

PATHWAYS TO HOUSING SECURITY

Summary of Follow-up Workshops and Dissemination

January 2024 – June 2025

Recognizing the many challenges related to homelessness and housing instability, in 2021, the Washington State Legislature directed the William D. Ruckelshaus Center (the Center) to gather information and facilitate discussions that would inform a long-term strategy to create pathways to housing security. Released in December 2023, *Pathways to Housing Security: Final Report of Facilitated Discussions and Recommendations* (2023 Final Report),¹ was informed by the participation of hundreds of individuals with knowledge or experience related to homelessness and housing instability.

Guiding Principles and Recommendations

The 2023 Final Report presents eleven guiding principles that can be used across different parts of the state, for a wide range of areas of work, and at any scale. These principles help align decisions to better contribute towards a comprehensive, holistic approach to housing security. The report also offers eighteen recommendations that provide options that are actionable but not prescriptive, recognizing the need to tailor actions for specific contexts. The guiding principles and recommendations allow for the report to serve as an enduring strategic resource even as the housing security landscape evolves.

Follow-up Workshops and Dissemination

Since its release, the report has informed state-level policy making. The Department of Commerce drew on the report extensively in developing the 2024-2029 State Homeless Housing Strategic Plan,² and the Center's project team provided briefings to legislators and staff from both parties, as well to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The Center also provided follow-up communications and engagement with relevant state advisory committees who contributed and participated in the report process.

The project team disseminated the report through engagement with people in localities and organizations across the state (see Appendix A for more details). The team's online presentations provided opportunities to spotlight an overview of the report and show how participant perspectives contributed to the project. Multiple online workshops and a learning lab at the 2024 Housing Washington Conference served to further facilitate the use of the report across the state and help participants understand the report as a tool for gathering information, convening conversations, making decisions, and improving programs and services. Additionally, the project team responded to various requests for tailored presentations and workshops from local governments or other entities in

¹ 2023 Final Report: <https://wpcdn.web.wsu.edu/wp-wsucahnrs/uploads/sites/2180/2023/11/Recommendations-Pathways-to-Housing-Security-2023.pdf>

² 2024-2029 State Homeless Housing Strategic Plan: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/homelessness-response/planning-and-reporting/strategic-plan/>

several communities. These statewide and local events provided opportunities for participants to practice applying the guiding principles in their own contexts and using the recommendations to identify actions that could enhance their work.

As the Center's team continued to learn what was most useful in changing circumstances, they prepared supplemental resources that will remain available for download.³ These include summary materials to foster understanding of the report messages and self-guided tools to support the use of the guiding principles and recommendations.

Moving Forward on a Call to Action

The 2023 Final Report presents principles and recommendations to move the state forward with a more transparent, holistic, coordinated, and multi-sectoral approach to advancing housing security. The Center's activities and resources in follow-up to the release of the report were opportunities to catalyze the implementation of this call to action, to the benefit of communities across the state.

³ Report Resources: <https://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu/pathways-to-housing-security-report-resources/>

APPENDIX A – DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Dissemination Events

March 2024: the project team provided two online convenings to present an overview of the final report, answer questions, and facilitate a conversation for participants to delve deeper into specific themes or recommendations.

Presentations and Discussions

Outreach by the project team generated requests for presentations where the project team provided a report overview followed by a conversation on how to use the report in gathering information, convening stakeholders, making decisions, and implementing programs and services. Presentations were provided to:

- Seattle City Council Housing & Human Services Committee
- Affordable Housing Advisory Board
- King County Local Services and Land Use Committee
- Jefferson County Housing Fund Board
- King County Regional Housing Authority Continuum of Care Board

Workshops

May – June 2024: the project team facilitated a series of three online workshops focused on a specific topic:

- stabilizing precarious housing,
- coordinated pathways & person-centered navigation, and
- applying guiding principles.

After an overview of the report’s messages on the topic, participants engaged in a conversation about how organizations and entities can use the report in their respective areas of work.

June 2024: The project team facilitated a workshop in Whatcom County where participants engaged in community mapping, gap identification, and action plans based on recommendations.

September 2024 Housing Washington Conference: The project team facilitated a learning lab for conference attendees, with approximately 40 individuals engaging in a hands-on workshop about how to use the guiding principles in their work.

February 2025: The project team facilitated an assessment based on the guiding principles and action planning drawing on the recommendations for King County Regional Homelessness Authority Continuum of Care Board members.

May 2025: The project team facilitated a workshop in Tacoma on community assessment and action plans based on the guiding principles.