

# STREETS TO HOME

Giving people the resources they need to be housed again.

DECEMBER 2018



Robert is a single dad who went from being incarcerated to being homeless. He had a job, but did not have enough saved up for a deposit. After staying with his sister for months and facing living in his car, Streets to Home helped him and his daughter Sarae secure a one-bedroom apartment.

## WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPED:

- Security deposit for an apartment
- Short-term housing after a medical emergency
- Reuniting with family and a more stable situation
- Removing an eviction from a person's record—or negotiating down debt—so that a landlord will rent to them



United Way of King County

## We know what it takes to fight our community's homelessness crisis: **Income and housing.**

### A HOUSING SOLUTION:

Sometimes the only thing between someone being housed and someone being homeless is not having enough money for a security deposit or needing an eviction removed from their record. In 2016, United Way wondered: Could working one-on-one with people, providing dollars to eliminate these types of hurdles make a significant difference in the number of people living on the street?

The answer is yes. It's why we now have Streets to Home.

### HOW IT WORKS

King County has many direct-service providers helping people get housed, but flexible funding to address whatever is keeping the individual from being housed was a new idea. Through Streets to Home, we:

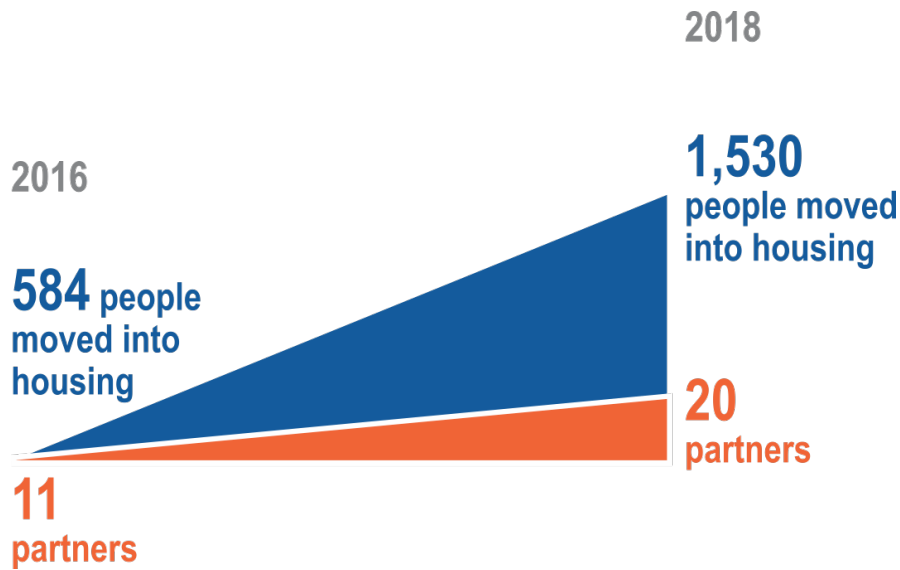
**Target people with low barriers.** This program focuses on people who are often just recently homeless, have an income and do not suffer from serious illness. We know that the more quickly people are housed, the less likely they are to fall back into homelessness—and this is a way of diverting them from the shelter system.

**Provide flexible dollars.** Providers are given leeway to come up with solutions that are quick and personalized. Typically, funding comes with a lot more restrictions. Funding is still monitored, of course—i.e. cash does not go directly to the client—but this flexibility opens up all sorts of opportunities.

**Offer creative housing solutions.** Because flexibility is core to the program, the housing solutions vary. One person may need help connecting with roommates to share the rent. Parents may need help making the most of a one bedroom apartment until they can increase their income. For someone else, we may offer housing in exchange for acting as “house manager,” supporting multiple individuals under one roof. The program focuses on the benefit of being housed over being in the emergency shelter system.

## FROM PILOT PHASE TO SCALE

The program has nearly tripled since the pilot in spring 2016. From 11 outreach partners serving 584 people, we've grown to 20 partners county-wide housing 1,530 people last year. Already, in the first quarter of this fiscal year, we've moved 529 people into homes.



## WHY UNITED WAY?



**EFFECTIVE.** The idea of flexible funding sounds simple. Because it is. It is also groundbreaking. This type of flexibility just isn't something that's been done before. Providing this flexibility has allowed us to move people into market rate housing for an average cost of \$1,000 per person.



**LEVERAGE.** We have 10 AmeriCorps on the ground making it easy for people to get support and help agencies evaluate, report on and improve their results.



**SCALE.** We piloted the program, did some fine-tuning and have taken it to scale.

**With a total donor investment of \$2M, we can meet next year's goal of housing 2,000 people.**