

# STREETS TO HOME

Giving people the resources they need to be housed again.

JANUARY 2018



**Aeshia** moved to town for a nursing position at the VA hospital. High housing costs and bad credit made it difficult to find a place to rent. After weeks of living in her car while working full time, Streets to Homes funding helped her and her son secure an apartment.

## WAYS PEOPLE ARE HELPED:

- ❑ Security deposit for an apartment
- ❑ Short-term housing after medical emergency
- ❑ Reuniting with family and a more stable situation
- ❑ Removing an eviction from a person's record for a fresh start
- ❑ Temporary housing while someone waits for first paycheck to move into a more permanent setting



United Way of King County

## CURRENT STATE

Homelessness continues to be a crisis in King County—the last point-in-time count showed 5,485 people living on the streets, in cars or on encampments, up significantly from the year before.

Two years ago we introduced a pilot program that provides outreach workers with flexible funds to move people off the streets into stable housing. The pilot was successful and 584 people moved off the street. This year, we've expanded the populations we serve—and added services for people who require more than one-time support. In the first half of the year, we've already helped 821 people avoid the shelter system and move off the street.

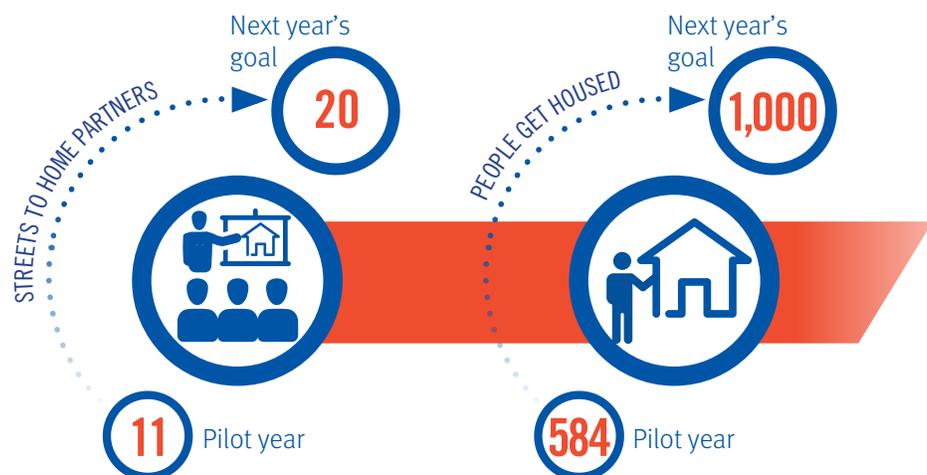
## OUR APPROACH

We know that the sooner people move off the streets, the less likely they are to fall back into homelessness. We invest in making housing accessible—whether it's providing people one-time support or working with landlords to eliminate barriers, we're helping people move off the streets.

Outreach staff—Streets to Home navigators—provide flexible funds so they can individualize the support. One person may need help removing an eviction from their record and the other may need help with a security deposit.

## TAKING IT TO SCALE

We'll grow this program from serving 584 single adults to working with families and youth—with the goal of serving 1,000 people. We work with 20 agencies including from-the-start partners like Compass Housing Alliance and Chief Seattle Club and new-this-year partners like Mary's Place and New Beginnings.



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## WHAT'S NEW

While the Streets to Home program's one-time support works for many, some people need extended services. We're working at all levels to increase availability to housing by increasing our people power and providing longer-term support where needed.

### Rapid Re-housing

Rapid Re-housing is a national best practice and focuses on helping people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency and remain housed. We invest in more in-depth rental subsidies (which may be for three months, gradually requiring the client to pay a larger share) and additional support, like job training. Our goal is to serve 430 people.

### Landlord Engagement

Connecting people experiencing homelessness with safe and stable homes is critical to ending homelessness. But in a rental market as competitive as ours, apartments don't stay vacant for long – and landlords and property owners often need assurance when renting to people with rental records that are not entirely clean. We work with landlords to minimize their risk, create incentives to relax screening criteria, and navigate lease disputes.

### 10 Streets to Home AmeriCorps

We are leveraging the federal national service program with 10 AmeriCorps on the ground, connecting with people who are homeless. These AmeriCorps are armed with flexible funds—like the tried-and-true Streets to Home navigators—and are helping with individual support. The team works at Regional Access Points for people experiencing homelessness with four partners: Solid Ground, Catholic Community Services, YWCA and Multi Service Center.

