



**CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS**

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Northwest Youth Services

Address:
108 Prospect St
Bellingham, WA 98225

Contact:
(360) 734-9862
<https://www.nwys.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Northwest Youth Services is a non-profit organization serving young people ages 13-24 experiencing homelessness in Whatcom and Skagit Counties. We offer housing, street outreach, help finding a job or enrolling in school, connection to mental health services, support for LGBTQ youth, restorative justice for juvenile offenders, and referrals to other services in the community.

Date of Award:	Level:
2019 Q2	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Northwest Youth Services.

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.



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May 20, 2020

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

RE: Grant Report – Skagit Housing and Vocational Support for Youth

To Marilyn and the Directors of the Tulalip Charitable Contributions Fund,

I hope this letter finds you well! Despite the chaos of the world right now, we wanted to thank Tulalip Cares, and the tribe, for your \$█████ grant in 2020. Northwest Youth Services would like to offer the following grant report in recognition of the Tulalip Fund's impact in the 2019-20 year (June-May).

Overview: Northwest Youth Services (NWYS) works with youth and young adults, ages 13-24, who are experiencing a housing crisis in Whatcom and Skagit County. Your support of our Skagit-based transitional living and vocational efforts helped young people, ages 18-24, connect to the housing and supportive resources they need to succeed.

COVID-19 Impact

NWYS is considered an essential service and continues operating throughout the 'stay home' order for Washington State. It has been several months now of devising creative solutions and modifying programs to keep youth safe without disrupting care, but our staff has risen to the challenge.

In Skagit County, modifications to programming included moving swiftly to help our housed youth practice social distancing/isolation, modifying outreach services to minimize the time youth spend in the office while still ensuring they have access to basic needs and support, and boosting sanitation at all of our sites. As an agency, NWYS' leadership is working with local health officials, partners, and the community to implement COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Program Operations and Impact

Safely Housed: The Skagit Transitional Living Program housed 15 youth during the grant period and currently provides housing to nine young people, ages 18-24. Of youth who exited

the program, 83% exited into safe housing environments and a little over 33% exited into stable (permanent) housing environments. NWYS considers safe housing to be a transition that varies widely from youth to youth, but overall meets their needs for safety and continued housing. Stable housing is a housing option that doesn't come with a timeline attached; typically securing an apartment, shared housing, or returning to live with family.

Securing stable, permanent housing options for youth is an ongoing challenge, with very few rents being available at Fair Market Rate, low vacancy rates, and landlords who are often cautious about renting to young people with no credit history. NWYS did secure additional Rapid Rehousing support in late 2019 and continues to seek ways of building out its housing options for Skagit youth.

Employment ready: Nearly 67% of exiting youth in the housing program increased their employability, gaining two or more educational or vocational skills that help them become more ready for independent living. Housing Safety Plans were completed for 83% of exiting youth, and all (100%) of exiting youth increased their independent living skills.

We recognized during the grant period how staff are holistically interacting with incoming young people and how vocational needs are often being addressed from a relational team perspective. Housing clients are often interacting closer with their case manager as a conduit while youth specifically seeking vocational services may seek out the vocational coordinator. We modified our tracking to better capture these services.

2020 Accomplishment: Expanding Skagit Youth Outreach Programming

One of the greatest needs for our agency at this time is improved outreach efforts for youth in Whatcom and Skagit County's urban and rural areas. We know that youth are experiencing homelessness, and that they are isolated and wary of shelters for adults. We must find and engage with them in order for them to trust us enough to bring them inside.

With the help of the Office of Homeless Youth in late 2019, we have begun providing a new outreach program for Skagit youth experiencing homelessness. The Skagit outreach team encounters youth through outreach routes, coordinated entry and interagency referrals, and eventually pop-up tabling sites. The team coordinates to address housing stability, remove material barriers, and support youth regardless of their location or situation.

Update on Northwest Youth Services' Operations

While some items have been put on hold during COVID-19 response, others move forward towards agency growth.

- We will be kicking off an outreach program in the coming months, focusing on decreasing the number of youth exiting publicly-funded institutions into homelessness.

- We continue to search for a new Executive Director, guided by the expertise of our Board of Directors and interim Executive Director, Dean Wight.
- In May 2020, we moved our headquarters from 1020 N. State Street in Bellingham to 108 Prospect Street, also in Bellingham. This shift will also consolidate our staff into one main building, rather than some located at the 1022 and 1155 N. State Street. All staff who can work remotely are currently working remotely, but we look forward to moving into this office as local health guidelines allow.

For any questions, please contact me at 360-734-9862 ext. 104 or email DeanW@nwys.org.

Sincerely,



Dean Wight
Interim Executive Director

Northwest Youth Services – Photos of our Skagit space





