



WA Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy

Washington State Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Act

2SSB 5404—Effective Date: July 24, 2015

The Homeless Youth Prevention & Protection (HYPP) Act:

- Creates the Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Programs (HYPP Office) in the Department of Commerce. The HYPP Office will take responsibility for the issue of youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness at the state level. The HYPP Office's goals are to measurably decrease the number of YYA who experience homelessness, identify the causes of YYA homelessness, and measurably increase the number of unaccompanied homeless youth who can be safely and appropriately reunified with family.
- Requires the HYPP Office to increase state system integration and coordinate efforts to prevent systems of care, like foster care or juvenile justice, from discharging YYA into homelessness.
- Requires the HYPP Office to gather data and outcome measures. Also directs the HYPP Office to develop specific recommendations and timelines to address funding, policy, and practice gaps within the state. Currently, YYA in rural areas are often underserved or unable to find any services within their community.
- Transfers management and oversight guidance of HOPE Centers, Street Youth Services, and Crisis Residential Centers from DSHS, Children's Administration to the HYPP Office.
- Establishes the goal that the following key components are available and accessible to YYA experiencing homelessness:

Stable Housing • Family Reconciliation

Education and Employment • Permanent Connections • Social and Emotional Wellbeing

In 2014 and 2015, the Washington Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy (WACHYA) developed and successfully advocated for the passage of the Homeless Youth Act, later renamed the Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection (HYPP) Act. WACHYA's goal was to pass legislation that would reduce and prevent YYA homelessness in **every** community in our state. WACHYA believes that to **successfully** address this issue, our state must ensure that YYA experiencing homelessness have the support they need to **thrive** and avoid more costly outcomes in the criminal justice system, human trafficking, long-term dependence on public benefits, or chronic adult homelessness.

WACHYA is a partnership of over 40 organizations dedicated to improving the lives of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Together, we speak as one voice to our elected leaders across Washington state, raising awareness for homeless youth issues and urging support for much needed reforms.

For questions or comments, please contact:

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Updated 5/05/15