

PURPOSE STATEMENT

1. **Issue** – Chronic homelessness, tardiness, absences, overtiredness, disengagement, hunger, domestic violence, addictions, mental illness and despondency are all issues found within our schools and families. The learning gap is easy to understand under such conditions.
2. **Vision** – The partnership between the Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) and the Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) aims to break the multi-generational cycle of poverty through coordinated interventions with students and their parents/guardians. Stable housing, school engagement and the financial means to attend college are essential for academic and future success.
3. **Approach** - The Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) and Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) partnered in 2011 to support the stabilization of students and families experiencing homelessness in the school district. The effort began at McCarver Elementary and has since served families across multiple elementary schools in the district. Since its inception, over 100 families have been able to establish stable housing, improve their self-sufficiency and improve the educational outcomes of their children. The partners are deepening their investments to increase capacity to help exit more families from homelessness in the 2019 and 2020 school year.

The partners have agreed to expand current THA casework services to continue supporting families experiencing housing instability while the redesign is underway. Specifically, the change in scope of casework aims to support current THA families with students in TPS who are at near or imminent risk of homelessness, as they are also considered McKinney-Vento eligible within the district. In doing so, THA and TPS hopes to help re-establish family stability through a preventative effort, and ensure that students face little to no disruption with their learning.

STAKEHOLDERS

This change will be referred to as the Tacoma Schools Housing Assistance Program (TSHAP) and will provide the following services:

- TSHAP staff located within the TPS schools to engage directly with school staff
- TSHAP staff embedded in the Centers for Strong Families (CSF), providing access to CSF employment coaching, financial empowerment coaching, and income support services
- Access to parenting education, crisis intervention, and behavioral health support (through partnership with HopeSparks)
- Case management and ongoing support
- Financial assistance (bus passes, gas cards, legal fees, childcare costs, utility fees, and employment or education costs)

Tacoma Housing Authority

Academic Excellence

The THA Case worker will perform the following duties:

- Conduct an introductory needs assessment with families
- Develop an Individual Training and Services Plan (strengths-based, household-led) that identifies needs and actions necessary to meet the goals established
- Progressive engagement to ensure actionable steps are being pursued in identified growth areas
- Coordinate with the Family-School Engagement Specialist to assist families with school-related issues

The THA Family-School Engagement Specialist will perform the following duties:

- Coordinate services to improve educational outcomes of ESHAP students
- Collaborate with Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) staff and administration to
 1. Ensure school programs are serving students effectively,
 2. Help families tap into school-based resources, and
 3. Monitor, track and report on ESHAP goals, performance measures, and deliverables
- Collaborate with Case Worker to monitor, track and report on ESHAP goals, performance measures, and deliverables.

In addition to THA, the partners will coordinate services with HopeSparks to provide behavioral health supports to families, with the essential duties listed below:

- Assist TSHAP families to identify the behavioral health clinical services they will engage in and the formats that will work best for them
- Conduct behavioral health needs assessments
- Coordinate referrals/connections to appropriates
- Collaborate and coordinate care with THA and/or TPS staff as needed

CASE STATEMENT

Absent of this work, the current MOU agreement between The Tacoma Housing Authority Board and Tacoma Public Schools School Board would be out of compliance. In 2016, the Tacoma School District and the Tacoma Housing Authority approved a five-year MOU and Data Sharing Agreement to support the partnership. The programs include the Children's Savings Account (CSA) program for Lister, First Creek and other Salishan youth.

WHAT SPECIFIC BOARD-ADOPTED BENCHMARKS WILL BE INFLUENCED BY THIS WORK?

	Dates	Baseline	Current	Target
<u>Reading Competencies</u>				
Students participating in school ELO	Quarterly	90%	86%	95%
Students will participate in Spring/Summer camps	Annually	50%	60%	75%
<u>Math Competencies</u>				
Students will increase by one level in math I ready, Common math assessments, Unit exams	Quarterly	50%	60%	65%
<u>Extracurricular Activity Involvement %</u>				
Students will participate in after school program/sport	Quarterly	N/A	62%	85%

