



# A WAY HOME WASHINGTON

January 2022

- **New Anchor Communities Announced**
- **2022 Legislative Session Agenda**
- **We're Hiring!**

## **New Anchor Communities Announced**

We are excited to announce our new **Anchor Communities!** Skagit County, Whatcom County, Clark County, Thurston County, and Jefferson and Clallam Counties – five communities across six counties – join the initial and continuing Anchor Communities of Pierce, Spokane, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties in committing to intensive, collaborative efforts to prevent and end homelessness for unaccompanied youth and young adults.

The progress achieved by the initial Anchor Communities moved the state legislature in last year's session to dedicate the resources necessary to more than double the number of participating communities. This increase positions Washington to make functionally ending homelessness among young people in our state a reality.



"The circumstances that lead to the experience of homelessness can vary greatly, so solutions also need to be varied. Tailoring approaches to prevent and end homelessness that take into account the circumstances of young people and the communities they live in is the focus of our flagship program, the Anchor Community Initiative," said Julie Patiño, Executive Director for A Way Home Washington. "These intensive whole-community-driven, data and solution-focused efforts are increasing our understanding of what works in preventing and ending homelessness for young people. It also powers our ability to proactively share learnings and provide training and assistance to all interested communities across Washington state."

Applications to join the Anchor Community Initiative were solicited from communities statewide and reviewed by a selection committee led by AWHWA and the Office of Homeless Youth, our partner in this initiative. Selection committee members with diverse backgrounds and experiences, including young people with lived experience of homelessness, based their review on multiple criteria, including a commitment to long-term support across multiple sectors, engagement with young people with lived experience, ability to create and use a real-time By-Name List, and a commitment to and vision for ending youth homelessness, including disproportionality.

To learn more about the Anchor Community Initiative, please contact us at [ACIDepartment@awayhomewa.org](mailto:ACIDepartment@awayhomewa.org)

## Advocating for Change

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As the 2022 state legislative session begins, we want to update you on the new and expanded efforts A Way Home Washington is taking to advocate – together with community members across the state – for policies that support our shared goal of preventing and ending youth and young adult homelessness.

First, we want to introduce you to our new lobbyist, Sam Martin, CEO and Lead Lobbyist with SDM Consulting. With lived experience within the systems he's dedicated to improving, Sam brings extensive experience working with government, corporations, and non-profit organizations to develop legislation and policies that positively impact the lives of people across Washington state. Like AWHWA, Sam is committed to tapping into the power of experience to elevate the voices of those impacted by policy and empower them to use their voice to advocate and lead. You can learn more about Sam [here](#).



We encourage you to join Sam & Julie on the first Friday of each month during the legislative session to hear updates on this year's session and progress toward our legislative agenda. Be sure to check out our [cool new tailored bill tracking information!](#) You'll see our focus in the current, short session centers on:

- **Representative Senn's Omnibus** – Keeping the promise of [SB18-6560](#) by ensuring that no youth is discharged from a public system of care into homelessness.
- [HB 1175](#) - **Host Home Tax Credit** – Removing barriers to being a host home for young people who are unhoused or in foster care.
- [HB 2009](#) - **Evergreen Basic Income** – Ensuring there is a specific call out for young adults.

With your input, we're working to develop advocacy engagement opportunities, training, and support we can provide to communities on a year-round basis – beyond the legislative session. Through ongoing dialogue, we want to:

- Ensure that policy solutions are formulated based on lived experience – not the other way around,
- Make it easy for community members to advocate, whether by going on the record, testifying, or other means, and
- Identify and determine strategies around key issues, opportunities and challenges, including ways to mobilize stakeholders to take action.

We welcome you to share your thoughts in our monthly calls or by reaching out to us at any time. To learn more/sign up for our monthly calls, please email Deonate Cruz, Strategic Communications Coordinator at [Dcruz@awayhomewa.org](mailto:Dcruz@awayhomewa.org). You can also reach out directly to Julie Patiño at [Jpatino@awayhomewa.org](mailto:Jpatino@awayhomewa.org) or Sam Martin at [Sam@sdmartinconsulting.com](mailto:Sam@sdmartinconsulting.com).



The strategic guidance and careful planning by our leadership, together with strong support from our partners and funders, has made it possible to significantly grow our community-intensive and statewide efforts! With new positions in communications, finance, administration, community-based coordinators, and more, this expansion is designed to ensure we have the staff to effectively support Anchor Communities, which have more than doubled, and provide training and assistance to all interested communities across Washington.

We're excited too that our evolved staffing approach is embedding AWHWA staff members in communities across the state, helping us to better understand local landscapes and strengthen authentic community-based connections.

AWHWA seeks applicants who thrive in dynamic work environments and are goal driven, collaborative and unabashedly dedicated to our mission. Successful candidates will also be equity- and justice-driven, seeking to end the injustice of the disproportionate amount of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ young people experiencing homelessness.

Please share these opportunities and position descriptions with your networks. Check our regularly updated [careers page](#) on our website for more info about which positions we are hiring for. We encourage people with lived experience of homelessness, Black, Indigenous and People of Color, people who identify as LGBTQ+, and people with different levels of abilities to apply:

- [Strategic Communications Director](#)
- [Administration & Finance Director](#)
- [Executive Operations Coordinator](#)
- [Data Capacity Building Coordinator](#)
- [Anchor Community Initiative Coordinator, Whatcom County](#)
- [Anchor Community Initiative Coordinator, Thurston County](#)
- [Anchor Community Initiative Coordinator, Skagit County](#)
- [Anchor Community Initiative Coordinator, Clark County](#)
- [Anchor Community Initiative Coordinator, Jefferson-Clallam Counties](#)
- [Statewide Training & Engagement Director](#)
- [ACI Coaching & Improvement Manager](#)

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