



# Make Permanent Washington's Most Vital Resource for Homelessness Programs

Prevent the sunset of the state's document recording fees  
Facebook/Twitter Hashtag: #DRF2014

## Utilizing the Private Market

Document Recording Fees benefit private market landlords. In fact, 91% of the state and local fees used for rent assistance, are paid to landlords in the private market. The remaining rental assistance is used in nonprofit or public housing. Rental assistance accounts for more than 60% of the total funds.

## Rural Washington Depends on These Fees

In general, rural homelessness budgets are more reliant on revenue from document recording fees than urban areas. According to the Department of Commerce, 61% of rural homelessness project budgets are fee-supported, versus 35% of urban homelessness budgets. A loss of recording fees greatly endangers rural Washington.

## It's Working

- The **2013 Point In Time Count documented an 8% decrease in the rate of unsheltered homelessness** from the previous year, and a 15% unsheltered homelessness decrease from 2006.
- **Unsheltered families with children reduced by 28% from 2012** and decreased by 73% from 2006.
- According to the Department of Commerce, there were about **3,500 more households receiving homeless and housing assistance during the 2013 Point in Time Count than during the 2012 Point in Time Count.** This greatly contributed to the reduction in homelessness.

Updated 1/8/2014

## Washington's homelessness programs work.

We can prevent and end homelessness with targeted investments and evidence-based services. **The total incidence of homelessness has decreased by 29% since 2006.** At the same time, there are more people at risk of homelessness than ever before. Poverty rates remain high, rents have risen, and more homeless children are being counted in schools across the state. But when people were connected with "springboard" services, they were housed and provided with the resources needed to bounce back on their feet, exit homelessness, and thrive.

## Document recording fees are a vital resource.

Washington State has embraced the use of modest recording fees on some real estate related documents as a significant source of funds for homelessness programs. These effective state and local programs help transition people off the streets into shelters and homes. The fees are the state's most significant funding source for homelessness programs, representing almost half of all funds.

This fee is set to reduce by \$10 in July 2015 and then reduce by another \$20 in July 2017. **This would result in a loss of 62.5% of total current funding for homelessness.** If this happens, effective homelessness programs across the state will experience severe cuts or will close. This could seriously set back the progress we've made in decreasing homelessness in Washington.

## Effective programs are at risk.

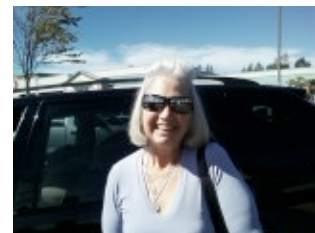
Document recording fees **fund domestic violence and emergency shelters, provide rental and moving assistance, and fund other critical programs that prevent and end homelessness.** Here are a examples of effective programs that will experience severe reductions in service:

**Whatcom County** created and continues to maintain a Homeless Service Center with document recording fee funds. Here people can access a wide range of help in a single location. Since the center began in 2008, overall homelessness has decreased by 34%, and the number of homeless veterans is down 60%. Recording fee funds make interagency coordination more feasible, resulting in these impressive outcomes.

**King County's** Landlord Liaison Project (LLP) worked with 173 landlords and 53 service agencies to secure rental housing in the private market for 2,231 people with barriers to renting, such as a criminal record, eviction record, or negative credit history. The LLP reassures landlords by paying for case management services, a 24-hour support hotline, access to resources to prevent loss of housing, and the availability of a Landlord Risk Reduction Fund to cover unexpected costs (such as physical damage to a rental unit).

## Don't allow the fees to sunset.

**Make the document recording fees permanent** to keep Washington on the successful path of preventing and ending homelessness.



*Pamela went from sleeping in her car to living in a stable home thanks to a document recording fee-funded program in King County.*