

## IN THIS ISSUE

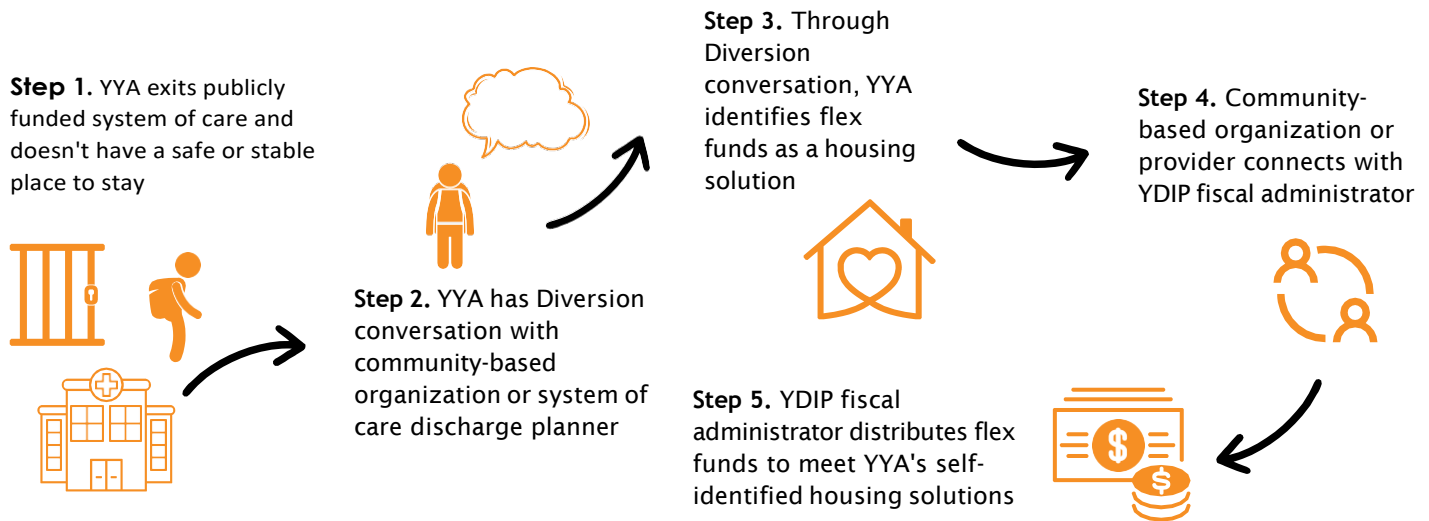
- ❖ Funding for Youth Exiting Systems of Care
- ❖ Keeping Families Together Act (2021)
- ❖ Training Opportunities

### FUNDING FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EXITING CARE

[Building Changes](#) and A Way Home Washington, with the support of the Office of Homeless Youth, administers funds to ensure that youth and young adults (YYA) do not exit care into homelessness. The program is called the Youth Diversion Infrastructure Project (YDIP) and can assist clients with security deposits, rent, utilities, storage,

eviction prevention, relocations costs, moving assistance, application fees, and more. Programs operate in Clark, Pierce, Spokane, Yakima, and Walla Walla Counties. To qualify, youth must be under the age of 25; in need of safe and stable housing; and exiting a publicly funded system of care (e.g. foster care; adult/juvenile detention; inpatient mental healthcare; etc.). For more information, please see the fliers attached hereto.

## How YDIP works:



### THE KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT (HB 1227).

In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed the Keeping Families Together Act. The bill acknowledges that children and families are better served when children are cared for by loved ones and in their communities and that BIPOC children are disproportionately removed from their families and communities. HB 1227, Sec. 2. Accordingly, the legislature readdressed the standards for removal of children, effective July 1, 2023.

A full discussion of the bill and its implications are beyond the scope of this newsletter. However, the CRP, in conjunction with the Washington State Office of Public Defense, is working to bring you a training on the amended removal standards. In the interim, contractors are advised to review the bill, [here](#), and information from the Washington Courts, Family and Youth Justice Program, [here](#). An interactive tool by AOC, [iDecide](#), and [readiness toolkit](#) are currently being built and, while still under construction, the resources already offer a great learning tool for HB 1227 implementation.

#### MANDATORY TRAININGS

FREE – As a reminder, those contracted in *Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, and Kittitas* are required to attend OCLA's Child Representation Standards and Legal Interest Advocacy on February 24, 2023, 12:00 – 3:15. CLE credits are pending. All required participants have been emailed the training link. If you have any questions about this training, please contact Jeffrey Adams at [jeffrey.adams@ocla.wa.gov](mailto:jeffrey.adams@ocla.wa.gov).

#### OPTIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FREE – Legal Lunchbox Series: Building Equity with a Community-Centered Practice. February 28, 2023, 12:00 – 1:35 pm. For more information, please click [here](#). *1.5 Ethics (Equity) available*.

#### REMINDER REGARDING MANAGING ATTORNEY CONTACT

*PLEASE REMEMBER* that Katie Maucione is on leave and all contacts should be addressed to [CRP@OCLA.wa.gov](mailto:CRP@OCLA.wa.gov).

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If you have any topics for us to highlight or information you would like to share in this newsletter, please contact us by email at: [CRP@OCLA.wa.gov](mailto:CRP@OCLA.wa.gov).

## **Spokane County 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hope Summit** **Dependency Court System Training**

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

9:00AM – 12:10PM

Hybrid Format offered

Via Zoom or In-person

### **Agenda**

- 8:30 – 9:00am**     **Zoom Room Opens**  
*Doors open in-person*
- 9:00 – 9:15am**     **Welcome**
- Land Acknowledgement**  
*Charles Henry, Parents Attorney ICWA Team*
- Message From the Bench**  
*Julie McKay, Presiding and Juvenile Judge, Spokane County Superior Court*
- Hope Activity (Prizes for Zoom and in-person participants!)**  
*Michelle Ressa, Court Commissioner, Spokane County Superior Court*
- 9:15 – 10:45am**     **Motivational Interviewing and Hope**  
*Dr. Brad Lundahl, Licensed Psychologist & LCSW, Associate Professor: College of Social Work, University of Utah*
- 10:45 – 11:05am**     **Break**
- 11:05 – 11:10am**     **Hope Activity (Prizes for Zoom and in-person participants!)**  
*Michelle Ressa, Court Commissioner, Spokane County Superior Court*
- 11:10 – 12:05pm**     **Action Planning**  
*Breakout groups and discussion*
- 12:05 – 12:10pm**     **Closing**  
*Michelle Ressa, Court Commissioner, Spokane County Superior Court*