Addressing Homelessness

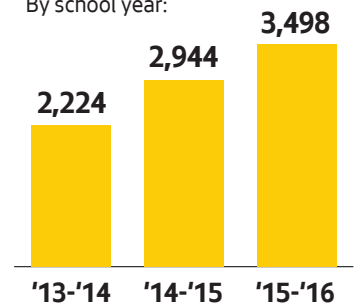## Working So That All People in Seattle Are Sheltered

➡ THE ISSUE

Seattle is third in the nation behind New York and Los Angeles in housing those who are homeless. But the one-night homeless count has increased each year. Many factors contribute to high rates of homelessness in Seattle, including historic underfunding of mental health and chemical dependency treatment services, foster care, criminal justice institutions, rising costs of housing, slow wage growth, and an affordable housing stock far below demand. Not everyone has benefited equally from the economic recovery, and economic and racial inequalities persist.

Homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color when compared to their representation in the population overall.

3x Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander

5x Black/ African American

7x Native American/ Alaska Native

2,942 people living unsheltered in Seattle on any given night

Homeless students attending Seattle Public Schools

By school year:

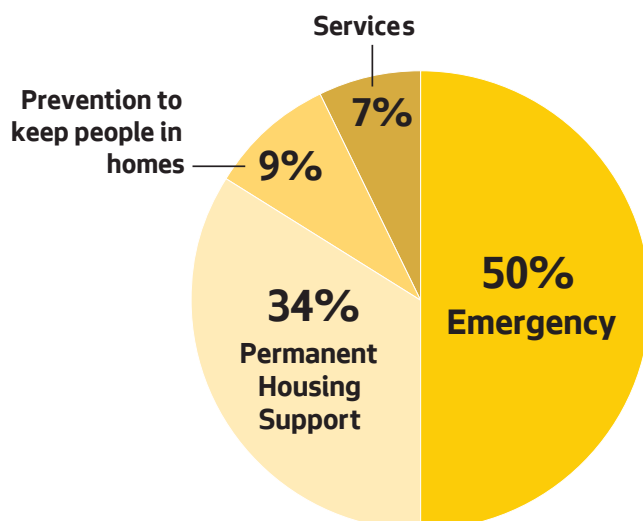| '13-'14	'14-'15	'15-'16
2,224	2,944	3,498

▲ *Homeless students attending Seattle Public Schools increased 19% between the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years*

➡ INVESTMENT TOTAL: $55 million

Investment breakdown:

- 50% Emergency
- 34% Permanent Housing Support
- 9% Prevention to keep people in homes
- 7% Services

- **$9.2 million** Housing Stability Services
- **$5 million** Homeless Youth Services
- **$4.9 million** Community Facilities
- **$2.1 million** Homeless Outreach and Case Management
- **$11.8 million** Emergency Shelters
- **$8 million** Permanent Supportive Housing
- **$3.2 million** Transitional Housing
- **$3.1 million** Day Centers

➡ IMPACT

Pathways Home Initiative

In response to recommendations from two national consulting firms with expertise in homeless system evaluation and reform, HSD developed the Pathways Home Initiative. The plan's key principles are to increase accountability, expand performance-based contracting, shift the focus of City investments to achieve exits from homelessness, and expand enhanced service models to better meet the individualized needs of people who are living unsheltered.

Comprehensive Homeless Needs Assessment

HSD contracted with Applied Survey Research to talk with 1,050 unsheltered individuals in November 2016. They surveyed people living on the streets, in encampments, and in public shelters to further understand their situations and needs, and to better inform the City's responses with its partners. This is the largest survey of homeless people conducted to date by the City.

Funder Alignment

In 2016, HSD signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with All Home, King County, and United Way of King County committing to a shared set of performance measures for the agencies they fund with the vision of homelessness as rare, brief, and one-time in our community. The MOU became a way to align the community priorities across the entire network, and tie funding to outcomes that improve the effectiveness of the system.

6,128

exits to permanent housing throughout King County

41%

of survey respondents experiencing homelessness reported they were employed full-time, part-time, or seasonally

5 impact areas

- Exits to Permanent Housing
- Average Length of Stay
- Returns to Homelessness
- Homeless Entries
- Utilization Rate

Impact Story

Melanie had hit rock bottom before she joined YouthCare's Tile Project, a training program in which youth earn minimum wage as they create art. She had been working as a nanny, making good money. Then she got really sick. She lost her job, and because she lost her job, she lost her apartment. She didn't know what to do with herself. Then she came across YouthCare and the Tile Project. She told herself to give it a try and her earned paycheck would help her get back on her feet. But, it turned out that the paycheck isn't the only thing that she really needed. It was the support and the environment that really made her show up every day. The Tile Project was an opportunity to really see herself in a different light and environment. It made her feel good. Several case managers worked together and constantly encouraged Melanie to keep going, which helped her move forward into self-sufficiency. She is now in her own apartment, and back on the path she worked so hard to find.

Seattle
Human Services
2016