



Unemployment rates, seasonally adjusted
U.S., Washington and Seattle, August 2011 through August 2016
Source: Employment Security Department/LMPA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics,
Local Area Unemployment Statistics

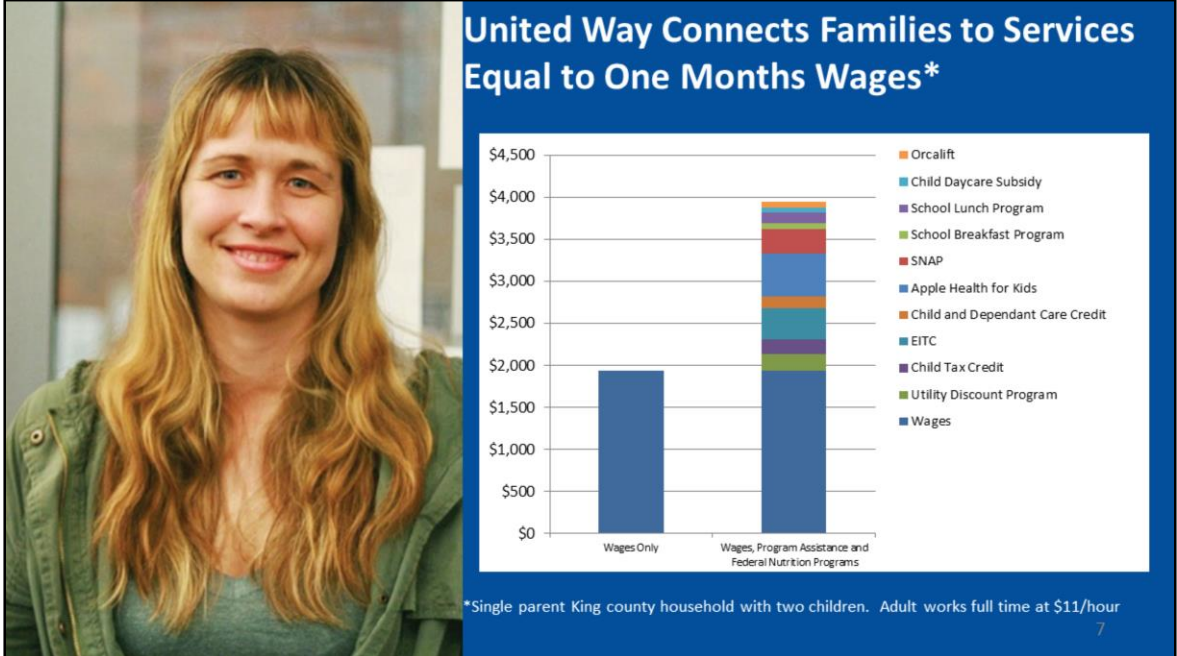


August 2016 preliminary
unemployment rates:

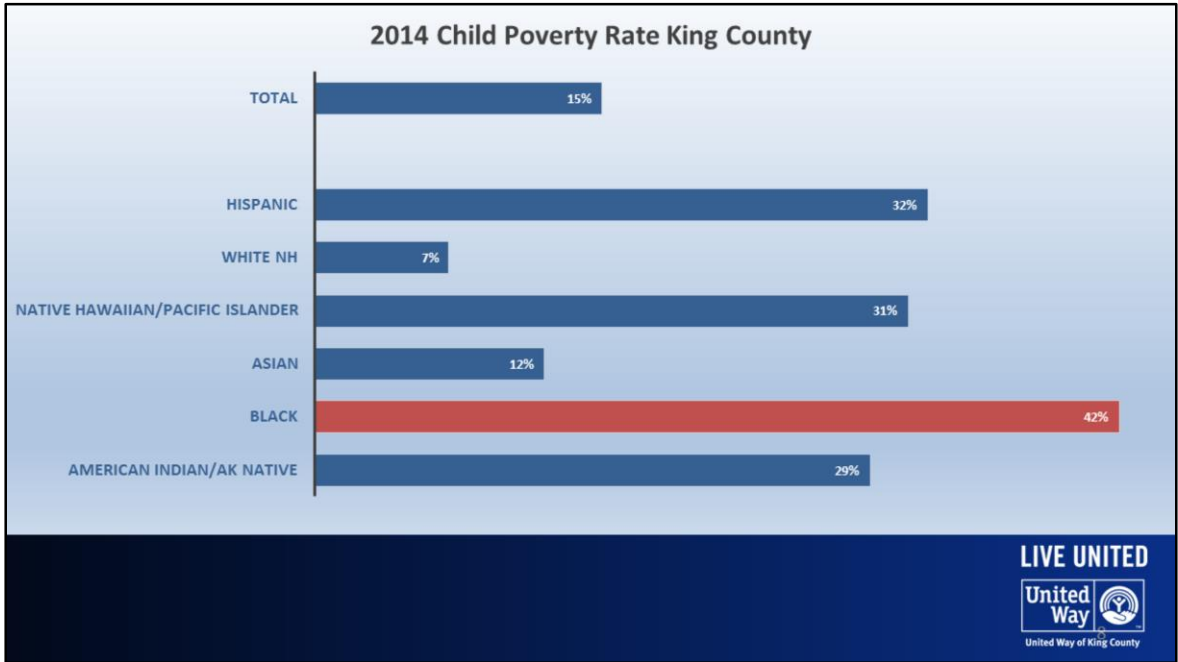
U.S. (preliminary) 4.9%
Washington (preliminary) 5.7%
Seattle area (preliminary) 4.1%

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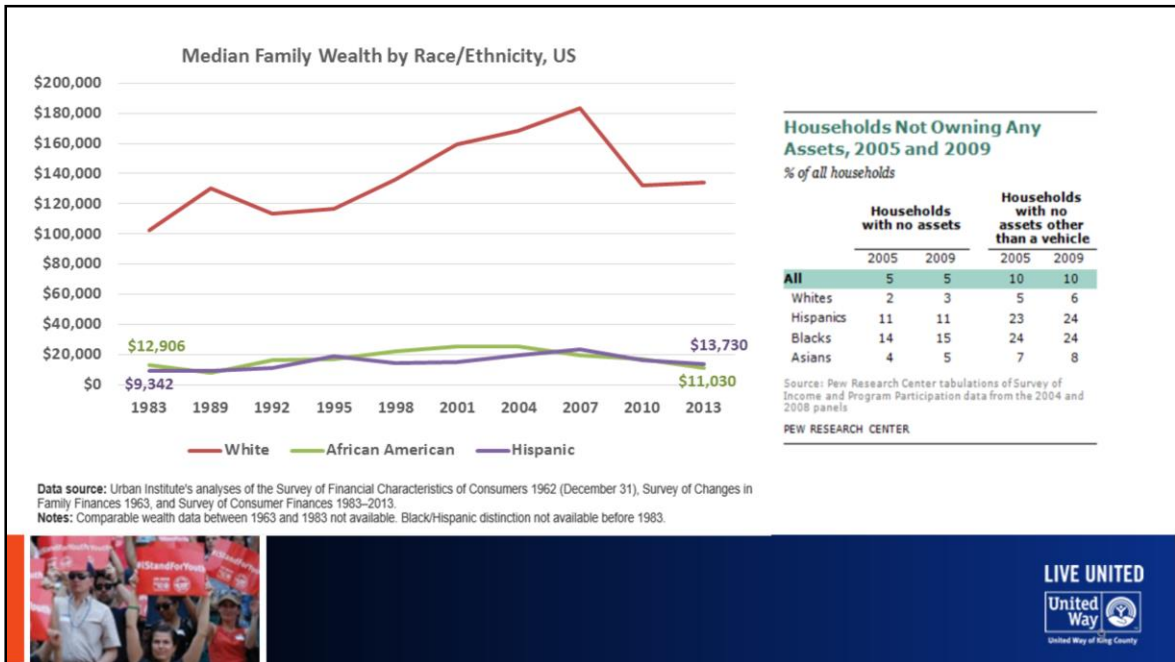
The other good news is that unemployment is down. The rate is 3.9% in King County in August, although disparities still exist.



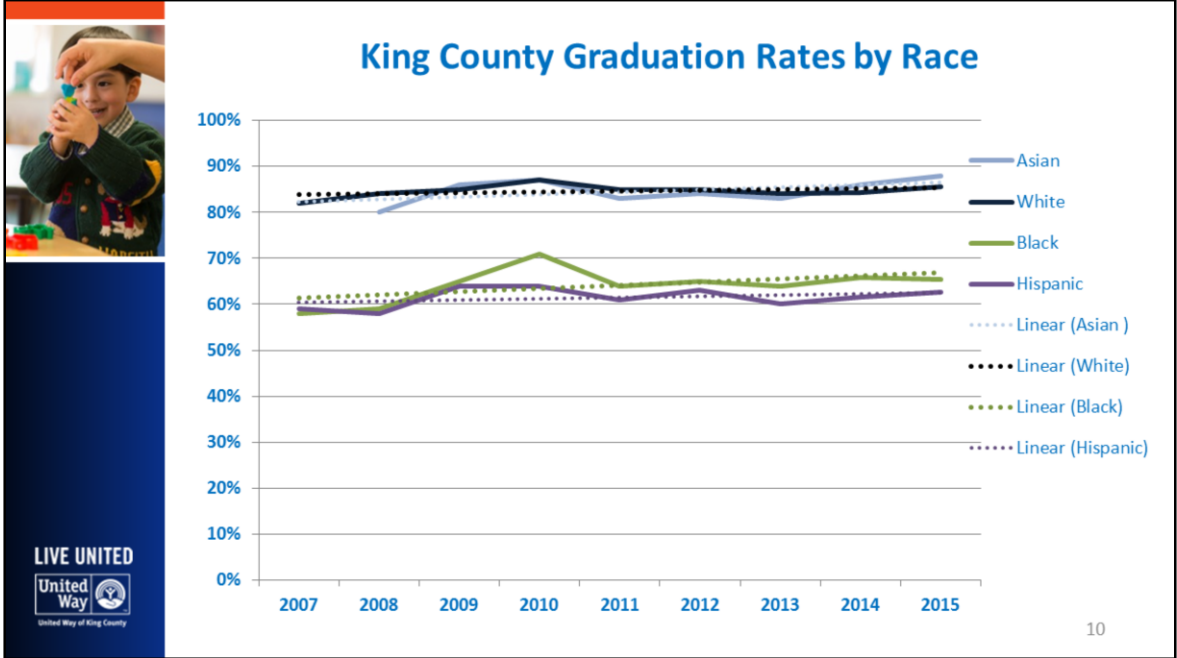
- Programs such as refundable tax credits, SNAP, free or reduced-price school lunch and child care subsidies have helped lift tens of millions of Americans out of poverty.
- But these anti-poverty programs don't reach all those who are eligible. As you might imagine, it can be overwhelming for a working parent to find, apply and manage benefits and eligibility information for all these different programs. That's why we pay attention to accessibility – with lots of convenient locations for Taxes and summer meals and help getting access to these resources.



Disparities in poverty also persist. Children of color will make up over half of the 2030 work force. And these are the children most affected by poverty now, which we know decreases a young child's prospects for success in school and beyond. This is why an intentional focus on serving children and youth of color effectively and eliminating these disparities is crucial to our future.

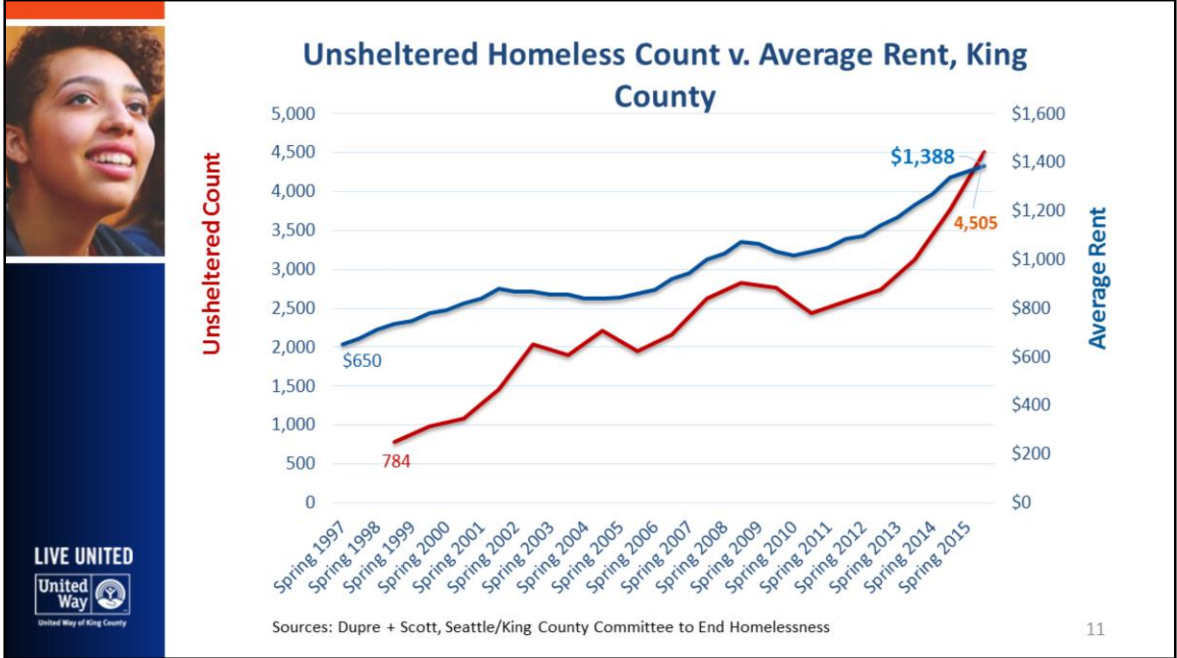


Poverty represents a lack of income to pay the bills, but wealth is a better indicator of economic security and opportunity. In 2013, you can see that the median wealth for people of color in the U.S. has changed little in the past 30 years, up slightly for Hispanics and down slightly for Blacks. People of color are more likely to be poor as well as facing discrimination and other imbedded barriers to saving for the future. One in four Black households in the U.S. own no assets other than a car. There is nothing to cover an unexpected expense, to send a child to college, start a business, or provide income for retirement. For a family with no assets, all of those things either require unsecured debt, often at high interest rates, or simply can't be managed at all.



A high school diploma is essential to getting a good-paying job. The dotted lines are the trend lines – they show that graduation rates are gradually improving but are still alarmingly low for some populations. Graduation rates have been in the 60s for students of color for the eight years shown here.

As a result, many of the best new jobs created by our strong economy are taken by people from outside the area rather than locals.



Along with strong employment in the Seattle Metro Area and importing labor from outside the area comes a housing crunch. This is a challenge for ending homelessness. Here we see the data comparing trend lines for rising rents and rising unsheltered homeless counts. A national study found that a 15% increase in homelessness was associated with every \$100 increase in median rent for metropolitan areas like ours. This data bears out that finding.



Causes of Homelessness

Lack of resources to pay for housing

- Job loss/other financial crises
- Substance use/mental health disorders
- Family conflict and domestic violence
- Credit/background problems

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The reason people are homeless is that they can't afford housing. Most become homeless due to a financial crisis like loss of a job. Health, family issues and credit and criminal background issues can contribute to loss of income and housing. They also can *result from* homelessness, and more than half of people experiencing homelessness need help with one or more of these issues. Research has found however, that the best results come when people get housing first. Services to address issues that threaten their stability in housing or opportunity to increase their incomes are more effective after housing has been secured. While we prioritize work to get people into housing more swiftly, we are also finding that with the large population of unsheltered people in King County and plentiful jobs, that many are willing, able and anxious to work while they wait for housing.

From around the world

The top 20 countries of origin of refugees who have come to Washington since 2003.

THE REST OF THE TOP 20

- 11 Vietnam
- 12 Dem. Rep. Congo
- 13 Sudan
- 14 Cuba
- 15 Belarus
- 16 Liberia
- 17 Burundi
- 18 Afghanistan
- 19 Kazakhstan
- 20 Kyrgyzstan



Source: U.S. Department of State

KELLY SHEA / THE SEATTLE TIMES



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Another part of the context, often cited by our grantees as a great challenge is changing demographics. The foreign-born population here has grown more than five times faster than the native-born population.

Asians make up the largest group of foreign-born residents here, but we have substantial populations of people from around the globe. Among the 3000-plus U.S. counties, King has the sixth-largest population of European-born residents, and also ranks sixth for the number of people born in Africa.

The map here shows the top 10 countries of origin of *refugees* who have come to Washington State since 2003.

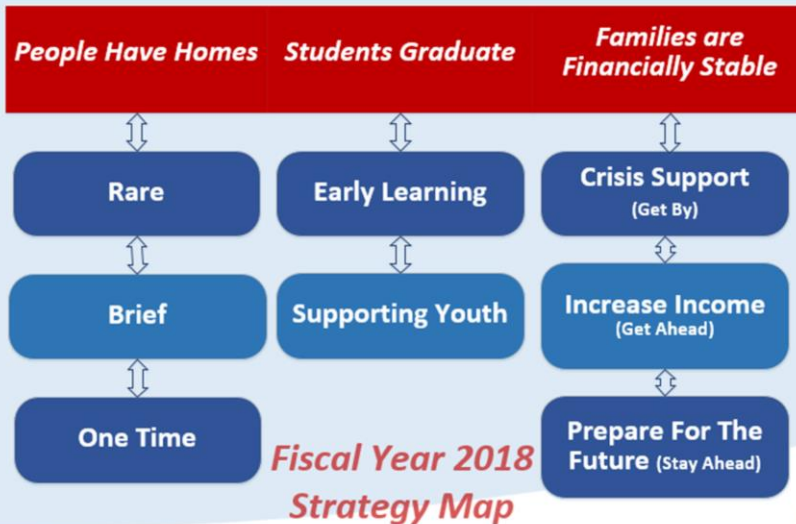
These new populations, often arriving after years of trauma and severe hardship and speaking multiple languages, pose significant challenges to health and human service organizations and schools in terms of linguistic and cultural responsiveness.

Together, we're building a
community where **people have
homes, students graduate, and
families are financially stable.**



Given that context, let's see how we are doing on our goals.

Together we are building a community where:



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This is a summary of our new Strategy Map, showing the strategies we are employing to achieve each goal. I will walk through each of the four major goals in our strategic plan, review some direct results of our strategies and where we stand in terms of the community conditions we are working to change.

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50% 

reduction in the number
of unsheltered people
in the annual One Night
Count

What we accomplished

2016 outcomes: 3,400 off the streets

89% stay housed

Developed new community-wide strategy

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In our ending homelessness work last year, our funding helped 3,400 people get off the streets and into permanent housing. The rate of retention, that is the percent who do not return to homelessness within two years, has been about 89% in the years for which we have data. We also worked with the City of Seattle, King County and other funders to sponsor a study and develop a new, data and research-based strategy to end homelessness in King County. It is now in its initial stages of implementation.

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Community Level Results

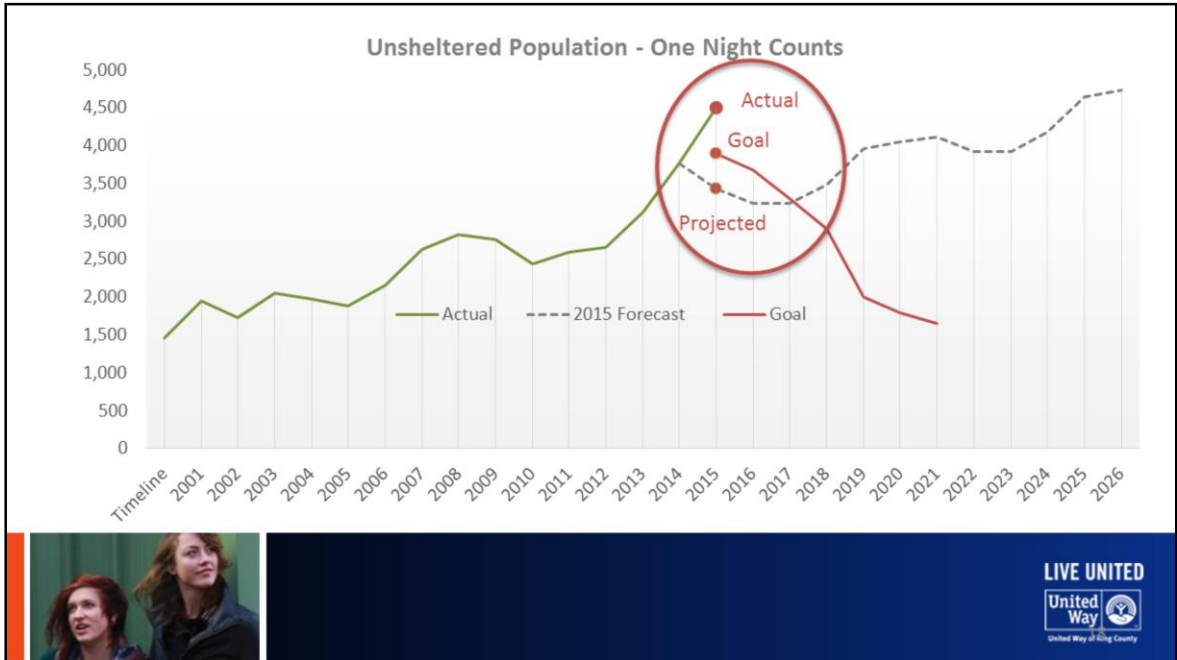
2016: Homelessness Up 19%

4,500 Unsheltered

10,688 Homeless

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Last year, homelessness increased even more than we expected.



This chart shows that we projected an increase in homelessness even above the statistical forecast shown by the dotted line. The actual count was even higher. We still are optimistic that, if our new community-wide plan can be fully implemented in the next year, we should still be able to achieve our goal.

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80%

of kids are ready
for kindergarten

What we accomplished

22,000 families served

8,100 parents improved skills

250 care providers trained

2,800 children w/delays met goals

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22,000 parents participated in United Way-funded educational and support activities to improve their skills in supporting children's early development. Of those, 8,100 measurably improved their skills. That number is equal to half of all parents in King County below poverty.

We also supported training and quality support to 250 early care and education program staff who served over 4,000 low-income children.

2,800 children with developmental delays and disabilities met developmental goals.

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Community Level Results

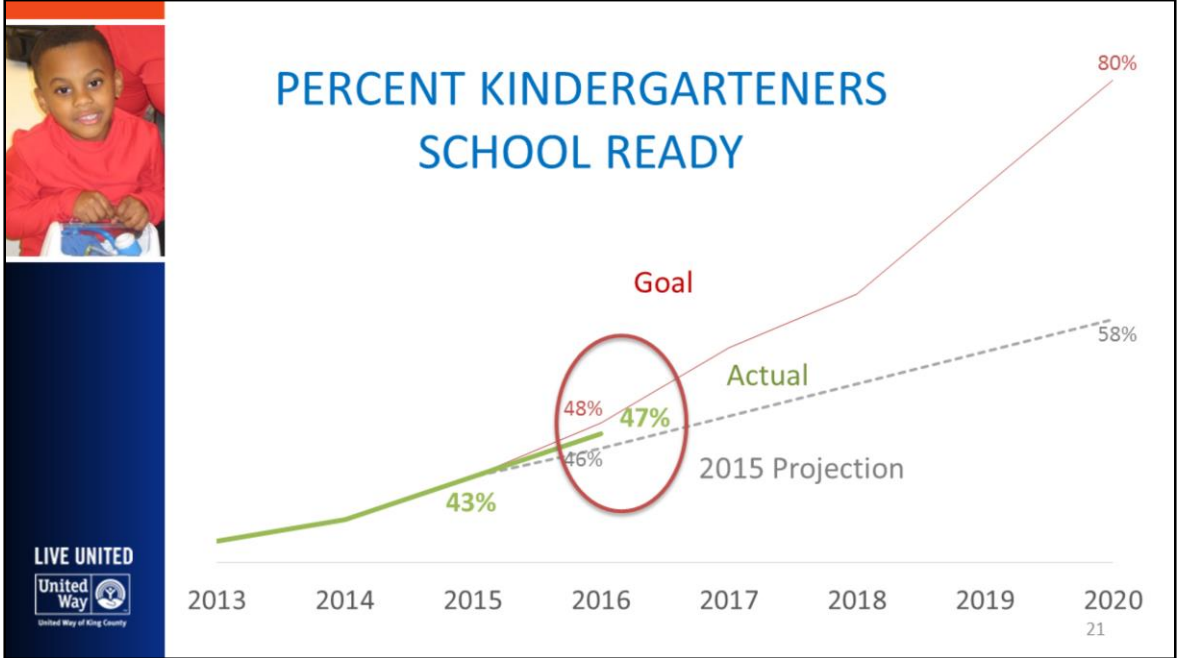
Kindergarten Readiness up 3%

Disparities:

	2016	2015
Black White gap	8 points	12 points
Hispanic White Gap	20 points	23 points

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Kindergarten readiness increased last year, all race and ethnic groups improved and disparities were reduced.



We are making progress on this goal, however not quite on track. This is one goal in which there is a time lag from intervention to results. Our PCHP program serves 2- and 3-year old children, who don't enter kindergarten for a couple more years. Other programs supported by our partners like Seattle's Pre-school for All will also begin having a greater effect in the next two years. So we do expect this trend to accelerate.

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50%



of disconnected youth
are on the path to
success

15,000 opportunity youth
1,970 high school-age youth dropping
out/year

What we accomplished

1,708 Youth Reconnected

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Of the 15,000 disconnected youth ages 16-21 in King County, we plan to re-engage 7,900 by 2020. After the first full year of the project we are exceeding our re-engagement goals and not on track in our GED/high school completion goals. We are changing some strategies to improve results.

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**What we accomplished, keeping youth
connected**

5,800 youth improved on academic goals

40,000 gained developmental
skills/behaviors

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We also work on preventing youth from dropping out. We are meeting our goals in this area in terms of numbers, but are making changes to focus more directly on drop-out prevention and on those youth most at risk for dropping out.

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50,000

people rise out of
poverty



What we accomplished

1,700 people got jobs

10,000 people accessed income supports

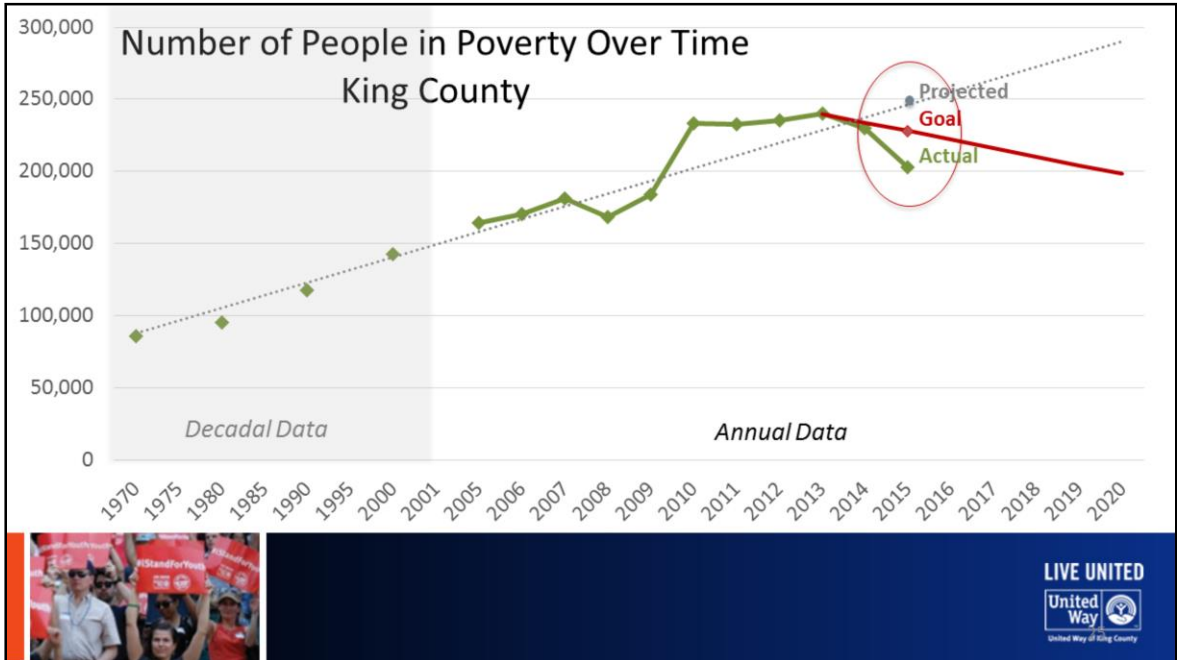
21,970 Tax Returns, \$30 million returns

500,000 People got help with basic needs

637,000 summer meals

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We are approaching poverty on several fronts. Strategies include help with employment, signing up for safety net benefits, meeting basic needs like food banks, information and referral, and free healthy meals for kids.



There were 230,000 people in King County with incomes below the federal poverty level in 2014, down to 203,000 in 2015. We don't claim total credit for this reduction, but we assume we contributed to it.

We have a good start on our goal of 50,000 fewer people in poverty by 2020. We have a tailwind on this goal due to economic conditions and hope we can continue to exceed our goals.

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The Big Picture

33,425 volunteers engaged

761 board leaders trained

150 volunteer improvement activities with
over 100 non-profits

145 National Service members deployed

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That gave you just a snapshot of results towards each goal. We are doing a lot more. These are some of our accomplishments in promoting volunteerism.

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The Big Picture

\$31,369,031 funding invested

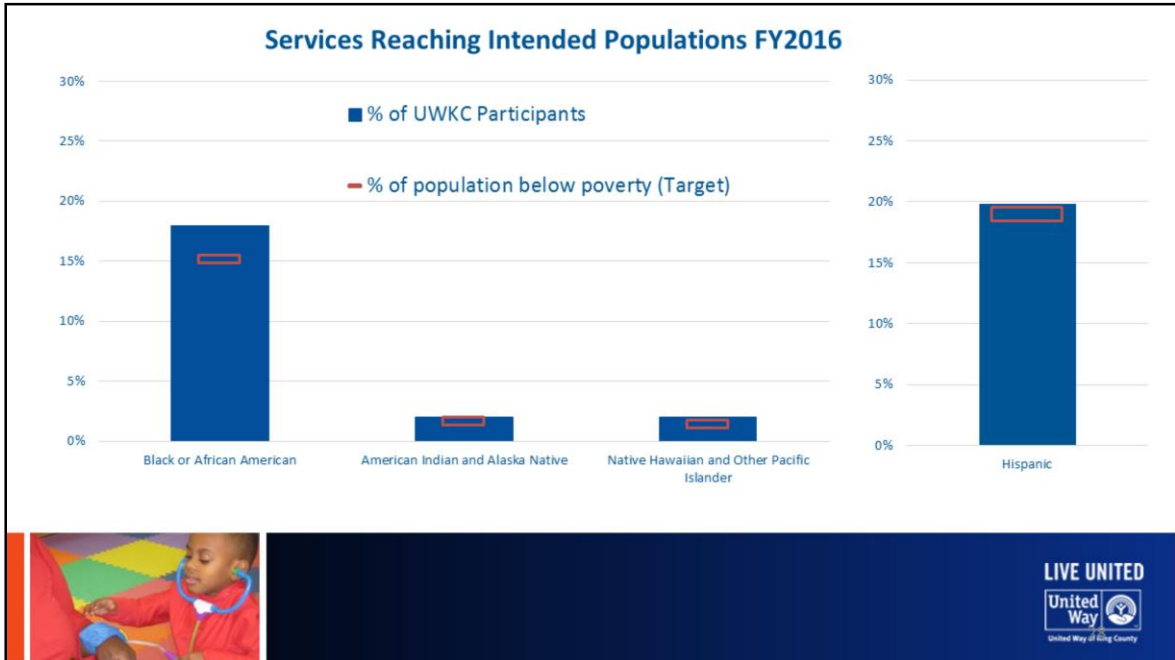
650,000 people served

69,000 achieved real changes

Equity: Reaching those most in need

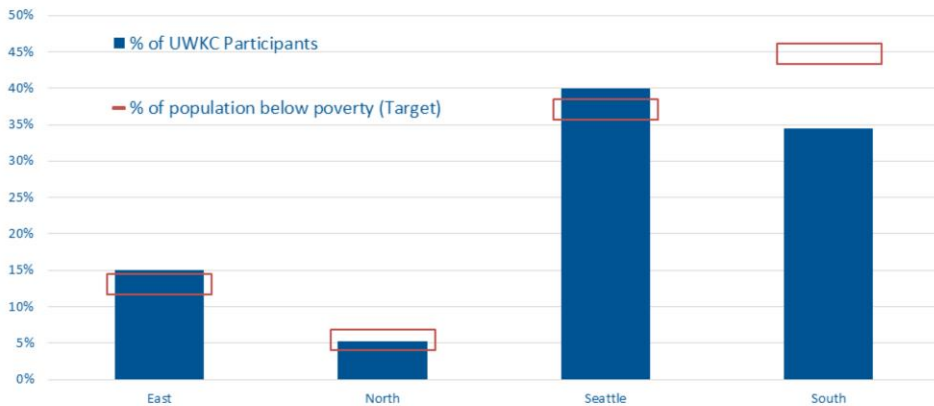
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And here is a high level summary of all our grantmaking results. Over 650,000 people received a service supported by United Way of King County. Of those, 69,000 engaged in services that resulted in a measurable change in their situation. We work to make sure our support is reaching those most in need and the next couple of slides show the results of those efforts.



We try to allocate our funding to programs that will serve people in proportion to need. We look for indicators of need for each of our investment areas. Because all of our goals focus on helping people with low incomes and especially communities of color that are impacted disproportionately by barriers to opportunity, we use race and poverty as the indicators of need overall for all our services combined. The red rectangles show the percent of people below poverty represented in each race and ethnic group. The blue bars show the percent of people benefiting from our support represented in each group. We are satisfied by the results shown here that our overall support is benefiting those most in need by this measure.

Services Reaching Intended Populations FY2016



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When we use poverty and geography, we find that we are missing the mark. We continue to work on increasing services in South King County where a large portion of people in poverty live. A particularly large portion of children of color live there as well.



Conclusions

- Strategies with strong results
- Others need adjustment
- Some under evaluation
- Challenges to be addressed

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The next three slides provide some conclusions we can draw from the information in this report and other evaluation work we have done this year. We have some strategies with strong results as well as some areas for course correction. We have a few newer strategies that are still under evaluation. Finally, we continue to strategize on how best to meet some key challenges to improve results.



Uphold Effective Strategies

- Parent-Child Home Program
- Reconnecting Youth
- Tax Campaign
- Access to Benefits

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These are some of the things that are working well to help us achieve our goals. We will continue to build on these strategies and expand them where possible.



Shift Strategies

- Ending Homelessness: Implement changes
- Increase focus on families of color with young children
- Increase engagement level of opportunity youth of color
- Reach those most in need with targeted strategies for financial stability

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- The System Wide Analytics and Projections study has identified several very specific changes we can make to the kinds of homeless assistance programs we fund and our contracting practices.
- We will continue to place greater focus on families of color with young children in multiple areas – this is the sweet spot for driving change in disparities and overall poverty for now and generations to come.
- We are making program modifications needed to better engage and retain opportunity youth of color.
- Across all our programs, we need to focus on lowest income to make the most difference through connection to benefits, education and good jobs.



Evaluate

- Jobs Connect/other employment services
- Streets to Home
- Child Nutrition
- Middle Grades Support
- Homeless Youth Plan



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These strategies all appear to be doing well, and merit further evaluation to determine how they can best contribute to achievement of our goals.



Meet Contextual Challenges

- Housing affordability
- Racial disparities
- Emerging populations



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While a strong economy is a tailwind for us, these are our headwinds.

- We continue to develop new strategies to address housing affordability such as shared housing and alternative housing models.
- We are making progress on racial disparities in some areas, but are finding barriers in others that we need to continue to working on for better interventions.
- Strategies to effectively serve emerging immigrant/refugee populations are a continuing challenge.

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Our new strategic plan has provided a roadmap for greater focus and more concrete goals for community impact. We are working within the current context of a positive economic climate along with significant housing and social challenges. We are making progress in many areas, have some good ideas about how to accelerate change and are optimistic that we will achieve our goals for the kind of community we seek. New and revised strategies will be finalized over the next month and spelled out in our Fiscal Year 2018 Strategy and Investment Plan Update.