

ZENA NEWS

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STRATEGIES TO REACH DIVERSITY & INCLUSION GOALS

Empowering Homeless Youth is True Leadership



ZENA CONSULTING
Founder / Owner

How do you tackle a complex issue like homelessness and improve the system? Ask the real experts - people who bring the wisdom of lived experience.

That's what the state did last month by asking 40 young adults to evaluate homeless program grant applications.

"Young people tell me that they are ready to lead...they have energy and they have creative solutions, so we're here to help make that reality," said Riannon Bardsley, Statewide Initiatives Manager for the Office of Homeless Youth.

Generational Differences Are Key to New Solutions

Demographic factors of those who struggle with housing instability change with age. Youth and young adults may be fresh out of foster care or identify as LGBTQ. Drugs tend to be a bigger problem than alcohol. There are more students and young families, and fewer veterans. The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services reports domestic violence causes many women to seek emergency shelter. Young mothers are especially vulnerable and need more support.

Partnerships Create Targeted Outcomes

Accountability to citizens versus boards or stockholders increases risks - and learning potential for all. Flexibility is the leadership lesson here. The most effective outreach and service delivery starts with the simple act of getting input from both sides of the Cascade Curtain. The group recommended targeted initiatives that will provide rental assistance and case management for young adults, ages 18-24. Read the full Dept. of Commerce article [here](#).

OPPORTUNITIES



Small Biz & Nonprofit Grants

The DoC is collaborating with ArtsWA to distribute \$75M in pandemic relief to small businesses and nonprofits.

Working Washington - Round 5:

Portions of these funds are set aside for specific sectors:

- 60% for the arts, heritage, and science, including live entertainment venues
- 40% for most other sectors, including hospitality, fitness, and personal services

Learn more [here](#).



FREE! Cybersecurity Training

Small biz owners must become a client to attend, (also free.)

Dates: 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 PM (PDT)

Register [here](#) before 9/13.

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