

Student and Family Stability Initiative

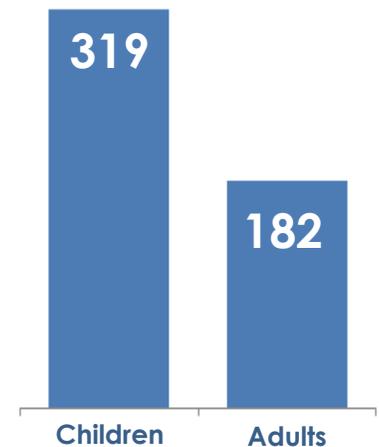
In the 2014—2015 school year, the Highline Public School District (HPS) reported 1,027 homeless school children in their classrooms. The Student and Family Stability Initiative (SFSI), a housing assistance program between King County Housing Authority, HPS, and Neighborhood House, addresses student and family homelessness by pairing a short-term rental subsidy with individualized case management and employment counseling. SFSI's unique model aims to quickly re-house homeless families with young children in the Highline School District, reduce the number of moves during the school-year that disrupt student learning, and support families economic self-sufficiency and long-term housing stability.

How does it work?

- McKinney Vento Liaisons and school based counselors at Highline elementary schools identify and connect families with a Neighborhood House case manager.
- Case managers assist homeless families by providing housing navigation services, moving expenses, and up to six month full rental subsidy, as needed, for a unit within the Highline School District.
- Adult family members continue to work with case managers to identify employment or income opportunities through employment counseling and connections to public benefits.

All families served by SFSI are homeless in some form prior to program entry. The median household income for families participating in the first two years was \$1,300 per month. Sixty-one percent of SFSI participants in this period were single-parent families with an average of 2.2 children per family.

127 families housed*



* total housing placement data as of September 2016

What are SFSI's Outcomes?

Preliminary evidence from the first two-years indicate that SFSI's short-term rental assistance and tailored case management approach is effective in helping previously homeless families secure a stable housing. Seventy percent (70%) of housed families were doubled-up with family or friends prior to program entry, and were able to avoid longer, more acute homelessness because of SFSI assistance. Among families housed in the first two program years:

- 96% of families (76 of 79) were **rehoused within the Highline Public School District**.
- 84% of families (54 of 64) remained in the **same housing three months after the end of SFSI rental assistance***.
- Among families that successfully ended SFSI rental assistance (n=73), **median monthly household income increased by 49% between housing entry and exit** (from \$1,300 to \$1,941 per month).**

*Based on a 90% (64 of 71) 3-month follow-up response rate. **Income data based on 70 of 73 families who ended subsidy. Three families did not report income data at program exit.

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