

Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force

August 26, 2019

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Taskforce Business
- Updates on ESSHB 1603 implementation
- DCYF Transitions – Update on Phase 2
- Drivers of Homelessness in Washington State
 - *Tedd Kelleher – Managing Director, Housing Assistance Unit Dept. of Commerce*
- Strategic Plan – Review and Discussion
- Public Comment

ESSHB 1603 Implementation

Effective July 28, 2019 ESSHB 1603 ends permanent sanction disqualification and adds homelessness as a criteria for time limit extension.

- Rule changes effective 7/28/2019
- Communication and training for agency staff
- Outreach to potentially impacted households and partners



Department of Children, Youth & Families

Update on Phase 2



Transforming lives

Drivers of Homelessness in Washington State

*Tedd Kelleher – Managing Director, Housing Assistance Unit
Department of Commerce*

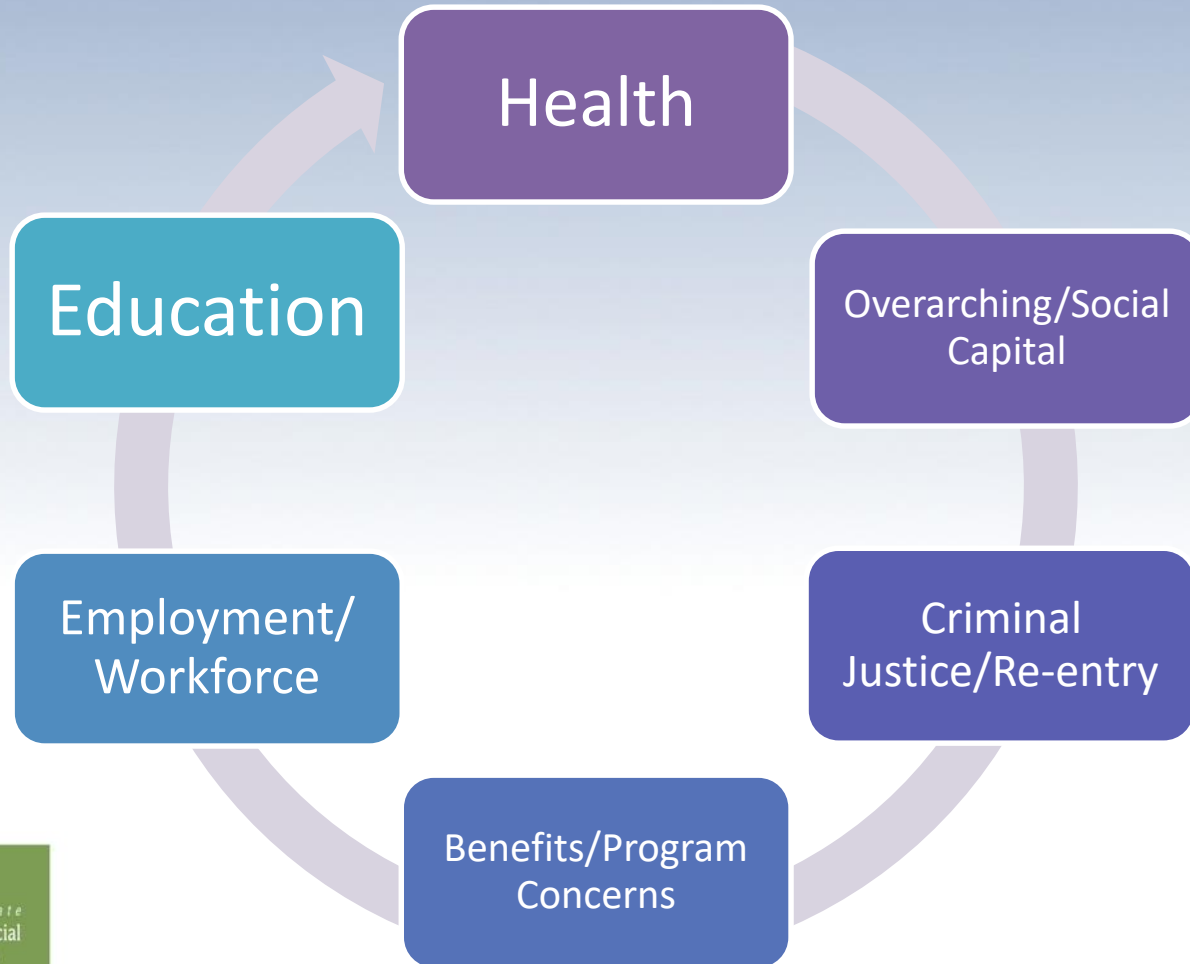
Strategic Plan

Five-year plan due December 1, 2019

- Develop and align with recommendations coming out of the Task Force Advisory Committee (Governor's Poverty Reduction Workgroup)
- Focus:
 - Intergenerational poverty
 - Workfirst/TANF
 - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



Recommendation Themes



Recommendations

Overarching/Social Capital:

Continuum of Care

Comprehensive career services

Wrap-around services

Provide choices

Access

Streamline eligibility

Eliminate fiscal cliffs

Ensure respectful customer services

Recommendations

Overarching/Social Capital:

Continue to Enhance Efforts to Ensure Equity & Cultural Competency

- Cultural competency
- Implicit/explicit bias & institutional racism
- History of racism & discrimination in the U.S., its economic impact and resulting trauma

Common Professional Development

- Trauma-informed Care
- Building empathy
- Engaging case management approaches (strength based)

Recommendations

Criminal Justice/Re-entry:

Ensure Supports for Families of Incarcerated People

- Assign a case manager to assist in accessing social/economic support services
- Prioritize family unification

Better Re-entry Preparation & Resources

- Develop a need/risk assessment – equitable social & economic services/resources**
- Connect individuals to appropriate community resources
- Support community college re-entry education programs for people leaving incarceration

Recommendations

Benefits/Program Concerns:

State Agency Coordination & Strategic Goals

- Coordination of programming between DSHS, HCA, DCYF, Commerce, ESD, SBCTC, and OSPI
- Agency accountability to a shared set of outcomes for individual, child, and family well-being
- Restructure programs to provide a respectful, integrated, seamless continuum of care

Effective Assistance Programs

- Update the Standard of Need and public assistance benefit levels**
- Ensure access to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families by restoring recession-era program cuts
- Reorient Washington's "work-first" approach to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families around "families-first"

Recommendations

Education:

Access

- Expand eligibility for the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) to 180 percent of the federal poverty line
- Ensure funding for post-secondary education for children who are in TANF households

Support

- Provide funding for childcare services to post-secondary students**

Recommendations

Employment/Workforce:

Accessible Programs

- Adequately funded
- Accessible to people living in poverty or experiencing homelessness

Relevant Programs

- Living-wage workforce development and employment training programs**
- Specifically tailored to those most impacted by poverty - including youth
- Include a broad range of opportunities - entrepreneurial and small business

Recommendations

Health:

Access

- Necessary funding and resources targeted directly to increase access and availability of mental health services
- Expand capacity of inpatient facilities
- Opportunities for interpersonal relationship building between providers and clients

Children & Families

- Additional school-based counselors and screenings**
- Teacher trainings on early intervention steps
- Training to help Child Protective Service workers understand parental culture, parenting styles, struggles that single parents face, etc.



Transforming lives

Discussion

- Thoughts on how these recommendations connect with the five-year plan to reduce intergenerational poverty and promote self-sufficiency?
- Next steps



Public Comment