



What is Next Chapter?

Next Chapter is a nonprofit organization dedicated to **empowering pregnant women and single mothers to move out of poverty** into lives of stability, permanent housing, and self-sufficiency by providing a group living community and life changing resources.

We are committed to our vision of a world where no woman and her children or unborn child have to sleep in a car or on the streets. We are not competing with or looking to create a program in our community that already exists. We are **filling a need in our community** by providing a home and working with existing resource partners to **provide these women and their families who are experiencing or on the verge of experiencing homelessness with the stability and resources to** successfully move into the NEXT CHAPTER of their lives.

The leadership of Next Chapter have used our own **experiences of both operating homeless shelters and living in a shelter as a homeless mother to shape Next Chapter's mission to empower women** through a communal living environment focused on acceptance, **accountability**, compassion, **engagement**, encouragement, **opportunity** and stability by providing **essential resources on site**, including counseling, goal-setting, life and job skills development; with the goal of achieving and sustaining **self-confidence** and **self-sufficiency**.

Why is there a need for Next Chapter?

- In 2017 there were **1,026 single mothers who experienced homelessness** in Pierce County.*
- From August 2017 to July 2018 there were **391 pregnant women** who experienced homelessness in Pierce County, **115 of whom remain unhoused.****
- There are **little to no programs in our county** focused on **offering a group housing atmosphere designed to empower and engage** single pregnant women or single mothers in poverty **who are not actively experiencing** domestic violence or **who are not actively dealing** with chemical dependency issues.
- The women we will support are facing **life challenges that include barriers to housing**, making it much more **difficult for them to have access to safe and affordable housing**.

Program Overview

Our success is dependent upon starting small with an individualized approach.

- Our **first home will house up to 5 women and their children** in a group living community **with staff offices on site**;
- We will work with program participants to **identify and address their barriers to housing**. Each program participant will have an **individualized plan** with the goal of **securing stable housing as soon as possible**.
- Counseling, workshops, mentorships and wrap-around services **brought in-house**, to extent possible, and **coordination with existing resource partners** to maximize services, including:
 - **Housing Stability** – identify/resolve existing barriers, understand responsibilities and rights, secure stable housing;
 - **Life Skills Development** – learn positive parenting, time management and organizational skills;
 - **Job Skills Training** - identify goals and opportunities, resources, mentors, interview preparation, job search connections;
 - **Financial Literacy and Planning** – learn basic budgeting skills, establish and/or repair credit;
 - **Legal Assistance** – address outstanding criminal and/or domestic issues;
 - **Behavioral Health** –apply tools to achieve successful mental and physical well-being.

**Data from Pierce County Human Services Division*

***Data from Catholic Community Services of Western Washington*