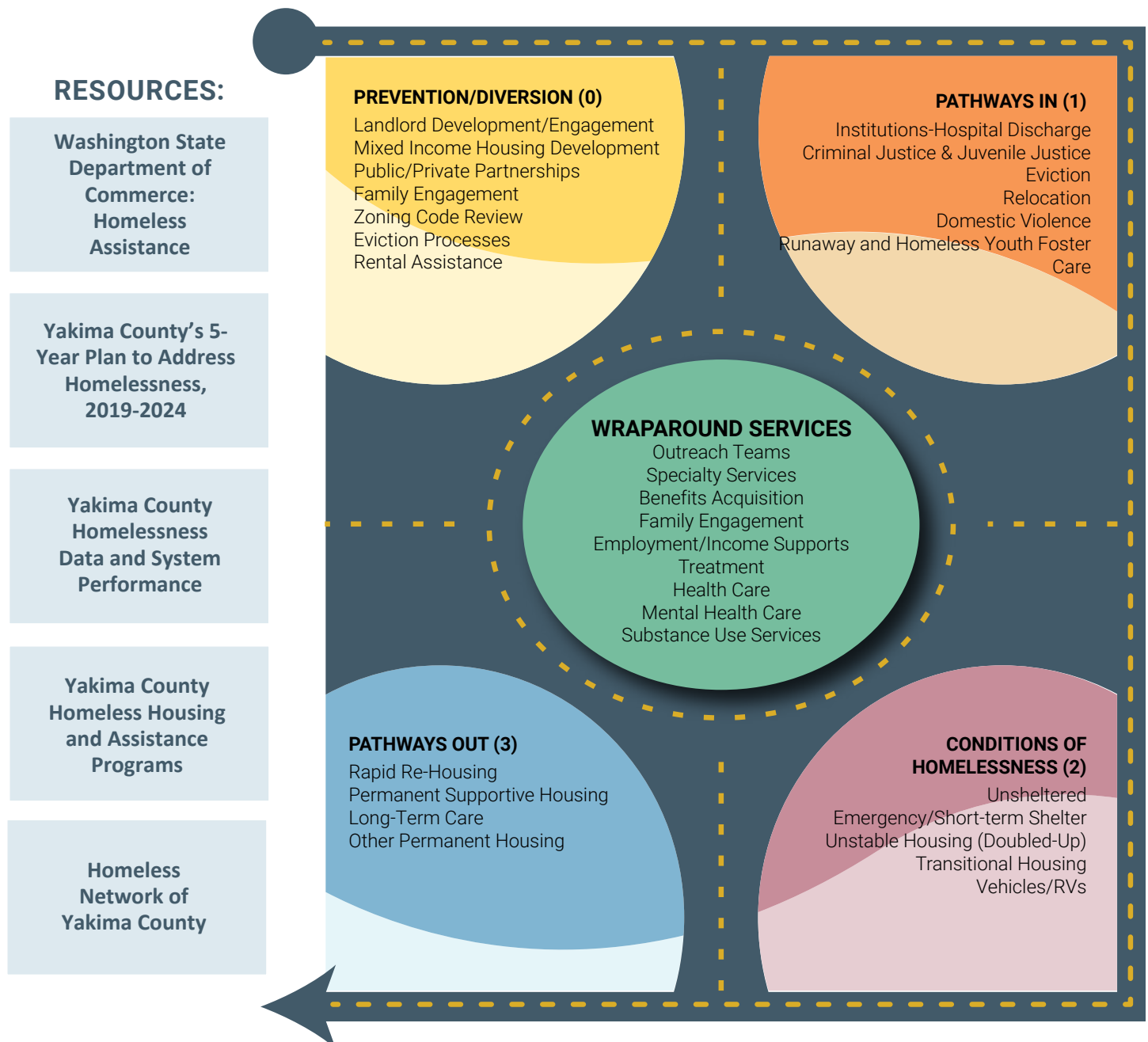




# YAKIMA HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEMS MAPPING

## PATHWAYS IN AND PATHWAYS OUT

The Yakima County Department of Human Services leads the efforts in the county to meet the needs of people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. The county and city governments work in coordination with local non-profits to stabilize housing for those at-risk, coordinate access to services for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness, and help people exit the homeless response system to appropriate and safe permanent housing. Funding sources and programs are always changing and evolving. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, but rather a representative snapshot in time of county-wide programs.





# 0: DIVERSION/PREVENTION

Programs are available to identify and support individuals and families prior to entering the homeless service system to divert them from mainstream homeless services and prevent them from losing their housing.

## LANDLORD DEVELOPMENT/ENGAGEMENT

**Landlord Mitigation Program:** Washington State's Landlord Mitigation Law provides funds for landlord reimbursement for required move-in upgrades, rent loss, and qualifying damages.

## MIXED INCOME HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

**The Washington Low Income Housing Alliance:** Coalition of organizations that advocates for safe affordable housing.

**Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing**

**Catholic Charities of Central Washington Affordable Housing Services**

## PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

**Washington Youth and Families Fund:** Operated by Building Changes, the fund is a combination of government and philanthropic funds granted to local agencies to reduce homelessness for youth and families. Yakima County, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, and Northwest Justice Project are grantees.

## EVICITION PROCESSES/PREVENTION

**Northwest Justice Project, Yakima Office:** Local legal aid organization providing civil legal assistance to low-income individuals including services to prevent evictions and maintain stable housing for renters.

**Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties**

## RENTAL ASSISTANCE

**Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Economic Services Administration, Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral Program:** HEN program funds can be used for rent and utility assistance, move-in costs, health and hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and transportation assistance. HEN program funds are accessed through a network of homeless prevention service providers. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services and the Northwest Community Action Center are access points in Yakima.

**HUD HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA):** The TBRA program uses federal funds to provide deposits, utility payments, and ongoing rental assistance. Eligible households are referred to TBRA through local Coordinated Entry access points.

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

**Yakima Neighborhood Health Service:** Provides diversion trainings to help families to divert from entering the homeless services system by offering creative solutions. Funded through private foundation grants.

**Family Self Sufficiency Program:** Offered by the Yakima Housing Authority. A program to help individuals receiving a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) to increase skills, education, and employment.

**The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation:** Grants are distributed to support efforts to reduce family homelessness in Washington.

## ZONING CODE REVIEW

**The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC):** Provides information to local governments in Washington State including information on housing.

**City of Yakima Housing Action Plan:** Adopted in June 2021 to encourage housing development, increase housing choice, and address the needs of those experiencing homelessness.

**Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG):** Washington State uses funds collected from document recording fees to provide resources for homeless crisis response systems through local governments and nonprofits.

**Yakima CHG-funded Programs**



# 1: PATHWAYS IN

► Individuals and families enter the homeless service system due to a wide range of circumstances including, but not limited to the loss of a job, unexpected medical bills, a mental health crisis, family separation, and exiting the foster-care system.

## PATHWAYS IN

### COORDINATED ENTRY (CE)

**Coordinated Entry (CE):** CE provides access points for individuals needing assistance and helps communities prioritize services based on individual needs and available resources.

**Yakima County CE Access Points**

### **Drivers of Homelessness in Washington**

**State:** Commerce's Housing Assistance Unit Managing Director, Tedd Kelleher, explains what's driving the increase of homelessness in Washington state

**Point in Time Count:** Annual count and calculation of people experiencing homelessness in Washington State.

**Yakima County Point in Time Community Report for 2020**

## HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

**Eastern and Western State Hospitals:** The Washington State Department of Social And Health Services operates two hospitals (Eastern and Western) that provide inpatient evaluations, competency restoration, and treatment for individuals with serious mental illness.

**Community Inpatient Mental Health Facilities:** Psychiatric inpatient treatment is also available in community hospitals or certified evaluation and treatment facilities.

**Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital** has an adult inpatient evaluation and treatment facility.

**Comprehensive Healthcare** offers behavioral health services and inpatient services.

## LEGAL SYSTEMS

**Trueblood et al v. Washington State DSHS Settlement:** A class action lawsuit settlement that endorses a person's constitutional right to timely competence evaluation and restoration services. Part of the Trueblood Settlement is used to fund staff within the jail that perform reentry/discharge planning for individuals returning to the community.

The legislatively mandated and state-funded **Offender Reentry Community Safety (ORCS) Program** provides case management and community treatment planning, including assistance with housing, for up to five years after release. This program was previously called Dangerously Mentally Ill Offenders (DMIO). Comprehensive Healthcare is a funded agency in Yakima County.

The **Yakima County Veteran's Incarcerated Program (VIP)** works with incarcerated Veterans with various offenses in the Yakima County Department of Corrections as well as other municipal jails to successfully reintegrate Veterans back into the community.

**Merit Resource Services:** Collaboration with Yakima County Drug Court and other local treatment courts. Yakima County.

**Yakima County Superior Court:** Operates Therapeutic Courts including Drug Court and Mental Health Court



# 1: PATHWAYS IN

► Individuals and families enter the homeless service system due to a wide range of circumstances including, but not limited to the loss of a job, unexpected medical bills, a mental health crisis, family separation, and exiting the foster-care system.

YOUTH

## FOSTER CARE

**Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Contracted Independent Living Skills (ILS)** assists youth emancipating from foster care in obtaining housing. Catholic Charities of Yakima offers the Independent Living Skills Program for former foster youth.

**Rod's House** provides services to youth exiting foster care and administers vouchers for the Foster Youth Initiative program.

## RUNAWAY/HOMELESS YOUTH

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Basic Center Program (BCP)** helps reunite runaway and homeless youth with their families or other appropriate placements. There is not currently a grantee in Yakima.

**Rod's House:** Provides drop-in-center services and emergency shelter to youth and young adults

## EVICTION

**Foreclosure Fairness Program:** Washington State program offers foreclosure counseling and mediation between homeowners and lenders to identify alternatives to foreclosure.

**Tenancy Preservation:** In court-approved cases, the Washington Department of Commerce will issue a temporary loan to landlords to preserve tenancy for low-income tenants facing eviction for non-payment of rent.

**Treasury Rental Assistance Program (T-RAP):** Federal and Washington state funding to prevent evictions in response to COVID-19 by covering past-due, current, and future rent payments. Providers in Yakima County include: Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic Northwest Community Action Center, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, Catholic Charities, Northwest Communities Education Center/Radio KDNA, and OIC of Washington.

**Yakima County T-RAP Resources**

## RELOCATION

**Manufactured/Mobile Home Relocation Assistance Program:** Financial assistance for relocation of manufactured or mobile homes in communities that are closing.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Office of Crime Victims Advocacy Resource Guide:** The Washington Department of Commerce maintains a guide of non-emergency victim service providers.

**Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence:** and legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence. In Yakima County, organizations include Nuestra Casa, The Lighthouse, Yakama Indian Nation Behavioral Health Services and YWCA Yakima.

**Department of Justice (DOJ) Transitional Housing Assistance Program:** Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating funding for 6-24 months of transitional housing with support services for survivors.

**Family Violence Prevention Grant:** The Washington Violence Prevention formula grant to offer financial assistance to survivors of domestic violence.

**The Lighthouse: Advocacy, Prevention and Education Center:** support groups, and outreach for individuals experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault in Yakima County.

**YWCA Yakima:** The YWCA operates a 24-hour emergency domestic violence shelter and provides advocacy for families and children in need of support.



# 2: CONDITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS

## DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS

The definitions of homelessness vary among federal agencies, funding sources, and age groups.

*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*

*U.S. Department of Education  
(for homeless children and youth)*

*The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act*

### UNSHELTERED

**Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH):** PATH is a federal formula grant intended to provide outreach, case management, and housing services to individuals with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders. Catholic Charities of Central Washington and Comprehensive Healthcare receive PATH funding from The Washington Healthcare Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR).

**The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC):** Provides information to local governments in Washington State including a general municipal code for temporary homeless camp sites.

### UNSTABLE HOUSING (DOUBLED-UP)

**Homeless Student Stability Program (HSSP):** State grants to support students experiencing homelessness through in-school supports and housing stability. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services administers the program locally.

### TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

**HUD CoC Transitional Housing Programs:** Interim stability and support with the goal of moving to and maintaining permanent housing. Housing and supportive services can be provided for up to 24 months.

**Grace City Outreach:** Provides transitional housing in the City of Yakima.

In addition, Yakima Union Gospel Mission, Yakama Nation, YWCA, and Rod's House also have transitional housing beds.

### EMERGENCY/SHORT-TERM SHELTER

**HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program:** Yakima county is part of the Washington Balance of State (BoS CoC). The Washington Department of Commerce is the Collaborative Applicant for BoS CoC funding. In FY2020, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services and Next Step Housing received funding from the CoC program.

**HUD Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG):** Federal funds for outreach, emergency shelter, rental assistance, and supportive services. Program focus is on homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing. Yakima County receives funding for shelter outreach, and prevention and distributes them to local providers through an RFP process.

**Noah's Ark:** A project of Generating Hope, Noah's Ark provides a low barrier shelter and day drop-in center to the Lower Yakima Valley and Yakama Indian Reservation.

**Yakima Union Gospel Mission:** An emergency shelter for single adults and families in the City of Yakima.

**Village of Hope:** A family shelter in Toppenish, operated by the Yakama Nation.

**Camp Hope:** A program of Grace City Outreach is a low-barrier emergency homeless shelter for men, women, and families experiencing homelessness in Yakima County.

In addition, Grace City Outreach, Northwest Community Action Center, Rod's House, Triumph Treatment Services, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, and the YWCA operate shelter beds or offer hotel/motel vouchers.



# 3: PATHWAYS OUT

The Pathways Out of homelessness are as diverse as the Pathways In. The Department of Commerce specifically tracks system performance based on length of time homeless, exits to permanent housing, and returns to homelessness.

**Washington Balance of State (BoS) CoC Housing Inventory Count:** Yakima County is part of the Washington BoS CoC.

**Homeless Housing and Assistance Act:** Grants document recording fees to local county governments or local non-profits.

## RAPID RE-HOUSING

**HUD CoC Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Programs** offer short- and medium-term rental assistance, housing search, and relocation assistance. **WA CoC Grants**

**HUD Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG):** Federal funds for outreach, emergency shelter, rental assistance, and supportive services. Program focus is on homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing.

RRH programs in Yakima County include Blue Mountain Community Action, Catholic Charities, Northwest Community Action Center, Yakima County, and Yakima Neighborhood Health Services

## OTHER PERMANENT HOUSING

**Washington State Association of Oxford Houses:**

Self-run and self-supported recovery houses offering shared sober living spaces. A search for available spaces is available by County and Zip Code. There are over a dozen houses in Yakima County.

**Washington Alliance for Quality Recovery Residences:** Directory of recovery residences that are certified for quality and ethical standards.

**Yakama Nation Village of Hope** provides tiny homes for those who are experiencing homelessness from the Yakama Nation.

## LONG-TERM CARE

**Aging and Long-Term Support Administration:** Long-term care residential options include nursing homes, adult family homes, and assistance living facilities. A locator search is available to identify facilities in Yakima.

## PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

**Department of Commerce, Office of Supportive Housing:** Coordinates with state agencies, including HCA and DSHS, to help increase the availability of supportive housing for individuals with mental health conditions or substance use disorders.

**HUD Section 811 Project Rental Assistance:** Federal grants to provide project-based rental assistance to low-income individuals with disabilities.

**HUD CoC Permanent Supportive Housing Programs:** Community-based housing for persons with disabilities. Supportive services are provided so individuals can live as independently as possible. In FY2020, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services and Next Step Housing received funding from the CoC program.

**Consolidated Homeless Grant:** Washington state uses funds collected from document recording fees to provide resources to fund homeless crisis response systems through local governments and nonprofits. **Yakima CHG-funded programs.**

**Community Behavioral Health Rental Assistance (CBRA) and Housing and Recovery Through Peer Services Long-Term Subsidies (HARPS LTS):** Permanent rental subsidies for individuals with behavioral health conditions that are highly-vulnerable.

**Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH):** Formula grant administered by SAMHSA to provide outreach, case management, and housing services for individuals with serious mental illness, substance use, or co-occurring disorders. Catholic Charities of Central Washington and Comprehensive Healthcare receive PATH funding.

**SAMHSA Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI):** Federal grant funding for supportive services for individuals with SMI/SUD. Services may include outreach, case management, and housing supports.

**Yakima Housing Authority:** Affordable housing opportunities through programs such as Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance and Section 8 Family Self Sufficiency.

**Yakama Nation Housing Authority:** Low-income rental housing assistance, maintenance, elder services, home-buying assistance, and weatherization services.

**Justice Housing Yakima:** The organization is creating Cottage Hill Village, an affordable housing development with 25-30 small homes for permanent supportive housing.

In addition, Next Step Housing, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, Triumph Treatment Services, and Comprehensive Healthcare provide PSH in Yakima County.





# WRAPAROUND SERVICES

For many individuals and families, services are key to ongoing housing stability. These wraparound services help at all points in the system from prevention to the pathways out.

## OUTREACH TEAMS

***Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH):*** PATH is a federal formula grant intended to provide outreach, case management, and housing services to individuals with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders. Catholic Charities of Central Washington and Comprehensive Healthcare receive PATH funding from The Washington Healthcare Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR).

## SPECIALTY SERVICES

***Washington 2-1-1:*** Callers can get connected to health and human services from a comprehensive database of community resources across the State of Washington, including Yakima County.

***Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF):*** Grants from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide eligible Veteran families with outreach, case management, services, and rental assistance to promote housing stability. Blue Mountain Action Council is a grantee in Southeast Washington.

***Salvation Army Yakima Corps***

***Yakima County Veterans Program***

***Northwest Justice Project:*** Assists individuals, including Veterans, with barriers to employment and housing, with services including license reinstatement, debt defense, vacating criminal convictions, benefit denials and overpayments, and domestic violence support.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

***Washington State Directory of Certified Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder Services:*** Service finder. Providers in Yakima include: Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Yakima, Comprehensive Healthcare, Apple Valley Counseling Service, Balance Social Services, Barth Clinic, Believe in Recovery, Center for Addictions Recovery and Educations (CARE), Innovation Resource Center, institute for Family Development, Integrity Support Services, Merit Resource Services, Triumph Treatment Services, Veterans Administration, Yakima Nation Tiinawit Program, Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic, and Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital.

***NAMI Yakima Resource Manual:*** Resource guide available to individuals with mental illness and their families

***Triumph Treatment Services:*** Services for outpatient and residential substance use disorder and mental health treatment in the Yakima Valley

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

***National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Yakima*** provides information, advocacy, and support to individuals with mental illness and their families.

***Homeless Student Stability Program:*** Washington State funded program to improve educational outcomes of students experiencing homelessness through in-school supports and housing stability. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services administers the program locally.

Family services are also provided by the YWCA, Dispute Resolution Center, and Catholic Charities.

## HEALTH CARE

***Washington State Health Care Authority, Apple Health (Medicaid) Coverage:*** Free or low-cost health insurance.

***Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Center Program:*** Primary and preventative care available to individuals regardless of ability to pay. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, Davis Health Clinic, Yakima Pediatrics, and others are local Yakima providers.

***Health Care for the Homeless Grantees:*** Federally funded programs that provide health care services to people experiencing homelessness. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services is a grantee in Yakima County.

***Yakima Neighborhood Health Services (YNHS):*** YNHS provides integrated health and housing services - inclusive of medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and social services supports (including MAT, supportive housing, and supported employment).



# WRAPAROUND SERVICES

For many individuals and families, services are key to ongoing housing stability. These wraparound services help at all points in the system from prevention to the pathways out.

## BENEFITS ACQUISITION

**Community-based training for Washington Healthplanfinder and Apple Health (Medicaid) coverage:** Training available for stakeholders to learn more about eligibility for Apple Health coverage and how to navigate the Healthplanfinder application web portal.

**Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Economic Services Administration:** The Answer Phone provides information, benefit status, and payment information regarding DSHS benefits.

**SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR):** SOAR is a SAMHSA-funded program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Benefits Administration:** Benefits available to Veterans including disability income, education and training, employment, home loans, life insurance, and more.

**Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs):** Accredited representatives are available to assist with benefits claims. Representatives are available in Yakima County via the search.

**Washington Connection:** Service linkage and applications for services including income, food, childcare, long-term care, and medical assistance.

## EMPLOYMENT/INCOME SUPPORTS

**Washington State Health Care Authority, Foundational Community Supports:** Supportive housing and supported employment services are available to vulnerable Medicaid recipients.

**Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Economic Services Administration, Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral Program:** HEN program funds can be used for rent and utility assistance, move-in costs, health and hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and transportation assistance. HEN program funds are accessed through a network of homeless prevention service providers.

**Entrust Community Services:** Provides employment and education services to individuals with disabilities and youth in transition.

**People For People:** Employment and training programs, meal delivery, and transportation services in Yakima County.

**Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Washington:** Education and career services, health and nutrition services, and energy and rental assistance.