

**City of Tumwater – Together! Contract**  
Host Homes Pilot Program Quarter 2 Report

**Report Date:** 04/26/2022 & 07/26/2022

**Funding Period:** October 2021 – October 2023

**Report Period:** January 2022 – July 2022

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**Program Description**

The Host Homes model is an alternative to shelters and transitional housing services for unstably housed young people at-risk of entering young adult chronic homelessness. This model is an example of place-based youth homelessness prevention, meaning that the program supports the young person in their own community.

TOGETHER! Host Homes Pilot Program supports unaccompanied (not in the care of a parent or legal guardian), unstably high school students in the Tumwater School District in Thurston County Washington. The pilot program serves adolescents and young adults ages 13-21. This program operates independent of the Child Welfare system and is one of the few if not only programs in the continuum of services to youth to offer youth a choice for participation.



Tumwater School District Unaccompanied High School Students	
2020-2021	2021-2022 (to date)
30	34

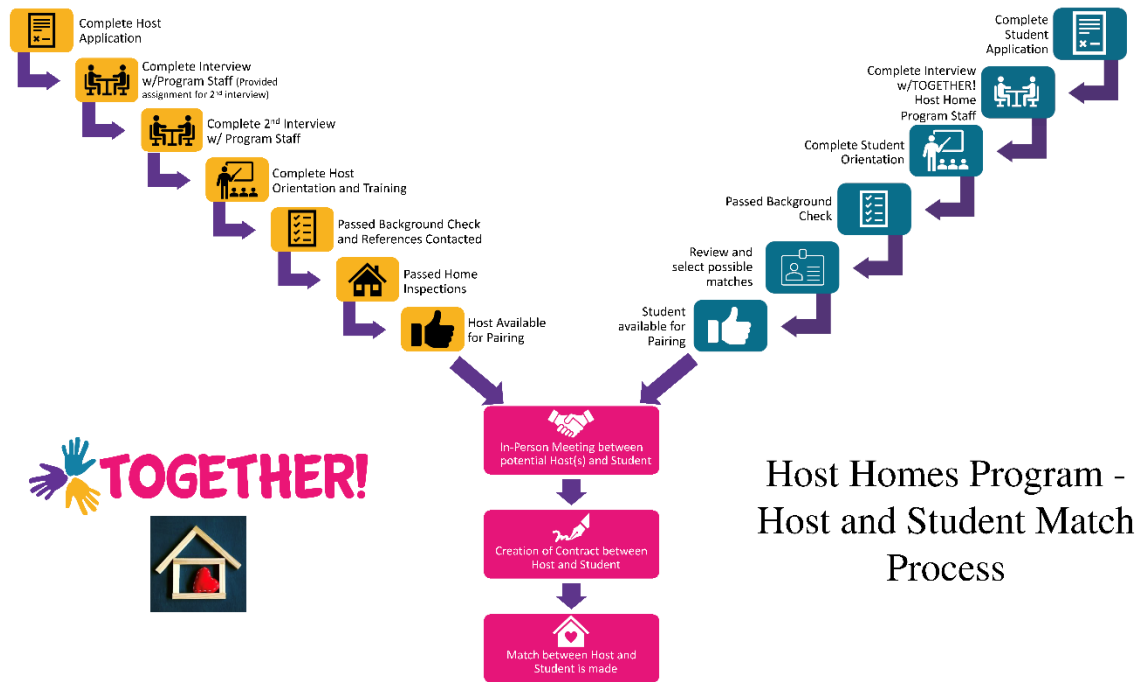
**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Accomplishments**

The Host Homes Pilot program has been in development phase in the first quarter of the Tumwater contract and is adhering to the funded timeline. The following is a list of accomplishments:



We value equity, mobilization and systems change.

1. **Host Match:** We have two youth in the program who will be housed with a host family during the month of August 2022. They will be our first housed youths in the program!
2. The matching process is intentional. Please refer to the Match Process map below to understand vetting and Host-Student Matching.



3. We hired a new Program Director, a Program Manager (starting 9-1-22), and added another Youth Case Manager (starting 9-15-22) to continue implementation, recruitment, and evaluation of the program. The outgoing Program Director will overlap with the new Program Director to ensure a seamless transition. The new Program Director and staff will continue to receive support from the cross-trained program development team and Advisory Council.
4. Coordinating with the Greater Seattle YMCA Host Homes Program to facilitate a current and past host panel *Questions and Answers* session for community members interested in Hosting to gain firsthand insight and perspective, May 2022 date is to be determined.
5. Potential Host Family inquiry since 01/2022. These numbers do not reflect families hosting youth referrals unless a formal request by the family or person is made to the program.

Telephone

Email

Potential Host Families	6	20
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**Outcomes of Inquiries:** Potential Host applicants ask questions or attend a Host Information Session but do not follow through with the application. Five (5) people report they cannot Host a student and request to be kept informed of program updates. One (1) family applied and has completed their orientation and training.

**Findings:** The Host Homes program is not receiving as much interest from potential Host Families as we thought it would. Community members inquire about program requirements or ask clarifying questions, but communication tends to be brief or one time.

6. Presentations and Conversations with Tumwater School District Counselors, Community Partners, and Community Members.
7. Official Launch of the Student Application in January 2022. The following is the inquiries data:

	Telephone	Email
Adult on behalf of youth	29	18
Youth – Self Referral/Interest	4	0

**Outcomes of Inquiries:** Two (2) students are looking for Host matches. Both students are 15 years of age, one identifies male, and the other student identifies non- binary. Neither student has a good “kindship” option within their support system, so a traditional match is needed for both students. One student is unaccompanied because their parents live with life limiting illness in a facility and the other student is at risk for homelessness due to complicated family relationships. Both students’ parents are supportive of their child’s participation in the Host Homes Program and are requesting traditional host matches. Both students have been matched and we plan to house them in August 2022.

We have received two (2) phone call inquiries from youth who found our info on a community flyer. One (1) of those students has started the intake process with our Lead Case Manager.

Additionally, school counselors have reached out on behalf of two (2) other parents with life limiting and terminal illness and living apart from children due to personal care needs for information about the Host Homes program.



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**Findings:** A referral source will communicate with our staff on average 3 to 5 times before an application is submitted. 4 young people are living with school friends and their families without the support of a program.

8. The program team continues to engage in intentional outreach to civic clubs, affinity groups and the faith-based community. Continuing to create marketing materials aimed at educating youth and potential host families.

### **Strengths of our program/organization**

1. Strong partnership with the Tumwater School District. Tumwater Community Schools Managers connect, help navigate and connect with people within the high schools and Tumwater Community.
2. Partnerships with community services providers and systems of care Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISe Program), Community Youth Services (CYS), etc.
3. Two Host models of support: Our program is designed to support youth ages 13 to 21. Through both models of Host caregiving, youth can explore potential Host options within their support system and their community. Matches between Host and youth are intentional to foster positive experiences for every participant involved.
  - a. Traditional Host – no previous connection between the youth and host.
  - b. Kinship Host – an existing relationship between the youth and host; a caring adult in their support system such as a coach, teacher, etc.

### **Challenges:**

1. It has been challenging to make matches for youth and host families. These youth are often involved in different systems of care and require time and support that a higher level of commitment than an independent youth or young adult does not.
2. The needs within our community are greater than our program's ability to address. Referrals come in for overnight shelter, partnered youth, youth with numerous pets, chemical dependency, and mental health support beyond the program's intended scope of practice. Youth and Young adults do not follow-through with applications if not in direct support of a school employee or service provider.
3. COVID Omicron Variant continues to be a primary concern of potential Host Families and community partners inquiring on behalf of youth.
4. Together's Host Homes Pilot Program is new to the community and like other new Host programs we continue to develop intentional relationships with community members to gain trust through transparency.



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