



United Way of King County

United Way's Five Bold Moves

A Strategic Response to help make Homelessness Rare, Brief and One-time

You + United Way can help men, women and children who are living on the streets of King County today have a home. Our goal is to raise and invest up to five million dollars over the next 12 months.

By diverting people from the emergency shelter system, moving long-stayers out of shelter and holding providers accountable, we can significantly reduce the number of unsheltered people in King County.

We will align current resources around proven practices and leverage new funding to make significant change. Based on recommendations from the [SWAP](#) and Poppe reports, United Way will take a leadership role in reducing homelessness by quickly adopting comprehensive recommendations for improved efficiency and effectiveness.

United Way will:

- Raise up to \$5 million in support
- Vet, select and support agencies that have the capacity to quickly house individuals and families
- Leverage flexible funds to accelerate systems change in partnership with City of Seattle and King County
- Require Coordinated Entry compliance – gathering enough personal information to ensure we connect people to the best housing solutions – of any grantees
- Put 20+ AmeriCorps Members on-the-ground, doing the important work of outreach and support
- Influence public policy to leverage more resources for homeless services

Bold Move One. EXPAND STREETS TO HOME (\$750K)

Goal: 930 people are diverted from shelter system and moved into stable housing

United Way's Leverage: Unique funder in this space

Streets to Home is an individualized approach; outreach workers have discretionary dollars to help people get back on their feet by funding security deposits, access to temporary housing, or reuniting with extended family members for a more stable situation. Through this program, begun in November of 2015, United Way partners with 11 service providers with proven outreach capacity and experience. Together, through **Streets to Home often** we're diverting families and individuals from ever entering the shelter system.

Additional funds will support the following:

- Expand program with focus on homeless families
- Leverage existing county-wide system (called regional access points) and coordinated entry system to ensure maximum reach
- Maximize the impact of United Way's Housing Ready AmeriCorps members, placed at 4 regional access points, by increasing flexible funds available to divert families to housing
 - Solid Ground (North)
 - Catholic Community Services (Central)
 - Catholic Community Services (East)
 - Multi Service Center (South)

Bold Move Two. SCALE RAPID RE-HOUSING (\$1 Million)

Goal: 250+ people are rapidly housed and moved into permanent housing (at least 86 households)

United Way's Leverage: Unique funder in this space

Rapid Re-housing is a national best practice that focuses on moving people to permanent housing first, then providing services. Last year we helped hundreds of people regain housing through support like mediation and short-term rental assistance.

Additional funds will support the following:

- **Rapid Re-housing** for families by providing financial assistance to help them quickly secure housing and support to address barriers to long-term housing stability, including connections to employment and services tailored to the unique needs of the household.
- Key agencies that deliver Rapid Re-housing, and have the capacity to expand, include:
 - Catholic Community Services
 - Neighborhood House
 - Solid Ground
 - Wellspring
 - YWCA

Bold Move Three. HOUSING FIRST / RENTAL ACCESS (\$1 Million)

Goal: 1,500 people move into permanent housing (500 households)

United Way's Leverage: Significant, with government partners

We know the faster we get individuals and families off the streets and out of the homeless shelter system, the better the long-term results. Two critical areas of support are investments in permanent supportive housing services (clients with serious mental health and drug and alcohol addiction) and increasing access to area market-rate housing.

Additional funds will support rental access by the following:

- Accelerate the pairing of affordable housing units to families with housing vouchers and subsidies
- Increase the reach of the Landlord Liaison Project through increased outreach to landlords and increased dollars available for security deposits and the risk mitigation fund
- In partnership with the City of Seattle, develop the Seattle Housing Resource Center which will match homeless families with available rental units.

Bold Move Four. CHANGE THE SHELTER SYSTEM (\$1.5 Million)

Goal: 15,000 people access shelter and 15+ shelter providers reduce the length of stays

United Way's Leverage: Significant, with government partners

Staying in emergency shelter makes it difficult for kids to do their homework and stay on track in school. Sleeping at shelters makes it difficult to hang on to your job and—and even more difficult to find a job when you're forced to carry all of your belongings with you during the day. United Way seeks to dramatically reduce the length of shelter stays.

Additional investments will include:

- Make flexible funds available to accelerate the movement of families through the shelter system and out to housing, thus increasing the number of families served per quarter.
- Increase the capacity and effectiveness of family shelters to focus on moving clients on to permanent housing solutions.
- Invest in the City of Seattle's planned Navigation Center- a 24-hour, low-barrier shelter to move families and individuals out of encampments and start on the path to permanent housing. (Key partners DESC and Operation Sack Lunch)

Bold Move Five. EXPAND PREVENTION (\$750K)

Goal: 5,000 people receive eviction prevention services

United Way's Leverage: Moderate

One effective way to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness is to prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place. Last year, we helped 4,591 people stay in their homes. We will increase our investments in proven practices that will sustain families through difficult life circumstances without compounding their problems by having them lose their housing.

Additional funds will support the following:

- Targeted expansion of eviction prevention and housing stabilization resources for families
- Connect individuals and families to benefits, employment and community-based services
- Build on a successful partnership with Neighborhood House and the King County Housing Authority to scale programs that identify and stabilize families

- Partner with agencies to identify families at risk of homelessness and rapidly intervene with flexible funds and case management. Partners could include:
 - Seattle Housing Authority
 - King County Housing Authority
 - Area School Districts

To discuss one-time or multi-year investments, please contact any member of the development staff by calling 206.461.4908. Thank you for sharing our belief that homelessness should be rare, brief and one-time.