



A WAY HOME WASHINGTON

February 2022



BLACK LIVES MATTER BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL

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Black, Indigenous and Latinx youth and young adults, together with young people who identify as LGBTQ+, experience homelessness at disproportionately high rates. The intersection of different marginalized identities compounds inequities among youth of color, with [Black youth identifying as LGBTQ+](#) experiencing especially high rates of homelessness and adversity ([Chapin Hall](#)). The Covid-19 pandemic further exacerbated these disproportionate impacts. In Washington state, Hispanic/Latinx young people were the most likely to experience job loss and Black/African American young people were the second most likely ([AWHWA](#)). A Way Home Washington (AWHWA) is committed to advancing innovative and proven approaches to preventing and ending homelessness that prioritize young people of color and those who identify as LGBTQ+.

LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Evergreen Basic Income Trust

Each session A Way Home Washington takes positions on current bills that stand to advance or impede efforts to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness in Washington (see [AWHWA's Legislative Agenda](#)). One such bill that we have been advocating for this session is the Evergreen Basic Income Trust, [HB 2009](#). This approach – also sometimes referred to as Guaranteed Basic Income or Universal Basic Income – puts cash resources directly in the hands of people living in poverty, giving them the ability to address their basic needs. This is critical with [some studies showing](#) that people living below or near the Federal Poverty Limit spend up to 75% of their funds

ACT NOW

Send a message of support asking that the Washington Legislature invest resources for a [Basic Guaranteed Income \(GBI\) Pilot and accompanying study](#). A growing body of evidence suggests that GBI can reduce poverty, increase economic mobility, and improve health and well-being, as well as provide wealth-building opportunities in communities where that has been historically difficult or discouraged.

on essentials like food, utilities, and medical care.

Message



A lack of adequate income is a leading cause of homelessness for young people!



Low pay, inadequate or unpredictable work hours, and limited or no benefits make it incredibly difficult for young people to achieve stability, let alone thrive.

This approach has been researched and piloted in various forms in locations across the U.S. and in other countries, along with a pilot currently underway in Tacoma, WA ([learn more](#)). Like other individual policies, systems, and approaches, learnings show that a guaranteed basic income alone won't eradicate youth homelessness but is effective in laying a foundation from which people can move from stability to opportunity. Something as simple as a modest, regular supplemental basic income can give people a chance to save, seek help, and find a safe place to call home. For example, the Stockton (California) Economic Empowerment Demonstration ([SEED](#)) gave 125 people in low-income neighborhoods \$500 each month for two years. Independent researchers found households that received money through this pilot program saw a **12% increase in full-time employment**, more than twice the control group's increase. And less than 1% of the money, tracked through debit card purchases, went toward tobacco or alcohol.

At its core, guaranteed basic income is about countering income inequality and racial injustice, and has been shown to be an effective way to increase financial stability among people, especially young adults who are struggling to cover essential expenses.

As we press "send" on this month's newsletter, HB 2009 did not make it out of legislative committee but is being pursued as a condensed pilot through a budget provision. This bill represents an ambitious first step and we thank Representative Berry and all legislators who supported this measure, along with the folks who testified and advocated for this critical homelessness prevention measure. We will keep you updated as this measure continues to make its way through the legislative process, as well as additional, continuing efforts to move guaranteed basic income forward for young people across Washington in more robust ways. We welcome your thoughts and support in this endeavor.

Reminder

We're Hiring!

As we announced in last month's newsletter, A Way Home Washington is seeking several new staff members to support our growth of statewide services, along with the expansion of our Anchor Community Initiative.

NOTE: You can see a listing of all position openings on the [Careers](#) page on our website. Several of these positions are embedded in the new Anchor Communities.

We are looking for candidates who thrive in dynamic work environments and are goal driven, collaborative and unabashedly dedicated to our mission. More specifically we are looking for

candidates that are equity- and justice-driven people who seek to end the injustice of the disproportionate amount of BIPOC and LGBTQ+ young people experiencing homelessness. We'd love to see candidates who are skilled working with diverse communities, and we encourage applications from Black, Indigenous, Latinx and other People of Color and people who are LGBTQ+.



Also, our partners at the Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) are hiring for a full time Youth and Young Adults Data Analyst position. This represents a collaboration between A Way Home Washington's data team and the WA Department of Commerce and OHY to commit time and resources in furtherance of data support to the Anchor Communities. As such, 50% of this position will be dedicated to supporting, building out, and maintaining data infrastructure that is crucial to understanding the barriers to preventing and ending homelessness for young people in every community in Washington.

Apply

Please share these opportunities and position descriptions with your networks!

We welcome you to share your thoughts. If you have questions or concerns, please email Deonate Cruz, Strategic Communications Coordinator at Dcruz@awayhomewa.org.

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