

# ONE TABLE

 Addressing root causes of homelessness

## ROOT CAUSE: Child Welfare

### CURRENT STATE

**34%** of youth who age out of foster care in King County become homeless within one year

Source: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, *Youth at risk of homelessness: Identifying key predictive factors among youth aging out of foster care in Washington State*, 2015.

### FACTORS

Key transition points compromise stability (i.e., moves, reunification, aging out, permanency placement)

Implicit bias inherent in decision-making within the child welfare system

Institutionalized racism creates and upholds barriers to stability

### HIGHLIGHTED STRATEGIES



#### IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN 3 YEARS



Provide ongoing training in racial bias, racial disproportionality and institutional racism for everyone who influences the child welfare system.



Increase investments in family reunification.



Provide counseling, training and behavioral health services for families at risk of child welfare system engagement.



Implement a campaign to increase foster families of color and increase availability of foster placements for youth of color.



#### IMPLEMENTATION IN 3-10 YEARS



Recruit, incentivize and support people of color and/or people with lived experience in the child welfare system to become social workers.



Broaden the extended foster care program to provide youth up to age 25 with comprehensive, person-centered services.