

Finding Our Way

Puget Sound Stories About Family Homelessness

Frequently Asked Questions

For Partner Organizations

You'll find basic information in the project overview: [*"Finding Our Way: Puget Sound Stories of Family Homelessness."*](#)

Q: What does this project seek to accomplish?

A: Compelling stories can be a powerful tool in building public will and shaping policy. The purpose of this project is to develop a collection of up to 90 personal stories about families in our community that can be used to raise awareness and to support advocacy work to end family homelessness in the Puget Sound region. Rather than a marketing or fundraising piece for any one specific organization, the stories are for the benefit of the entire community and we encourage their wide use.

Q: Who are the "local host partners" and how were they chosen?

A: In each of the three counties – King, Pierce and Snohomish – we're working with one nonprofit that provides comprehensive services countywide to a large number of families experiencing, recovering from, or at risk of homelessness. In King and Snohomish Counties, the local host partner is YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish. In Pierce County, it's Catholic Community Services of Western Washington. These local hosts have generously committed considerable staff time and facilities to host the interviews for community members in summer 2014.

Q: What kind of interview participants are you looking for?

A: We welcome any members of the local community who have been affected by experiences of family homelessness in their own lives, or in the lives of those close to them. This could include families who are experiencing homelessness now, those with family homelessness in their recent or distant past and those who have worked with homeless families – including staff at provider organizations, schools, healthcare providers and more.

Q: What will you do with the stories after the interviews?

A: All of the up to 90 stories (those which participants have agreed to share) are intended to be available for public use. Additionally, StoryCorps and its partners will choose eight or nine of the stories from this project to produce as two-minute edited pieces, for advocacy activities and for sharing through traditional and social media.

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Q: Are providers allowed to use the stories? Can they edit them?

A: We encourage providers and other advocates to use both full-length and edited stories to support their work. To request access, contact Michelle Bova at mbova@storycorps.org. Stories are not to be used to generate revenue, nor should full-length interviews be posted online.

Q: How soon can we have access to the stories?

A: We can fulfill most requests for a full 40-minute interview about six weeks after the interview is recorded. The edited two-minute pieces will be available in spring 2015.

Q: Will you be able to provide childcare or transportation for the participants?

A: We're working with local host partners to ensure that childcare will be available as needed. Each participant, or the provider assisting them, is responsible for their own transportation. Limited reimbursement for travel costs (e.g., bus fare or parking), or other contributions to offset time/travel costs, may be available. Ask your local host partner for more information.

Q: Can we find out if the participants have been served by our organization in the past?

A: Our main focus is to keep the interview process a safe, comfortable environment for the participants. Asking participants for that type of information before or during the interview can introduce an element of pressure. They may tell us afterwards or indicate in the follow-up survey that they'd like the story to be shared with an organization that has helped them, and in that case, we will notify the organization.

Q: What should we do to schedule an interview?

A: Please send an e-mail to findingourway@storycorps.org. This e-mail can come either from a provider staff member or the participant. We'll ask the potential participant to fill out a brief online form, and if schedule permits, we'll contact the participant to schedule an interview.

Q: Who should I contact locally if I have questions?

A: In Pierce County: Tanya Mendenhall at Catholic Community Services, TanyaM@ccsww.org. In King and Snohomish counties: Denise Miller at YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish, dmiller@ywcaworks.org. You may also contact Catherine Hinrichsen at Seattle University's Project on Family Homelessness, 206/398-4457, hinrichc@seattleu.edu.

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