

# **Puget Sound Rotary and Gates Foundation Partnership on Family Homelessness**

## **Eligible Uses of Matching Funds Draft 6-8-10**

Matching funds provided by the Foundation to Rotary Districts 5020, 5030, and 5050 are meant to support local Club projects that are specifically targeted towards serving homeless families and families at imminent risk of homelessness. These projects should be used to support organizations that focus their activities on the following programmatic objectives:

1. **Housing:** The emerging best practice of “rapid re-housing” demonstrates the importance of moving families quickly into permanent housing whenever possible. In keeping with this promising approach, matching funds should be prioritized to support permanent housing initiatives. Transitional housing or emergency shelter projects should only be supported in limited instances in communities where permanent housing is not a viable option for rapid placement.

Examples: Programs that engage private sector landlords willing to partner with social services providers to support families that might not otherwise meet their screening criteria, landlord mitigation funds and mediation, support for organizations providing subsidized permanent housing.

2. **Homelessness Prevention:** Early intervention and prevention efforts aimed at families before they need to seek emergency shelter can be an effective approach towards preventing family homelessness.

Examples: Activities such as eviction prevention services, landlord mediation, financial help for families to pay overdue rent or utilities and emergency assistance for food, clothing, child care and transportation.

3. **Tailored Services:** The provision of services that have been specifically tailored to address the particular needs of homeless families can help them rebuild and maintain stability and self-sufficiency.

Examples: Case management support, child care, drug/alcohol counseling, mental health treatment, English as a Second Language instruction, domestic violence or other family counseling, food banks, scholarships, or educational mentoring, as long as these activities are specifically directed towards homeless or at-risk families.

4. **Economic and Educational Opportunities:** Long term housing stability depends on educational and employment opportunities that can lead to wage progression and career development.

Examples: Funding may be provided for projects that allow homeless heads of households to attain the educational degrees or job experience they need to earn sufficient incomes to live in unsubsidized housing. These opportunities may include tutoring, scholarships, mentoring programs, social supports and job training activities, provided these activities are specifically directed towards homeless or at-risk families.

5. **Coordinated Access to Support Services:** Many communities in Washington State are developing a coordinated entry system that will allow families to more easily navigate the homelessness system. The development of these simplified entry processes are also meant to support a common assessment system that can be used to better identify each family's specific housing and service needs.

Examples: Projects that support the development of these coordinated entry systems and that allow multiple providers to coordinate services and programs for homeless and imminently at-risk families will be eligible for matching fund dollars.

6. **Reliable Data:** Better data about homeless families is necessary in order to better serve them.

Examples: Matching funds may be provided to support efforts to develop or improve information technology that would provide meaningful data to family homelessness decision makers.

7. **Advocacy:** Ending family homelessness will not be possible without building support among community leaders and educating policy makers about innovations in the field. Raising the profile of the issue of family homelessness will also be critical.

Examples: Projects that provide education, media coverage, or otherwise bring visibility to the issue of family homelessness will be eligible for matching fund dollars.