

## PRIORITY AGENDA

<p><b>Family Reconciliation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Strengthen families through a robust system response to crisis</b>—Expand access to services and support for families and youth in crisis statewide through a <b>Family In Need of Services (FINS)</b> petition. A robust system response should also include shelter and housing options for minors while family reunification efforts are underway.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improve Data and Funding</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Sustain state and local funding for homeless response services (HB 1570)</b>—Ensure the state and our local communities have <b>needed funds</b> to respond to the crisis of homelessness among youth, young adults, families, and individuals with effective and robust services.</li> <li>● <b>Improve data on youth homelessness (HB 1630)</b>—Allow minors to consent to share personally identifying information with the <b>Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stable Housing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Improve access to Extended Foster Care</b>—Allow foster youth to enter <b>Extended Foster Care (EFC)</b> up to age 21, streamline process to enter, and allow dependent youth in JRA or other institutions on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to establish eligibility upon release from an institution.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Legal Protection and Services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Exempt minors from arrest for prostitution</b>—Continue to build a <b>victim-centered approach</b> to addressing the commercial sexual exploitation of children by exempting minors from arrest for the charge of prostitution.</li> <li>● <b>End practice of detaining youth for status offenses</b>—Studies show that detaining youth for truancy, running away, and other status offenses <b>does not improve behavior</b> and may <b>increase</b> involvement with the juvenile justice system.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social and Emotional Well-Being</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Build continuum of prevention and support through Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)</b>—Continue to <b>support implementation</b> efforts that center the needs of all children and families, including older adolescents.</li> </ul>

*The Washington Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy (WACHYA) is a partnership of over 40 organizations dedicated to improving the lives of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. WACHYA's vision is that every night, every homeless youth in Washington state has a safe place to stay and the support they need to thrive and achieve healthy adulthood.*

# Support Agenda

## **Expand YV Lifeset to improve housing stability for foster care alumni**

- Support expansion of YVLifeSet, a comprehensive, high-intensity program model designed to help transition-age youth at risk for homelessness and other negative outcomes make a successful transition to adulthood. Budget ask of \$1,201,050 for FY19 will be matched at 25% of total cost by philanthropic funds to support expansion of proven model in Washington state.

## **Ban Source of Income Discrimination (HB 1633, SB 5407)**

- **Ban discrimination based on a renter's source of income.** Pass HB 1633 or SB 5407 to close a fair housing loophole that allows landlords to discriminate against tenants who use rental assistance.

## **Robustly fund Housing Trust Fund**

- Quickly pass a capital budget that includes \$106m for the Housing Trust Fund.

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