

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

THE WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Pathways to Housing Security

KCRHA Continuum of Care Board

February 5, 2025



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UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Introductions

The Center

Hosted By:



WASHINGTON STATE
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EVANS SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC POLICY & GOVERNANCE
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Independent Convenor

Support Governmental, Private, and Other Entities

Serve Washington State and the Pacific Northwest

Develop Shared Approaches to Complex Policy Challenges

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Project Origin and Purpose

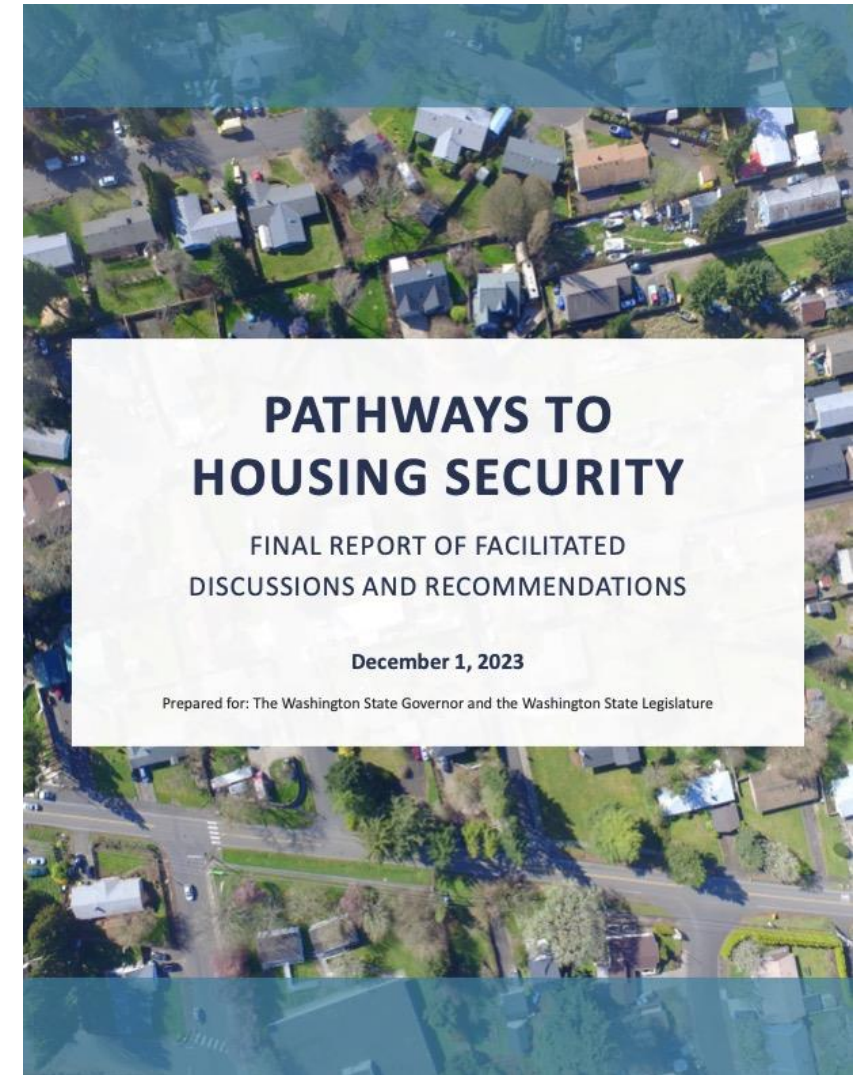
In 2021, the Washington State Legislature directed the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to identify principles, options, and recommendations for a long-term strategy to create pathways to housing security.

Project Homepage:

<https://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu/projects/current-projects/pathways-to-housing-security/>

Final Report and Other Report Resources:

<https://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu/pathways-to-housing-security-report-resources/>



Report Scope
and Use

Long-Term
Strategy

Scope: Statewide, Long-term, Whole of Housing Security

Approach: Facilitated discussions with
hundreds of participants

Use: Guidance for tailored actions within a
comprehensive and adaptable strategy

**A Long-term
Strategy**

**Core
Elements**

Foundational Themes

Conceptual Shifts

Guiding Principles

Recommendations

Foundational Theme

Understanding Homelessness and Housing Instability

SUPPLY AND COST OF HOUSING

Access to and Stability In Housing

SYSTEMS OF CARE AND SUPPORT

Co-Occurring Conditions

SYSTEMIC/STRUCTURAL FACTORS AND ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THEM

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS; INCOME AND WEALTH INEQUALITY

Employment and Earning Potential

SYSTEMIC DISADVANTAGE AND MARGINALIZATION

Disparities

Factors that Amplify Vulnerability and Actions that Mitigate Them

Core Element

Guiding Principles

- Guide ongoing decision making
- Align across sectors, roles, localities
- Contribute to a comprehensive response
- Navigate what seems contradictory or adversarial
- Enable periodic assessment and strategic accountability

Guiding Principle A: Foster productive narratives around housing security and homelessness.

Guiding Principle B: Mobilize a multi-sector response to advance housing security.

Guiding Principle C: Respond to the holistic and interdependent nature of housing security.

Guiding Principle D: Design the response to housing insecurity around what people and communities need to thrive.

Guiding Principle E: Undo the harm of structural racism and other forms of systemic disadvantage that produce housing inequity.

Guiding Principle F: Employ a sense of urgency about both meeting immediate needs and initiating steps for long-term progress.

Guiding Principle G: Amplify the influence of those most affected by homelessness and housing instability.

Guiding Principle H: Create conditions that reduce competition and facilitate cooperation.

Guiding Principle I: Address the inability of the housing market to meet housing needs.

Guiding Principle J: Sustain the response to housing insecurity through stability in infrastructure, relationships, and appropriately scaled resources.

Guiding Principle K: Prepare to adapt to changing circumstances, unanticipated disruptions, and new knowledge.

Core Element

Areas of Recommendation

Set the Strategy Up for Success

Respond to the Continuum of Housing Needs

Respond Holistically to People's Needs

Bolster Systems and Workforce Capacity and Stability

Foster Accountability, Manage Performance,
and Adapt Over Time

Opportunities for State Partnership with
Tribal Governments

**Using the
Report**

Examples

Alignment to the Guiding Principles

Implementing Recommendations

Guiding Principle A: Foster productive narratives around housing security and homelessness.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

What narratives do you currently foster about homelessness and housing instability?

- *In how you carry out your core functions?*
- *In your internal policies, practices, and structures?*
- *In how you communicate?*
- *In how you track and assess what you do?*
- *In any other actions?*

What are the effects of those narratives?

How would you describe your alignment to Principle A?

**NOT RECOGNIZED
AS IMPORTANT**

**IMPORTANT BUT
DONE BY OTHERS**

**REFLECTED IN SOME
THINGS WE DO**

**PARTIALLY ALIGNED:
REFLECTED IN MOST
OF WHAT WE DO**

**FULLY ALIGNED:
CENTRAL TO
EVERYTHING WE DO**

Guiding Principle A: Foster productive narratives around housing security and homelessness.

Questions to Consider

What narratives are productive to goals for housing security?

What more could you do to foster those narratives?

Opportunities

- Communications
- Core Functions (Advisory; Programs and Services)
- Internal Practices
- Decision-making (Funding; Prioritization)
- Accountability
- Learning

Recommendations

- 1. Recognize Multiple Ways of Understanding Success**
- 2: Clarify Total Investment and Benefit**
- 17. Align Policymaking**
- 13. Diversify Implementation**
- 3. Draw on Experiential Expertise**

Related Guiding Principles

G: Amplify the influence of those most affected.

C: Respond to the holistic and interdependent nature of housing security.

H: Create conditions that reduce competition and facilitate cooperation.

K: Prepare to adapt to changing circumstances.

Recommendation 3: Experiential Expertise

Support those affected by housing insecurity and homelessness to participate in decision making, implementation, and assessment.

Questions to Consider

What perspectives are needed to fully understand:

What is needed?

What is currently being done? How well things are working?

What else is possible?

What processes would help gather, value, and integrate those diverse perspectives?

What knowledge do you hold that others need? How could that knowledge be shared?

Opportunities

- Internal practices
- Relationships
- Decision-making
- Accountability
- Learning

Potential Actions

- Identify gaps in perspectives (*also recs 1, 17*)
- Seek new relationships for input, collaboration, and amplification
- Create accessible avenues and robust processes for input
- Match types of expertise to needs and questions
- Track the extent to which decisions reflect diverse input
- Build a portfolio of learning (*also rec 18*)

Additional Resources

Available to Download

<https://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu/pathways-to-housing-security-report-resources/>

Final Report

Executive Summary

Key Messages for Implementation *coming soon*

Key Messages for Policy and Planning *coming soon*

Guiding Principles – Alignment Worksheet

Guiding Principles – Workshopping Activity

Recommendations - Implementation Worksheet

Recommendations - Community Mapping Activity *coming soon*

Contact the Project Team: housing.ruckelshaus@wsu.edu



**Questions
and
Discussion**