



reclaim

Stability. Opportunity. Connection.

Case for Support

2025

Introduction

Living in the Snoqualmie Valley affords us beautiful scenery, access to trails, water activities, skiing and many more recreational activities along with unique and charming businesses, all a short drive to Seattle and Bellevue. We enjoy all the pleasures of a small town, the friendliness, the warmth of community and have all the employment, entertainment and shopping benefits of the greater metropolitan area. There could not be a more lovely place to call home.

A home represents more than just bricks and mortar, more than a roof over our head. It is a safe place to live, a place to thrive, dream, celebrate milestones, and create memories. It gives us security and a sense of belonging.

Yet, for some, home is incredibly unstable.

There are a variety of reasons why someone can lose the place they call home. While the loss of a home can be a gradual process, most often homelessness happens abruptly.

The high cost of utilities during winter months can wreak havoc on an already tight budget. Missing a day of work to care for a sick child can have cascading effects for someone living day-to-day on very little money. A flat tire or other car problems can cause someone to lose their job because they don't have reliable transportation.

In our small community, those who are unhoused are each in a unique situation. For some, it is the loss of income on a temporary basis, causing them to fall behind in rent or their mortgage. For others their personal situations such as high medical bills, mental-health challenges, domestic violence, addiction or the lack of affordable housing forces them into unstable living situations.



A complex housing problem

It is well documented that homelessness has long-term negative effects on individuals and families. The lack of stable housing is especially traumatizing for children, and often causes inconsistent education, inadequate nutrition, and insecurity. For adults, the trauma associated with homelessness can create, or exacerbate, health issues, substance use and mental illness, all of which make it more challenging to access needed services, let alone opportunities.

It is also understood that those living in rural communities are less likely to report gender-based violence than those living in more dense populations. Stigma, fear of being identified, and lack of services all play a large role in keeping victims of violence from seeking help, even in an emergency shelter that meets their safety needs. Due to historic, ongoing trauma and culture loss, these barriers are even more prevalent among Native American women.

People living in poverty and violence – housed or unhoused – need immediate resources such as bus fare to get to and from work, free clothing, household items, food, laundry access, as well as other supportive services tailored to their needs and level of personal safety.

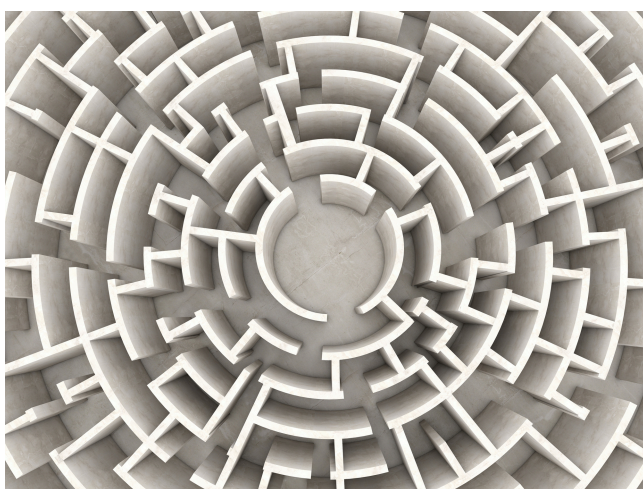
Housing is hard to find.

- **Access to Affordable Housing:** The lack of affordable housing can trap individuals in a cycle of poverty. Without stable housing, it becomes challenging to secure and maintain employment, access education, or address health issues, all of which can perpetuate homelessness.
- **Barriers to Housing:** Even for the employed, there are many barriers to securing housing including income requirements and mandatory credit checks. Landlords require first and last month deposits up front and a clean rental history. Many landlords won't rent to those with a previous criminal conviction (even after time served).
- **Housing Quality and Location:** The quality and location of new housing can impact the transition. Safe, stable, and well-maintained housing in a supportive neighborhood makes a big difference in the ease of transition.

A complex housing problem

Once housing is found, the need for support increases. Transitioning from a shelter to stable housing is deeply challenging. There are several factors that make this process difficult:

- **Emotional Adjustment:** Alongside feelings of excitement and accomplishment, moving into a new home can bring up challenging emotions, such as stress, anxiety, and feelings of isolation. Adjusting to a new environment and establishing a new routine often requires support and reassurance.
- **Social Support:** Building a support network is crucial. Individuals leaving shelters often need help connecting with community resources, support groups, and other services that provide emotional and practical assistance.
- **Access to Services:** Continued access to social services such as healthcare, counseling, job training, childcare and educational opportunities is important for long-term success.
- **Financial Stability:** maintaining housing requires a stable income and financial planning. Individuals moving from shelters may need assistance with budgeting, as well as understanding tenant rights and responsibilities.
- **Skills Development:** Individuals often need support in developing life skills, such as time management, effective communication, building healthy relationships, money management, and managing household responsibilities all of which are important for maintaining a home and a family.



Just as there is no one path to homelessness, there is also no single solution. By working together as a community, we walk alongside those struggling through poverty as they reclaim stability for themselves and their families.

A customized strategy...a grassroots solution

Before Reclaim, the Upper Snoqualmie Valley lacked an organization specifically focused on providing comprehensive housing stabilization services that reach people before they need emergency shelter. In 2024, we established the upper valley's first ever community service center, The Front Door, that provides individualized services not only for those actively experiencing homelessness but also for those who are struggling to remain housed.

The Front Door provides a warm, welcoming environment where everyone struggling with housing instability is treated with respect, dignity, and care. Our hope is to prevent our insecurely housed neighbors from falling through the cracks and entering homelessness.



1

PREVENTION: THE FRONT DOOR COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

By establishing on-going relationships and providing services and resources customized for each client before a crisis renders someone unhoused, we reduce the number of people entering homelessness.

Our collection of services offers crucial support in preventing homelessness while also providing on-going support services to unsheltered, marginalized individuals and families. These services include:

- Individualized Case Management provided by full-time, on-site Housing Advocates
- Assistance accessing public benefits such as medical insurance, childcare and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Walk-in Assistance for immediate essential items like warm gloves, diapers, and hygiene supplies
- Shelter Program Intakes that streamline shelter access for people needing emergency shelter
- Threads of Kindness Clothing Boutique for free clothing and household items
- Partner Agency Outreach referrals to other local services such as legal support
- Emergency Food Boxes provided by the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank
- Tools for Employment Searches such as computers, printers, Wi-Fi and phones
- Referrals to Support Groups for recovery, domestic violence, grief, etc.
- Benefits specialist focused on assisting clients in applying for and receiving Social Security Disability Benefits.

2

STABILITY: SHELTER TO HOME PROGRAM

This 90-day program works to provide immediate motel-based shelter with the goal of moving individuals and families into permanent housing. It provides for immediate needs while allowing our clients to remain close to their social circles, support systems, schools, places of worship, and employment. As individuals and families move into permanent housing, our housing advocates remain available to provide support services to aid in maintaining tenancy. Each night, we shelter 30-50 adults and children in scattered site motels within the Snoqualmie Valley.

3

CRISIS SERVICES: SEVERE WEATHER SHELTER

Extreme weather is on the rise. In response, we offer up to 15 emergency shelter beds during severe cold, heat, and smoke events. This life-saving service provides a safety net for those who are not currently enrolled in our Shelter to Home Program and, thus, remain living out in the elements.

4

ELDER FOCUS: GARY'S PLACE

Our seniors, many on fixed incomes, often face significant isolation, mobility and physical safety issues that deeply impact their health and quality of life. In response to the disappearance of a dear friend and client who suffered from medical issues, our Gary's Place Program was developed in 2024 to meet the unique needs of elders who are experiencing chronic homelessness in our community, and to keep them safe while our housing advocates work to find them supportive housing solutions that will allow them to age in place.

5

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROGRAM

In partnership with the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, and funded by the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women, we provide emergency shelter, advocacy, and supportive services to those fleeing domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault. This program provides essential safety and stabilization services to those who have experienced gender-based violence, with priority given to our Native American community members. We are currently exploring ways to expand these services to include transitional housing.

6

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Our amazing community members have expressed a desire to be more involved in addressing issues of poverty in the Snoqualmie Valley. Along with support provided by our direct service staff, The Front Door Community Service Center provides a space for receiving, processing, storing, and distributing in-kind donations through our Threads of Kindness clothing boutique.

To manage this work, we hired a part time Volunteer Coordinator to lead and expand our volunteer program. We are grateful to be able to rely on over 100 volunteers each year to process donations, provide meals to our shelter clients, donate, wrap and distribute holidays gifts each winter, and offer their specialized skills in creative ways. Our volunteers also help plan and execute fundraising events, host monthly birthday parties, and cook and serve holiday meals.



Why Reclaim?

We are a robust organization, with a lean but mighty staff of nine, responding to the unmet needs of our community. Since our inception in 2012, we have remained strongly focused on building deep relationships with our clients, government officials, and other local service agencies.

“Everything we do is built on the understanding that relationship-building remains front and center. We must be willing to meet people where they are and walk alongside them as they recover from homelessness.”

- Jennifer Kirk, Executive Director

Over the years, we have had the honor of watching hundreds of people grow and stabilize, surrounded by volunteers and staff members who truly care about our clients' emotional, mental, and physical well-being. Our clients - people with disabilities, chronic health conditions, mental health disorders; people escaping domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking; people of color; single parents; members of the LGBTQ+ community; people living in poverty - have been historically disempowered, marginalized, underserved, and disproportionately impacted by rising housing costs and lingering effects of discrimination.

It is these people that we have the honor of serving every day as we offer individualized support, opportunities for growth, and sustainable solutions.



About Reclaim

formerly Snoqualmie Valley Shelter Services

Founded as the Snoqualmie Valley Winter Shelter in 2012 by concerned citizens from all walks of life, we have grown in large part through ongoing support from the community. Historically, those coming to us arrive from a place not meant for habitation. This means that, prior to accessing our shelter, they were living out in the elements, in a vehicle, or in a structure without water, heat and/or electricity.

From 2012-2019, we provided nighttime only winter shelter and, in 2017 added a year-round daytime resource center. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we began providing 24/7 year-round shelter services in November of 2020.

During the pandemic, we saw a significant increase in need, as we served upwards of 60 men, women, and children per night throughout our programs. We've served over 450 men, women and children experiencing homelessness since 2020. Of those, 32% of our clientele have been new to homelessness. Baby Boomers are now our largest demographic, along with families entering homelessness for the first time.

In an effort to reduce barriers and trauma for those entering a shelter for the first time, our agency underwent a rebrand in 2022. Not only does our new name, Reclaim, remove the word "shelter", it also better represents our focus and the impact we have in the Snoqualmie Valley.

We pride ourselves on remaining lifesaving and supporting those living in literal homelessness. We have also created a targeted approach to prevent homelessness moving forward.



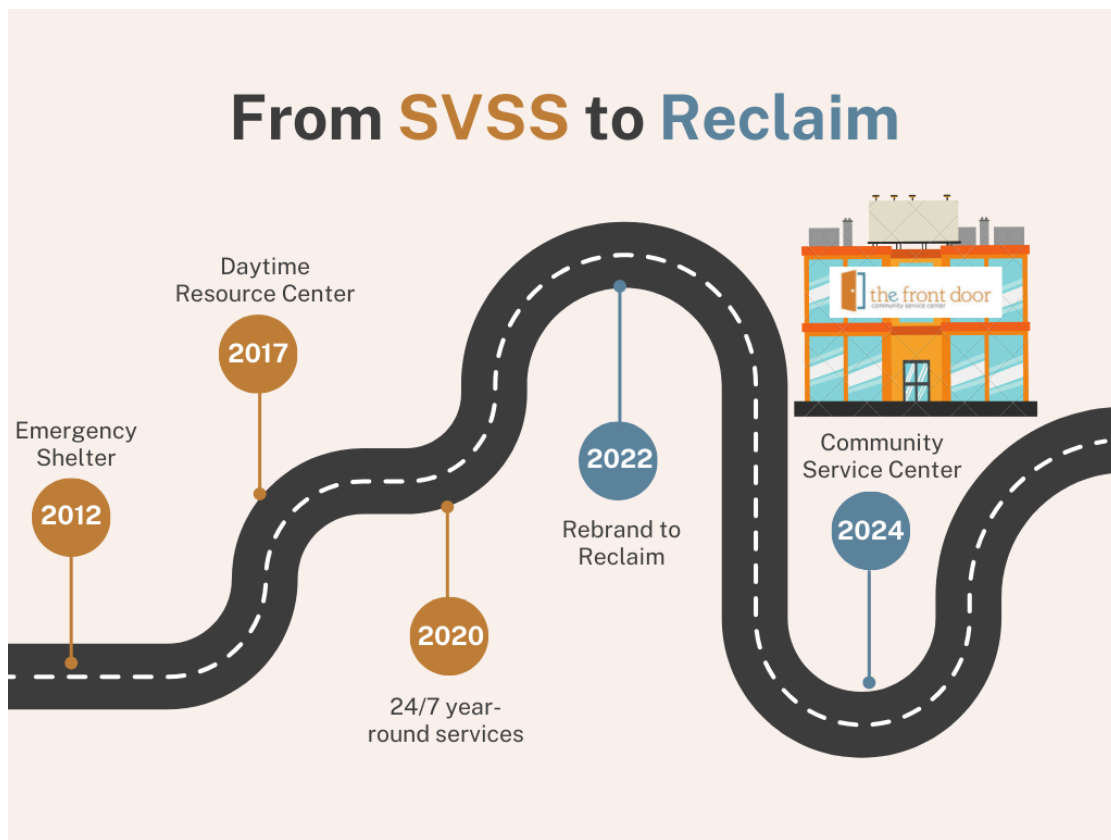
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About Reclaim

While we have many accomplishments to celebrate, one of our largest has been the purchase of our building in early 2024. Our new home allows our entire staffing team to work together in the same location, provides a much-needed community service center in the Upper Snoqualmie Valley, and offers life-saving severe weather sheltering when needed.

For 12 years now, we've responded to the changing needs of our struggling neighbors and the ever-present affordable housing shortage. We pride ourselves on our ability to shift and grow in an effort to meet those needs in our community.



We know firsthand about the challenges faced by those experiencing active homelessness, the complexities of preventing homelessness, and ways to help our neighbors navigate permanent, stable living conditions.

Furthermore, people who are experiencing behavioral health challenges need a safe, welcoming place to receive service referrals and advocacy. Folks who are living outside need a refuge where they are warmly welcomed and can access food, clothing, laundry services, and hygiene supplies.

We feel honored to walk alongside our clients as they reclaim their livelihood.

We thank you for your ongoing support of our programs and of those living unhoused and insecurely housed in our community. Together, we can make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.



Reclaim

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Organizational capacity

Each member of our staff has a strong commitment to our organization and vision.

Reclaim's team of nine employees work side-by-side every day to assist others in recovering from the trauma of homelessness and lessening the impact of poverty. Reclaim's philosophy includes the importance of building a strong, collaborative, trustworthy team full of individuals who understand, firsthand, the struggles their clients may be experiencing. Most of Reclaim's staff have lived experience, allowing the organization to better serve those who are still struggling. Three of our staff members came through the Reclaim program prior to joining our staffing team as full-time employees; 50% have personally experienced homelessness; 38% are BIPOC; and 63% are in recovery.



Organizational Capacity

As an agency co-founder, our Executive Director, Jennifer Kirk, has a deep passion for connecting with those experiencing homelessness. Having worked in most areas of sheltering, from volunteer work to overnight staffing to management, stepping into the role of executive director in 2014 was a natural fit. Additionally, her case management background brings about the ability to navigate through the most challenging of situations with our clients.



During Jen's time as executive director, she has worked to connect with the larger community, local businesses, faith organizations and government agencies. This includes nurturing an environment of partnership, investment, and cohesion between our neighbors, whether housed or un-housed. Her passion lies in the relational side of social services and in helping people find their way home.

Our Operations Director and another co-founder, Trissa Dexheimer, works behind the scenes to keep our systems running smoothly. She is responsible for the business side of the agency and the ever-important grant writing. She is also adept at writing policies and procedures. Trissa knows that a well-organized agency allows direct service staff to focus on their mission and believes nothing is impossible if well planned.



Reclaim currently has a six-member Board of Directors, all of whom bring a variety of skills to the organization including legal, engineering, construction, banking, affordable housing, executive business management, and marketing and graphic design. The Board is launching a board recruitment campaign in the fall of 2024.

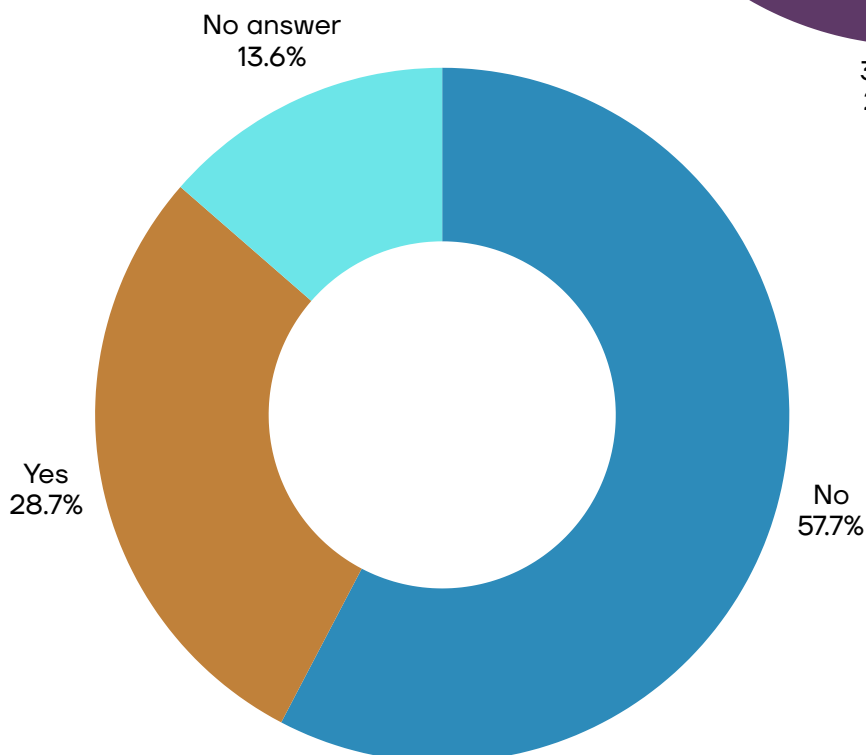
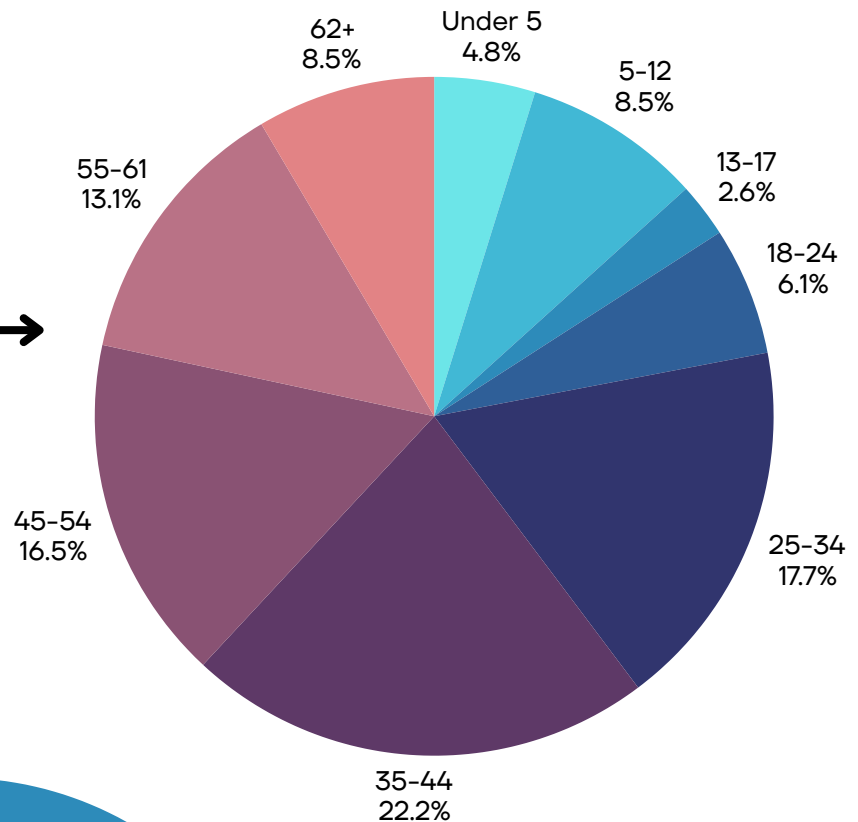
Who we serve

Since the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in 2020, we've served

541 individuals

This includes single adults, couples, and families with children.

age range



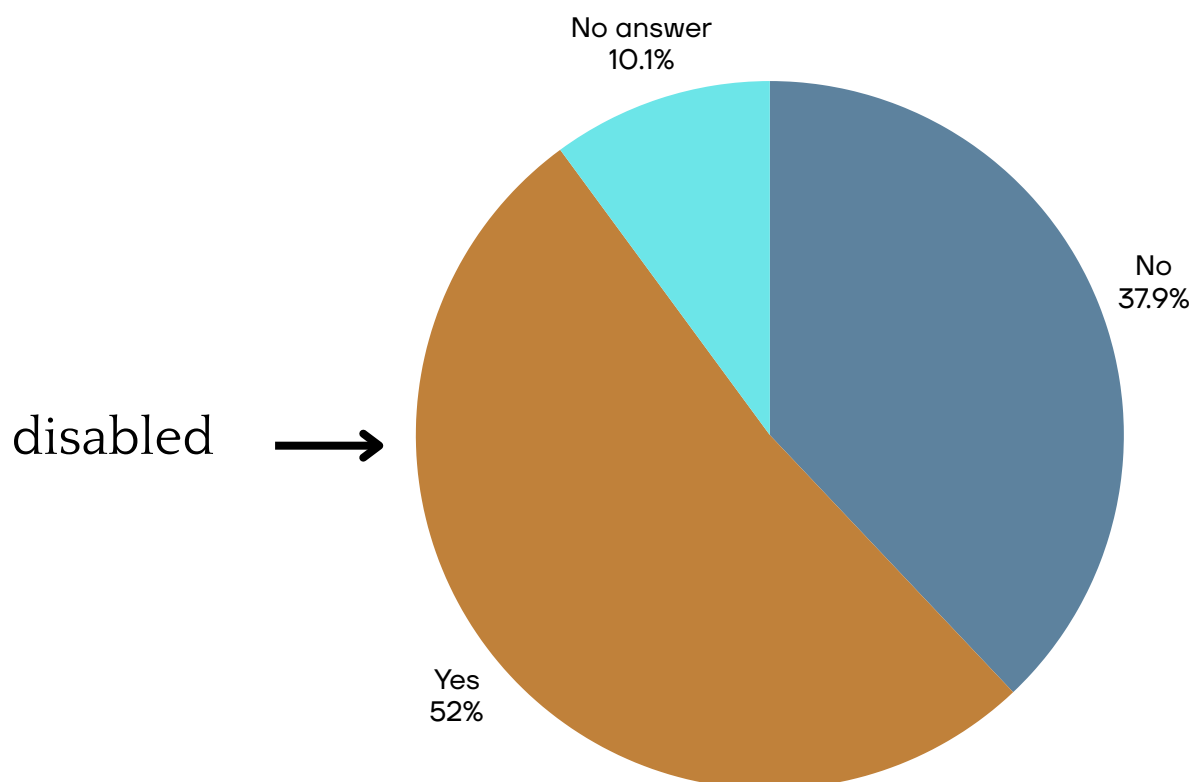
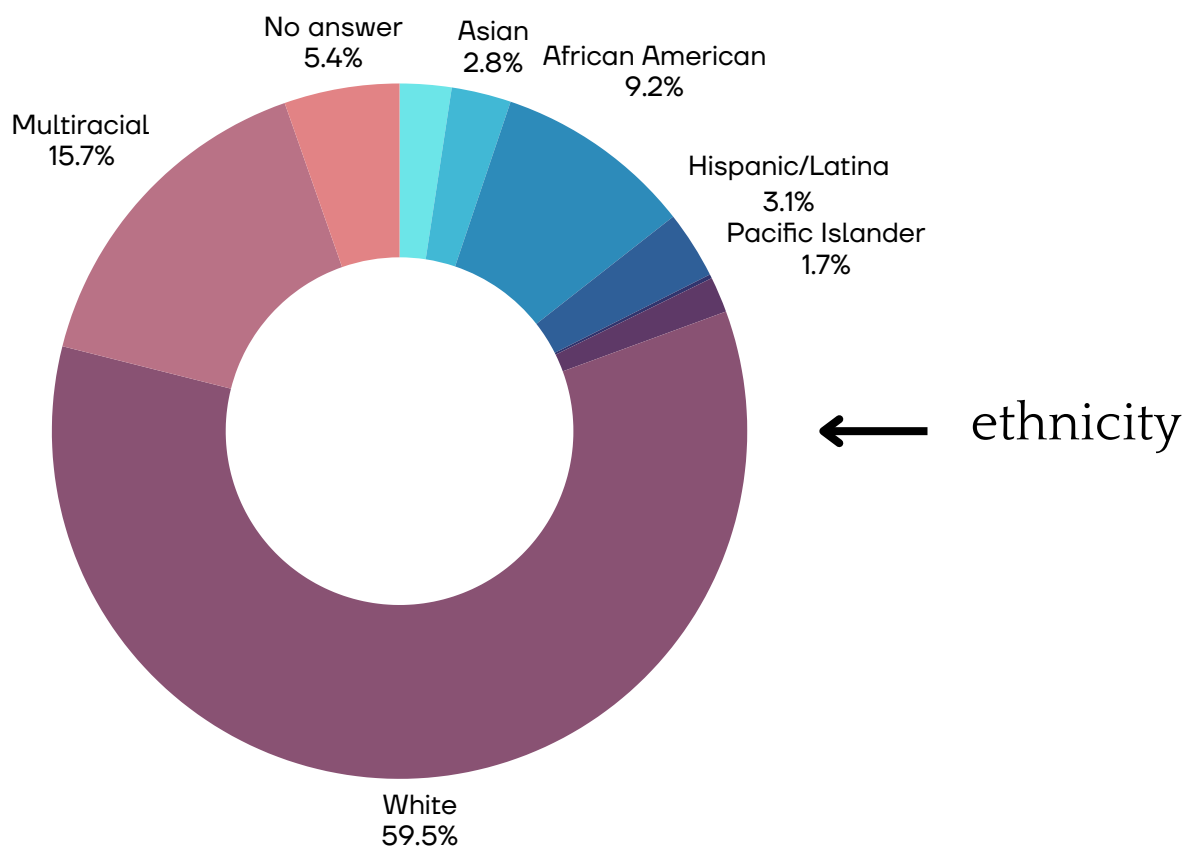
experience
chronic
homelessness



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Who We Serve



Proven success

Having a stable home allows individuals to focus on personal growth, access healthcare, pursue employment, and reconnect with their community. This transition is not just about physical shelter but about regaining dignity, autonomy, and the opportunity for a better future.

Here are just a few examples of various successes recent clients have experienced with the help of Reclaim.

“Ashley” came to us fleeing domestic violence and overwhelmed with debt. Through our program, they received the resources and support needed to decompress in a safe environment, save money, and move into their own apartment.

“Tom” entered our program suffering from severe depression. With support, they overcame their challenges, found employment, and transitioned into a room to rent.

“Celeste” and family came to us needing general assistance. During their time with us, it became apparent that domestic abuse was occurring within the household. Our team worked hard to ensure mom and kids were safe, helping them to transition out of state to live with supportive family. Mom has since obtained her driver’s license, become employed, and purchased a car for her family. Reclaim was even able to order car seats to be delivered to her out-of-state new home.

“Stephanie” was a long-time client who struggled for years with substance use issues. She entered our Shelter to Home program in some crises but spent the next few months focusing solely on her sobriety. She is now nearly a year sober, is employed, and lives with family.

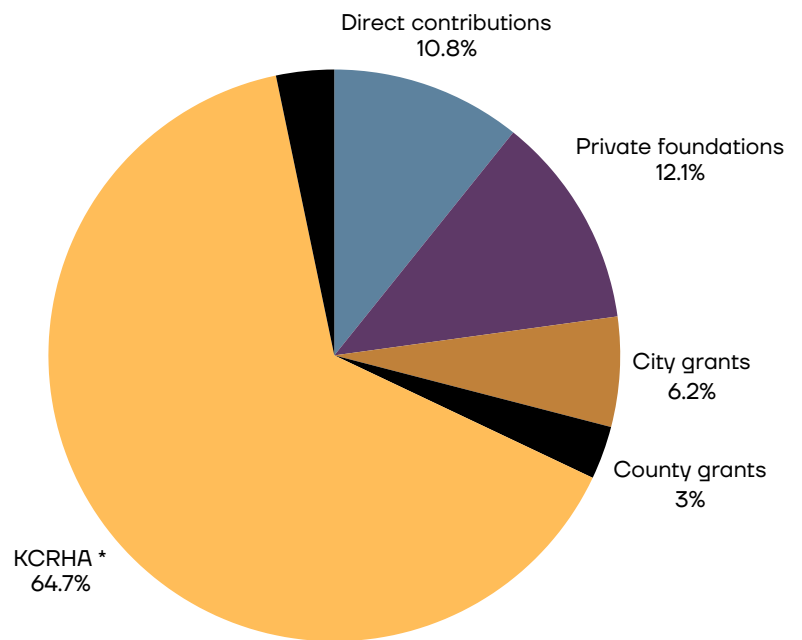
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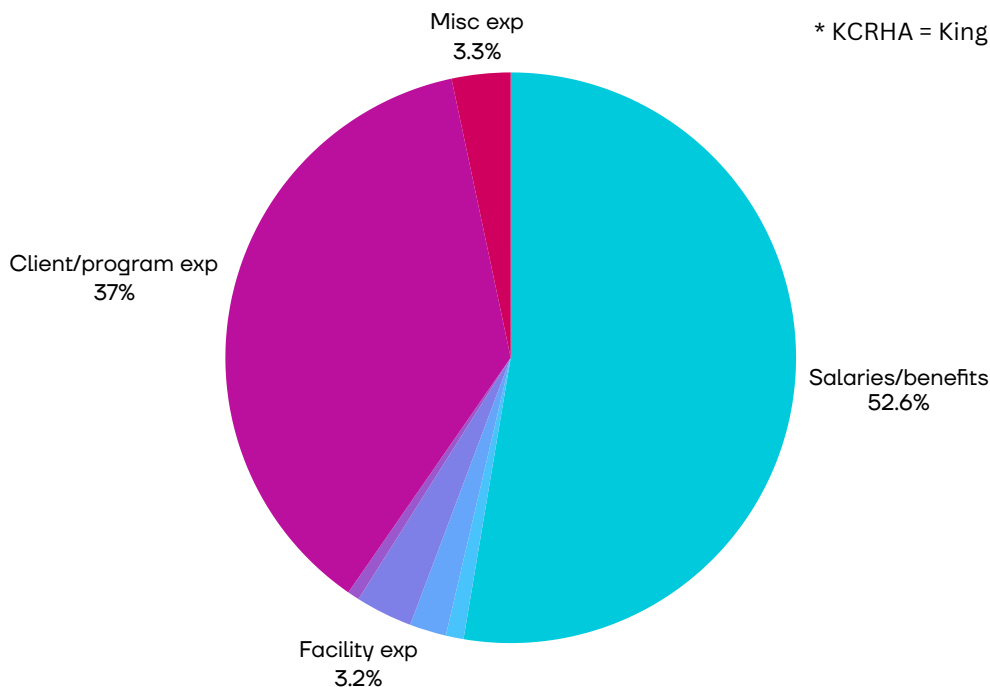
How our funds are spent

To meet the needs of our poverty-stricken community members, support and train our staffing team, and ensure we provide the best possible services to our community, our 2025 budget sits at \$1.53M. We receive ongoing support from a variety of individual and corporate contributions; state, county, and local government grants; religious and fraternal organizations; and non-government grants.

income →



* KCRHA = King County Regional Homelessness Authority



← expenses

Opportunity for engagement

We turn to our Snoqualmie Valley neighbors to partner with us in this ever-important work. We are poised to raise \$100,000 in funding in 2025 to further deepen, broaden, and advance our work.



10 gifts of \$5,000

could fund:

- 500 nights of motel room rentals
- Reclaim facility costs for an entire year



10 gifts of \$2,500

could fund:

- 250 nights of motel room rentals
- a year's worth of flexible funds to assist with housing stability and move-in costs



15 gifts of \$1,000

could fund:

- 150 nights of motel room rentals
- 430 hours of case management services to assist clients in moving through homelessness.



20 gifts of \$500

could fund:

- 100 nights of motel room rentals
- 1,250 loads of laundry for community members in need

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Our upcoming renovation

The purchase of our own building in early 2024 has allowed us to provide, for the first time, all administrative and support services under one roof. While our building is currently supporting most of our needs, we will undergo renovation in 2026/2027 to ensure we are fully accessible to all community members and efficient in the ways in which we provide services.

Needed improvements include the following:



Looking to the future

As we look to the future, our goal is to create a comprehensive, sustainable support system that not only addresses immediate needs but also stems the flow of community members entering homelessness to begin with. Our deepest desire is to empower individuals and families to achieve long-term stability, so they can go on to live beautiful lives for years to come. **But we cannot do this alone.** With your partnership, we can make such a lasting impact on this community we love.

Instead of generational poverty, let's create generational stability.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS:

Implementing proactive measures to prevent homelessness before it starts, including rental assistance programs, financial literacy workshops, and creative housing options.

PERMANENT HOUSING SOLUTIONS:

Establishing a model for permanent supportive housing that integrates truly affordable housing with wraparound services such as mental health support, job training, and life skills education.

ADVOCACY & POLICY CHANGE:

Engaging in advocacy efforts to influence local and national policies that address the root causes of homelessness, such as affordable housing shortages and systemic inequality.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION PROGRAMS:

Developing initiatives that foster community engagement, helping individuals and families reintegrate into a society that receives them with compassion, consistency, and supportive social networks.

“There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in.”

- Desmond Tutu

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Reclaim mission & vision

Our mission: Reclaim is a community resource providing pathways to stability, opportunity and connection.

Our vision for the Snoqualmie Valley is a community where everyone has a roof over their heads. We want people to avoid the trauma of homelessness by providing them with timely housing stabilization services.

Stability – Providing safe, trauma-informed services to those living unhoused or unstably housed throughout our community as we work to create sustainable housing options for all.

Opportunity – offering a robust service model that includes deep partnerships with other local social service providers as a wrap-around team that supports new opportunities.

Connection – Remaining forever anchored in our belief that human connection is the key to all forward progress, and that relationships are built through inclusivity, consistency, and trust.



Our values

Our values help to remind us about what is truly important in our interactions with each other, our clients, and the wider community. We reflect on these values when making decisions and building out programs to meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness in our area.

Respect for each other, our clients, volunteers, and our community.

- We believe respect is given through active listening, courtesy, remaining open-minded, being inclusive, and encouraging self-expression.
- We work to have the clients feel respected in how we interact with them in every situation.
- We succeed when all clients feel valued and are seen as individuals who have worth and meaning in our organization and in our community.

Relationships are the foundation for change.

- We believe that everyone deserves to be listened to and receive clearly stated expectations with meaningful opportunities for feedback and self-expression.
- We work to maintain and model healthy boundaries.
- We succeed when our clients trust us with their needs and aspirations.

Compassion is concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of clients.

- We believe every person is worthy and deserving of care and empathy, regardless of their present challenges.
- We work to meet clients where they are now and walk alongside them.
- We succeed when clients feel valued and cared for.

Empowerment is believing in the competence and self-knowledge of our clients.

- We believe that the people we serve are capable of self-sufficiency and independence.
- We work to avoid inflating our own egos and creating dependency in clients.
- We work to give clients the opportunity to experience empowerment through taking responsibility for the safety of themselves and others, cleanliness, and giving choices when possible.
- We succeed when clients make positive choices in regards to their relationships, health, and independence.

Consistency is crucial to maintaining a solid foundation and provides safe boundaries for everyone.

- We believe in the fairness of consistency.
- We work to uphold policy and procedures in order to maintain consistency. We discuss and advocate for change as needed.
- We succeed when all staff, clients, and volunteers know what to expect from each other.