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| **Providing housing stability for Seattle students experiencing homelessness** | |
| *Quote*  *- Colleague, Title* | |
| **THE NEED**  Homelessness and housing instability have particularly significant effects on youth and young adults. Homelessness introduces trauma that disrupts the lives of young people, and has lasting effects on their health and well-being. The length and number of homelessness episodes a child endures compounds the effects of toxic stress and the risk of negative health outcomes that can last a lifetime. Moreover, the lack of stable housing presents substantial barriers to academic success. National research explains homeless or unstably housed children are often absent, change schools frequently, have lower test scores, slower grade progression, and are more likely to drop out of school. In Seattle, 3,498 Seattle Public Schools (SPS) students were homeless or unstably housed in 2015-16.  **OUR APPROACH**  Innovation & Performance (IP) engaged key stakeholders actively involved in addressing youth homelessness, including All Home King County, Schoolhouse Washington/Building Changes, Raikes Foundation, Gates Foundation, and Seattle Public Schools. IP supported the creation of the [Seattle Atlas of Student Homelessness](https://www.icphusa.org/reports/the-seattle-atlas-of-student-homelessness/), a data-driven analysis of student homelessness in Seattle. Insights from key stakeholders and the quantitative data helped to generate the idea to meet students and their families where they are - at school - with resources to transition to stable housing. IP partnered with the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) and Human Services Department to design an intervention that would be delivered by a community-based organization.  **THE RESULTS**  In 2018, Seattle voters approved the [Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy](https://www.seattle.gov/education/big-initiatives/fepp-levy), which included seven years of dedicated funding for the Homelessness and Housing Support Services. DEEL leads this investment, which enables the school district, school administrators, and teachers to focus on students’ academic needs while leveraging an experienced housing partner for housing assistance. The same year, IP partnered with SPS to optimize business processes and systems that support the McKinney-Vento program. To-date, this investment has served families across the city and provided support during the COVID pandemic. | **DEPARTMENT PARTNERS**  Dept. of Education & Early Learning  **EXTERNAL PARTNERS**  Raikes Foundation  Schoolhouse WA  Seattle Public Schools  **PROJECT**  **DURATION**  2017-2018  **IMPACT**  Secured $4M over seven years to support students secure permanent housing  **KEY DEPARTMENT**  **CONTACTS**   * Chris Alejano (DEEL)     **FOR MORE**  **INFORMATION**  **CONTACT**   * Tina Walha (IP) * Rachael Cicero (IP) |