



Student Homelessness

Project Overview: Examine through research of data, people, and practice how COVID-19 has specifically impacted students experiencing homelessness, focusing on the interconnectedness with race, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

Within this inquiry, we would like to explore:

1. Are there services or supports that have worked to continue or expand, e.g., reengagement activities?
2. What have students of color experiencing homelessness experienced during remote learning?

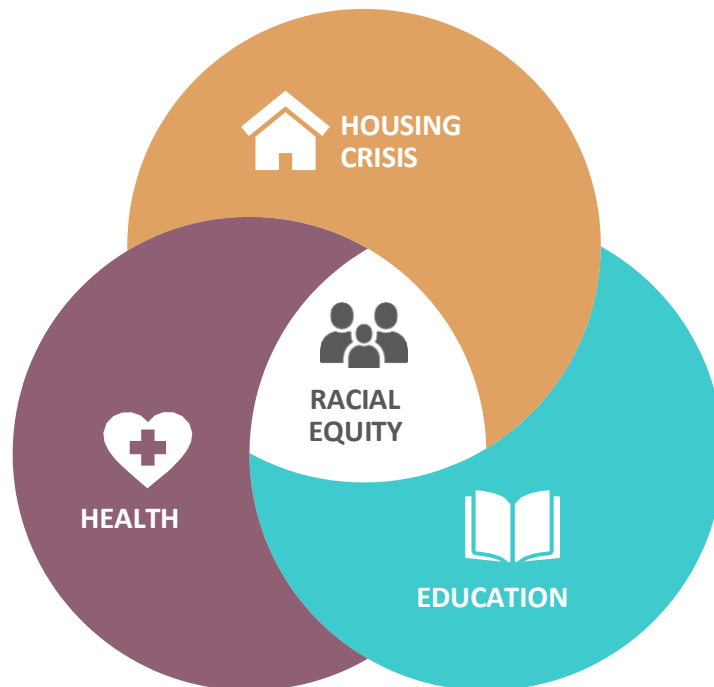
What we are already hearing:

1. Systems are overcapacity and tapped without the capability to meet additional needs.
2. McKinney Vento numbers are still down, indicating issues around identification, pro forma graduation, among others.
3. Staff serving students identified under McKinney Vento indicate higher needs for time, resources, and additional staffing.
4. COVID-19 has exacerbated behavior health deficits into a crisis with increased needs, minimal staffing training and capacity

Building Changes work to date:

1. We have explored student homelessness at length for several years, with much of this work documented at: <https://buildingchanges.org/our-work/education/>
2. We are currently partnering with the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide technical assistance and training to over 20 districts across the state.

We've updated our latest education research to include information from the Healthy Youth Survey, while we await new state-level data after significant delays and disruption from COVID-19



Housing, education, and health systems significantly impact the lives of people experiencing homelessness, especially children, youth, and families.

Due to historic and structural racism, Black, Indigenous, and people of color are more likely to experience housing crises, educational injustice, and health inequities. At the same time, Black, Indigenous, and people of color lack equitable access to these systems, and have unequal experiences when seeking support and services.



Homelessness is the result of more than just lack of housing, and it affects people in every aspect of their lives.

Together with our partners, Building Changes pushes for equitable, holistic responses in and across the housing, education, and health systems so that all children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness get the support they need. Resolving a housing crisis and maintaining housing stability are not possible without this.



OUR VISION

Communities thrive when people have safe and stable housing and can equitably access and use services.



OUR MISSION

Building Changes advances equitable responses to homelessness in Washington State, with a focus on children, youth, and families and the systems that serve them.



OUR STATEMENT ON RACIAL EQUITY

At Building Changes, we seek to hold ourselves accountable for addressing racism and discrimination. Black, Indigenous, and people of color disproportionately experience homelessness due to historical and systemic racism. We cannot address homelessness without addressing racism at its roots and the trauma it continues to perpetuate. We set universal goals to end homelessness and pursue targeted solutions to achieve these goals.

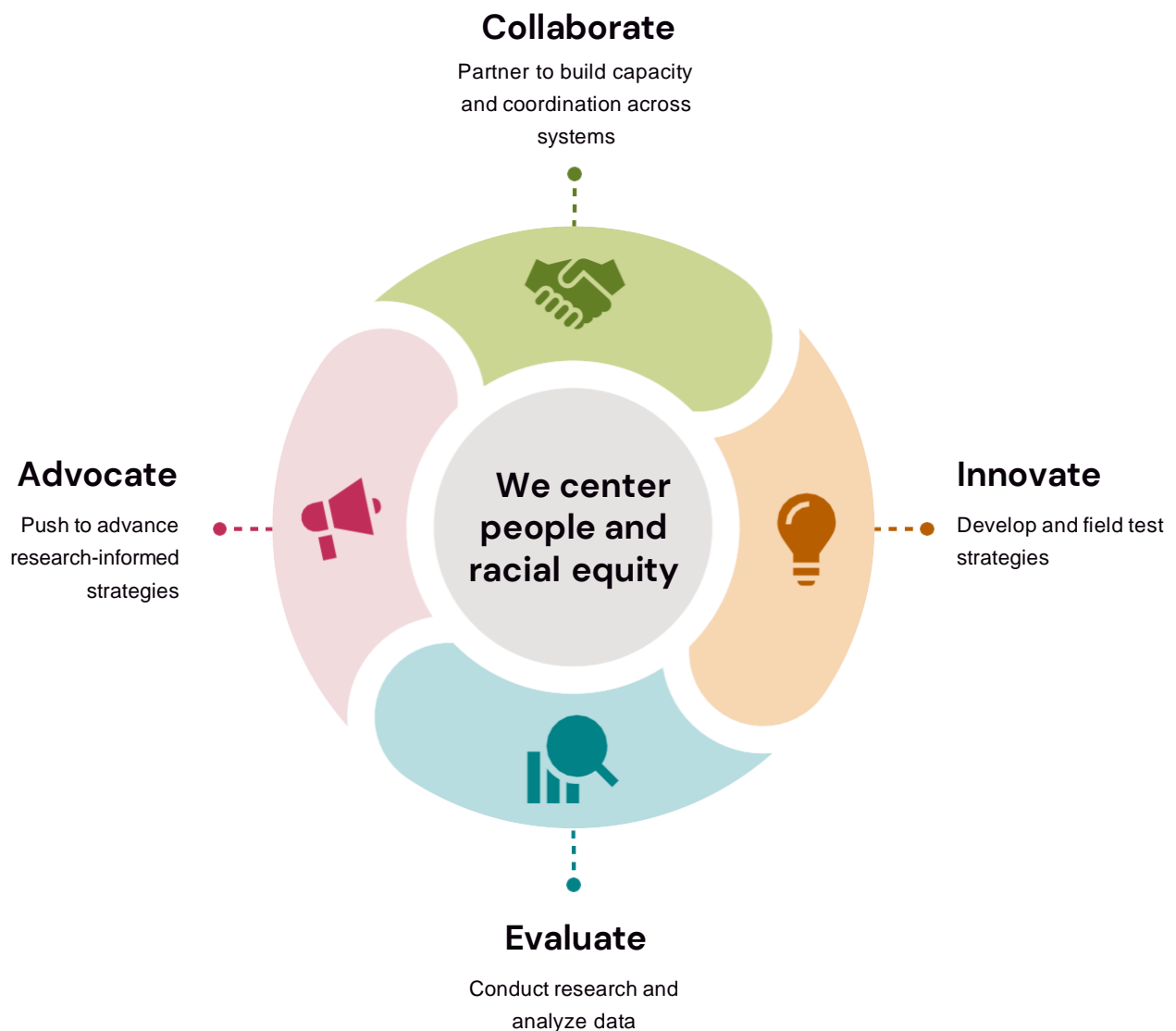
Our racial equity work does not stop there. We are committed to building an internal culture that challenges racism within our organization.



OUR VALUES

Building Changes' work is grounded in these core values: Equity, People, Partnerships, and Integrity.

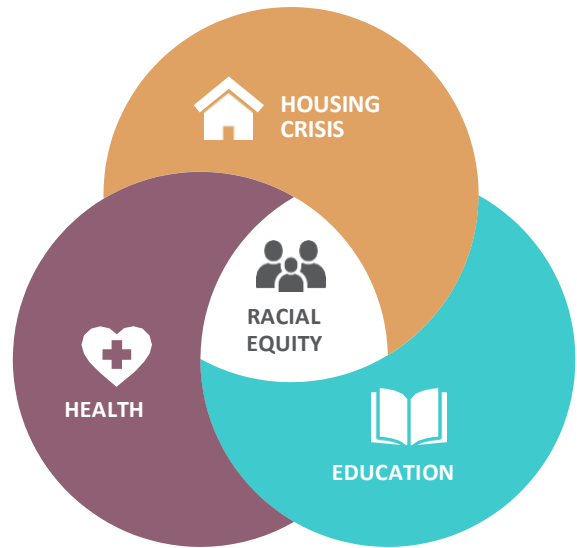
To achieve our mission, Building Changes uses an interdisciplinary approach that combines grantmaking and capacity building, research and evaluation, and advocacy.





HOUSING CRISIS

- » Advance innovative, equitable strategies that help people resolve their housing crises.
- » Influence policy and advocate for adequate, sustainable resources for the homeless and housing systems.
- » Hold those systems accountable to advance and adopt racially equitable and culturally responsive policies, practices, and processes.
- » Facilitate cross-systems collaboration to improve coordinated service delivery.



HEALTH

- » Share knowledge on addressing homelessness within the health context.
- » Advocate for adequate and sustainable resources for health systems.
- » Hold health systems accountable to advance and adopt racially equitable and culturally responsive policies, practices, and prioritization and eligibility criteria.
- » Facilitate cross-systems collaboration.



EDUCATION

- » Analyze and share data and research on student homelessness in Washington State.
- » Identify strategies and develop tools for addressing the unique needs of students experiencing homelessness.
- » Influence policy and advocate for adequate, sustainable resources and capacity for the education and housing systems.
- » Hold those systems accountable to advance and adopt racially equitable and culturally responsive policies, practices, and community partnerships.
- » Facilitate leadership buy-in and cross- systems collaboration.