

Lydia Place in Partnership with the Whatcom Homeless Service Center

The Whatcom Homeless Service Center (WHSC) represents a new communitywide effort to find efficient and innovative ways to end homelessness, one household at a time. The project takes a 'Housing First' approach to homelessness, which means it is designed to help clients find housing and then address any issues that may have previously contributed to being homeless.

The 'Housing First' project aims to enhance existing community resources, strengthen communication and cooperation among providers (making it easier for clients to navigate the system), serve previously underserved populations, and ultimately help clients find and keep housing.

The WHSC offers both Rent Assistance and Case Management Support. Rent assistance may include funding in the form of a full or partial deposit, full or partial first month's rent, a subsidy, coordinated efforts to secure funding from other available resources, or a combination of efforts. Case Management Support is provided through one of four partner agencies: Northwest Youth Services, Catholic Community Services, Opportunity Council, and Lydia Place.

As a partner agency, Lydia Place provides ongoing Case Management Support. Case managers work closely with clients to help them find stable housing and reach their housing stability goals. In addition to individualized client support, Lydia Place Case Managers advocate for clients to various audiences including other community agencies, private landlords, property managers, and housing authorities to create possibilities that lead to safe, stable and permanent housing.