

Onward Learning



**INTERESTED IN ATTENDING
EVERETT COMMUNITY
COLLEGE? NEED HELP WITH
SCHOOL AND HOUSING
EXPENSES?**



1319

M-V

- Shelter
- Doubled-up
- Motel/Hotel
- Unsheltered

266
UHY

- M-V without a parent/guardian

54

Foster

- Substitute care away from home/parent
- Child welfare agency has placement, care, & authority

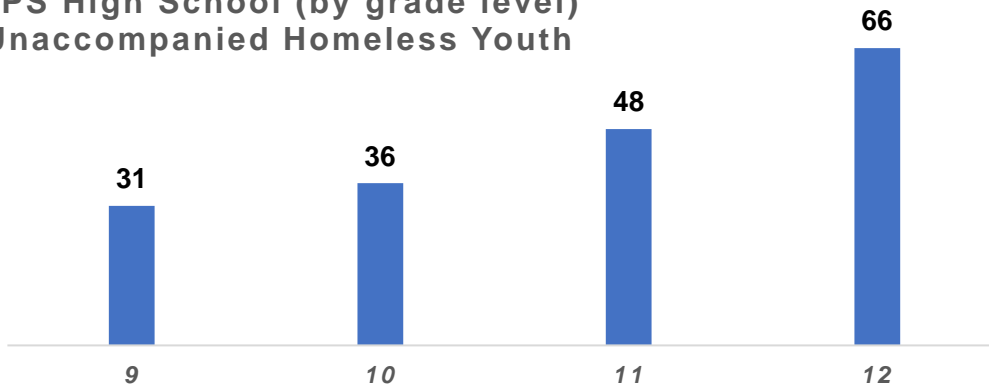




Homeless Student Stability education Program (HSSeP)

In addition to their regular youth support in Snohomish County, Cocoon House partners with EPS through our HSSeP funding to support a Youth Advocate assigned to EPS high Schools to help coordinate support for UHY.

EPS High School (by grade level)
Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



Onward Learning collaboration

New partnering is being done with the with Housing Hope and EvCC to create a high school to college bridge for UHY and Foster graduates.

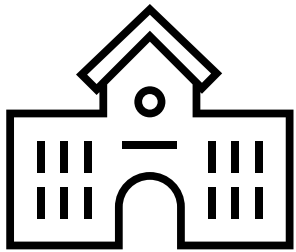
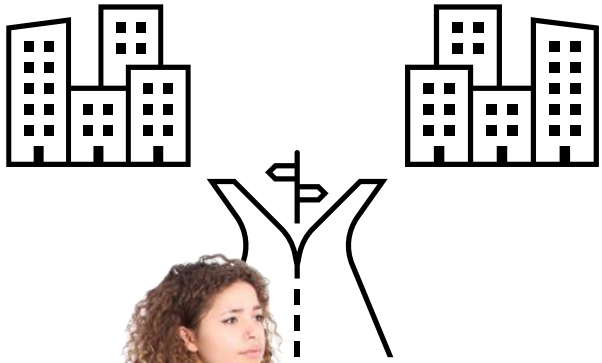


Felicity is a senior this year. She is not showing as KIT in our school system but you found out she has lived with her grandparents since she was in 5th grade. They do not have legal custody of her.

Felicity's mom is in another state with no communication, and her dad isn't stable and has rare communication.

This year while applying for colleges, she finds out that she can't put her grandparents' information in the FAFSA and isn't able to get access to what she needs to put her parents in there.

The grandparents' home seems to have been a pretty stable place for her to live... is it possible for her to qualify as a UHY?



Cristina had been living between two older sibling's apartments each in a different school district than where she was enrolled. She was couch surfing, after her parents split up and both had moved to different locations hours away.

Cristina did not want to stay with either of them as they were also in unstable places and looking for their own stable housing.

This was difficult as the older siblings were not much older and were not able to provide much more than a couple of weeks at their place due to putting their own housing at risk.

David was sent to you by his teacher because he told her he already took her class and doesn't know why he has to retake it.

In reviewing David's credits with him, he tells you that he is living with an uncle here in Everett and he has attended 4 different high schools in 3 different school districts.

His transcript only shows one other school and that he is not on track to graduate.

Digging deeper, you find out that he has two SSID's in CEDARS and it looks like he may have more credit...



Onward Learning



What it is

A program designed to provide access to Housing and Higher Education for UHY and Foster Youth as they transfer to college

- **Gap Funding:** intended to pay for housing not covered by financial aid.



Onward Learning is a collaboration between:

- Housing Hope (lead agency)
 - Provides support with financial management, education and employment services for program participants.
- Everett Community College
 - Provides education and on-campus housing for program participants
- Everett Public Schools
 - Provides referrals and helps facilitate EPS students enrolling in the program
- Cocoon House
 - Provides general case management and ongoing support to students in the program

Eligibility The program is open to young people who meet the following criteria*:

- Ages 17-24
- Must have (or be on track for) High School Diploma or GED with a plan for EvCC (can transfer to the 4 year programs too)
- Must have a minimum of one-year residency in the state of Washington, with proof (ID, Utility Bill, School Records, Address).
- Must have applied for Financial Aid: FAFSA/WASFA (Bonus if they have College Bound 😊)
- Unaccompanied Youth and Foster Students
 - UHY McKinney Vento definition: a person lacking a fixed, adequate, and regular nighttime residence AND not in the care of a parent/legal guardian.
 - Or have been in Foster care at some point after the age of 13
- Enrolled/in good standing at Everett Community College
 - Be registered for at least 10 credits

**EPS students have first priority for dorm spaces with Onward Learning.*

Current Source of Referrals

Going forward we will not refer U3 (Open Doors programs) but referrals will come from Everett Public Schools and Cocoon House for the most part.

Cocoon House: 10 students

Everett Public Schools: 4 students

EvCC-TRiO : 3 students

EvCC-U3 : 3 students

Snoco Connect: 2 students

DCYF: 1 student

Onward Learning Enrollment

Number of students varies each quarter.

- Winter 2022: 3 students
- Spring 2022: 12 students
- Summer 2022: 15 students
- Fall 2022: 15 students
- Winter 2023: 16 students



Reflections from our pilot group

- Students need to be serious about school (not just desperate for housing)
- Timing for referrals needs to be aligned with graduation (now is the time to refer!)
- Some students need a lot of support, others are very independent.
- Independent students may transition to more affordable options once they understand processes and Financial Aid



What do the Dorms look like?

.....

Exterior of Mountain View Hall



Room in Mountain View Hall

Assistance League
Partnering for move
in supplies for
youth!





**Community Room in
Mountain View Hall**



Shared Kitchen in Mountain View Hall

Rooms include microwave and refrigerator for basic needs, shared kitchens available for larger cooking needs.

Funding currently available for 20 students but we anticipate expansion for Fall 2023.

Housing applications accepted based on availability of space in the dormitory.



Program requirements

Maintain regular, thorough communication with Onward Learning program staff

Maintain good standing in Everett Community College's Student Housing

Make regular progress toward educational goals

Apply for Financial Aid by priority deadline

May not engage in prohibited student conduct as defined by the "Student Rights and Responsibilities" Handbook

Ensure employment does not interfere with education

Referrals & Enrollment Process

- A one-page referral form should be submitted to Amanullah Zurmati, Case Manager, at OnwardLearning@cocoonhouse.org or by calling 425.866.6280

Can be done by your SSA or Brennan for EPS students

- Amanullah confirms eligibility, contacts the young person, schedules an appointment for intake
- Intake appointment: sign ROIs/Program Agreement, complete application to EvCC, review status of Financial Aid application, discuss goals, provide general information

.

Next Steps

- EvCC acceptance is emailed directly to participant with a ctc Link ID #
- Student schedules appointment with advisor
- Student registers for at least 10 credits
- Amanullah assists student with EvCC Housing application
- EvCC Housing sends a link by email for background check
- EvCC Housing sends Housing contract by email to be signed by participant
- Once approved for Housing, participant receives email with check-in appointment (usually a few days before the quarter starts)

Once on campus

- Student meets regularly with Case Manager; check ins at least twice monthly
- Student meets with Education Coordinator at least monthly for assistance with navigating program selection and career planning
- Education Coordinator provides referrals to resources including tutoring, Disability Services, TRiO, Passport scholarships, Student Clubs & Organizations, Workforce Funding and employment services through Snoco Connect
- Participant is encouraged to apply for Food Benefits and if approved is enrolled in Basic Food, Employment & Training program for additional funding
- Onward Learning staff are available for in-person meetings on campus, by phone, by text and by zoom

Success Stories

- Onward Learning students are provided with an opportunity to obtain a certificate or degree that will lead them to a satisfying career and financial stability



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

"J" is 22 years old and lived on the streets when he was not sleeping on various relative's couches. He was enrolled in Running Start Fall 2018 and earned a .5 GPA (2 F's & a D). In Winter 2019 he dropped out of all his classes. He earned only 5 credits out of a total of 30 credits attempted.

In Spring 2022 he enrolled in Onward Learning and earned a 4.0 his first quarter. Winter 2022 he earned a 3.3 and Fall 2022 a 2.85. He raised his overall GPA to a 2.65 so that he now qualifies for Financial Aid.

J started working part-time in July as a Warehouse Associate for Amazon. He enjoys Math and has decided on pursuing a career as a CPA.



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

"G" is 21 years old and started in the U3 program at EvCC in Spring 2019 while living off campus. She did well academically her first year but then she had a serious conflict with her adoptive parents. They refused to speak to her or provide any financial support.

Her grades took a steep dive, but things improved since she enrolled in Onward Learning in the Winter of 2022. Her overall GPA is now 3.1. She was working as a Vet Assistant but resigned before starting a rigorous set of courses this quarter to prepare for an Externship her final quarter. She will graduate in June 2023 and hopes to be accepted by UW for Fall 2023. She will major in a science degree program (Biology?) while working as a Medical Assistant part-time.



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

"A" is 22 years old and was residing in a domestic violence shelter with her mother and sisters before she moved into EvCC housing as an Onward Learning participant. She worked full-time nights as a Housekeeper in Bothell her first quarter to support her family but failed all her courses.

With Life Skills coaching and educational support, she has earned a 2.7 GPA for Fall 2022 and is working in healthcare part-time in Everett. She looks forward to completing her Medical Assistant ATA degree and working in a clinic.



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

"S" is 20 years old and was sleeping on the sofa at a friend parent's house after escaping an emotionally abusive father. She has always known she wanted to be an actor and is enrolled in the Studio Arts AFA program. She works 2 or 3 part-time jobs each quarter but has still managed to maintain a 3.1 cumulative GPA.

S has identified a drama program out of state that is the perfect fit for her. She has applied to the program and hopes to transfer there in Fall 2023.



Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

"O" is 19 years old and was living with a mother with serious mental health issues who forced her out of the house. Her mother's steady dose of criticism undermined her self-confidence, but she is thriving now that she is enrolled in Onward Learning.

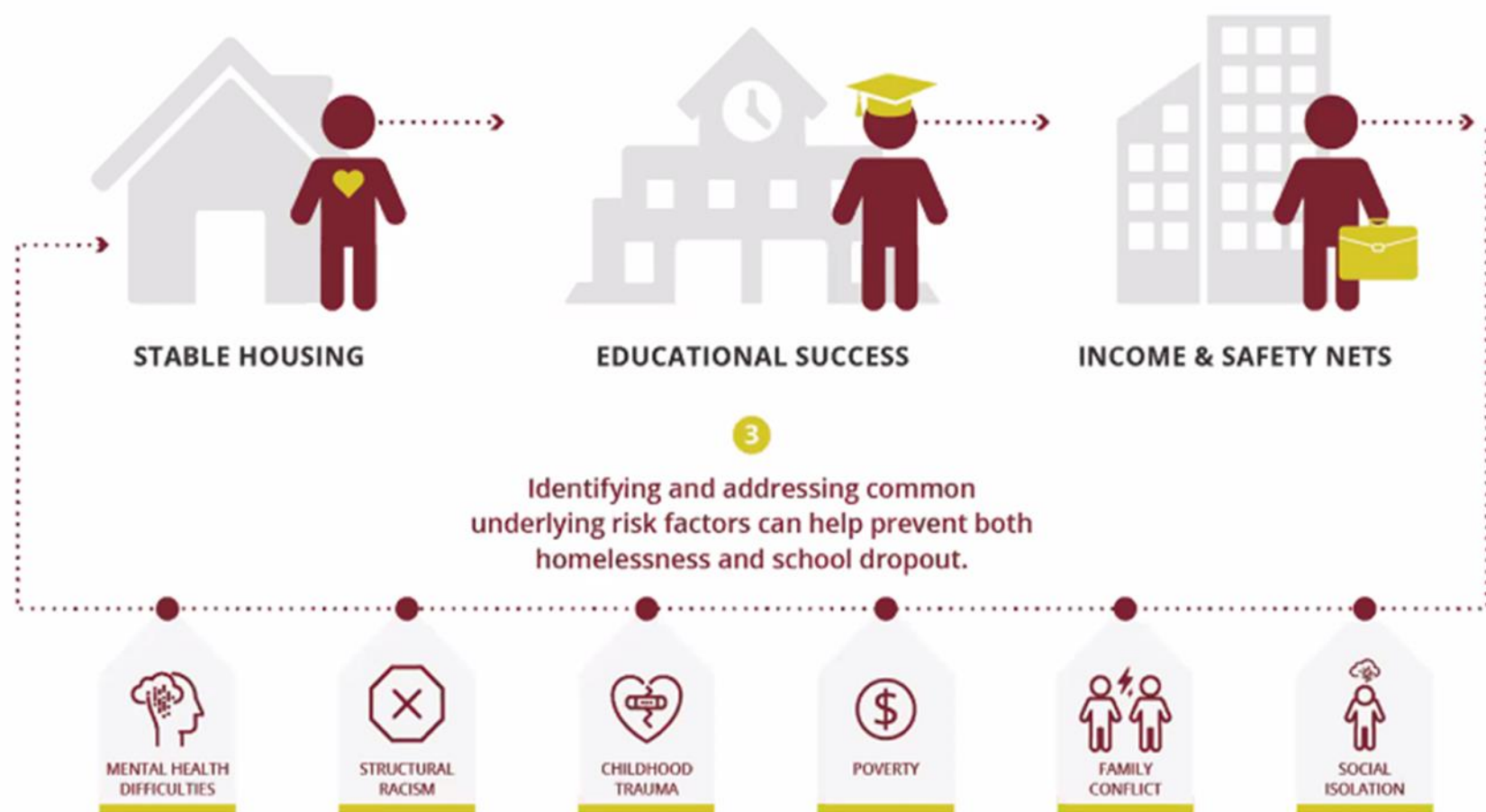
O chose a Photography AFA program and dreams of a career in Media. She has completed 3 courses with an A, B and B+, all while working 24 hours per week at McDonald's. She is very shy but with the encouragement of our staff has enrolled in the TRiO program at EvCC for additional emotional support and the opportunity to grow some friendships on campus. She plans to transfer to a 4-year college to earn a B.A. degree after graduating from EvCC.

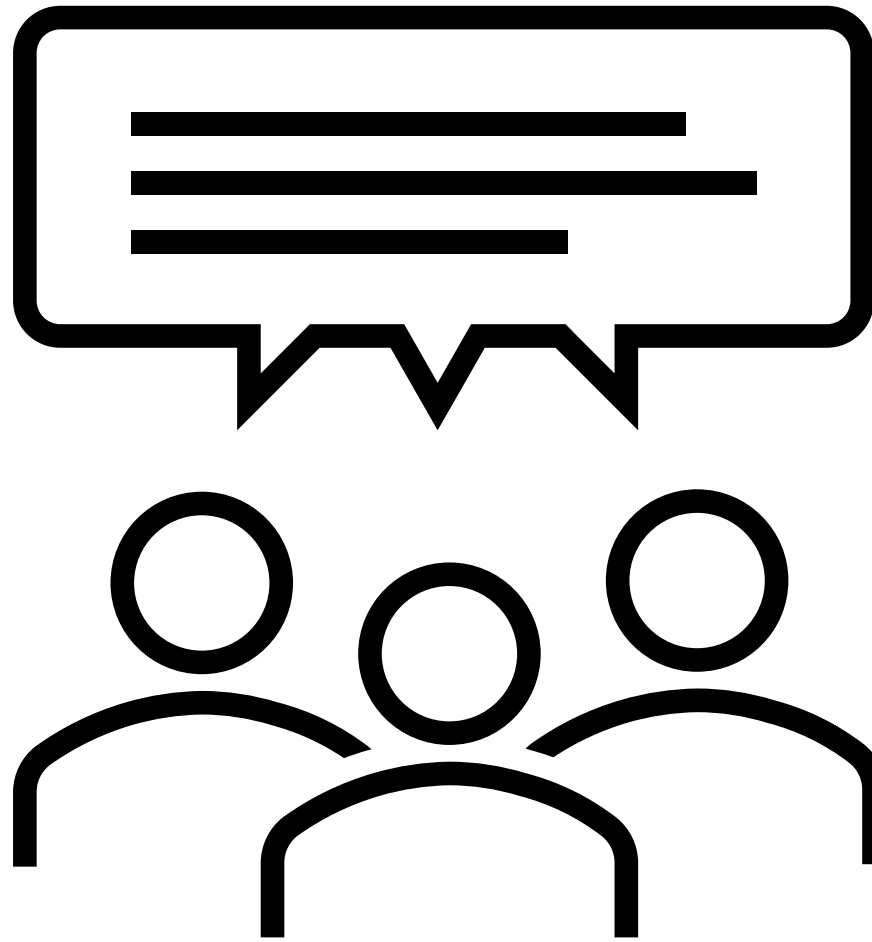


Disrupting the cycle

Supporting young people's housing stability makes it easier for them to stay in school and focus on their educational success.

Helping young people with educational opportunities increases long-term income and safety nets needed to exit homelessness for good.





Thank You

Please feel free to contact us with any further questions!

Amanullah Zurmati (he/him/his)

Onward Learning Case Manager

425.866.6280

Amanullah.Zurmati@cocoonhouse.org

Rosemary LeVasseur

Onward Learning Education Coordinator

425.405.0373

rosemarylevasseur@housinghope.org