



UNITED WAY CHAMPIONS
Local solutions. Lasting impact.

HOME BASE

Housing Security During
the COVID-19 Crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically increased and shifted housing needs in Seattle and King County. Because of your financial commitment to year-round eviction prevention, we're helping people remain in their homes throughout this financial crisis.

PRE-COVID-19 CRISIS RESULTS

816

households avoided
eviction between April
and December 2019.

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR!

Home Base has been in full swing since April 2019.

The average cost per household to prevent an eviction in the early months was \$3,600. Recent wins in legislation have limited late fees—and we've seen that number lower over the last several months. We are also working to create a coordinated system that will help families sooner.

PIVOTING THE PROGRAM IN A PANDEMIC

In March, Home Base sites at the Kent and downtown Seattle courthouse were shut down and services moved online.

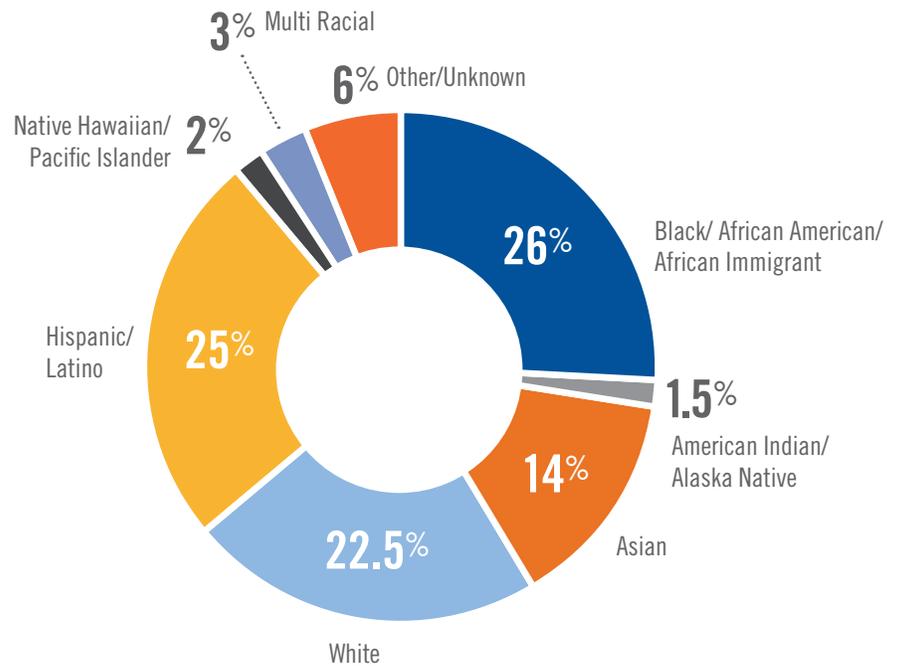
In mid-April we expanded the program to include rental assistance for people impacted financially by the COVID-19 crisis. At launch, our original plan was to help 2,000 families—we had more than 6,800 people apply over the first weekend. We continue to aggressively fundraise in hopes of meeting the need.

Here's who applied for help the first weekend after the program launched:

- **South-enders.** Nearly as many applicants live in south King County (2,323) as Seattle (2,400).
- **684 live on the eastside.** (Bellevue, Kirkland, Issaquah)
- **The majority are families.** 53% have children in the home.
- **611 are college students.** In many of these cases, we were able to redirect most to our Bridge to Finish rental assistance that Champions are making happen year-round.
- **72% are people of color.** People of color are already over-represented in homelessness and poverty in King County because of historical inequities. The income and wealth gaps in the Seattle-King County area are vast—and a crisis like this will widen them even further.

RACIAL EQUITY MATTERS

WHO HAS APPLIED FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE?



Our provider partners—Open Doors for Multicultural Families, Solid Ground, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle and Wellspring Family Services—fight institutional racism year-round and have deep roots in south King County and other areas in the region where the need is especially high.

In addition to the online application and the multiple languages supported by 2-1-1, a fifteen-member Racial Equity Coalition has identified community members who need rental assistance and are unable or uncomfortable with using technology to access the fund.



“It has been a difficult and painful process... I’m so thankful that I got help. I just don’t know what I’m going to do next month.”

Sofia, a house cleaner and mother of two young children, said clients started dropping her services slowly until mid-March when she ended up with zero clients—and no income.

As an immigrant with limited English, she had a hard time trying to get help for food and rent. Local churches and other organizations helped with the food, but she still hadn’t paid her April rent.

She was able to fill out the paperwork with some help from her church, and days after the program opened, her rent was paid.