



**Signature Report**

**June 16, 2015**

**Motion 14379**

**Proposed No. 2015-0119.1**

**Sponsors McDermott**

1           A MOTION expressing support for efforts to ensure parity  
2           of access to and success resulting from appropriate services  
3           for homeless youth and young adults of color and for  
4           homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and  
5           questioning youth and young adults.

6           WHEREAS, tabulation efforts in recent years have indicated that, on any given  
7           night, between seven hundred seventy-five and one thousand youth and young adults  
8           between the ages of twelve and twenty-five are homeless or unstably housed in King  
9           County, and

10           WHEREAS, in response to this problem, King County partnered with local  
11           jurisdictions, service providers and funders to create the Homeless Youth and Young  
12           Adult Initiative as part of the Committee to End Homelessness to develop a  
13           comprehensive plan to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness, and

14           WHEREAS, in August 2013, the Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative  
15           released a comprehensive plan to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness in  
16           King County by 2020, and

17           WHEREAS, the comprehensive plan found that young people of color and  
18           lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning ("LGBTQ") youth and young adults  
19           are overrepresented among homeless youth and young adults, and

20 WHEREAS, the comprehensive plan included an implementation strategy that  
21 identified priority investments to provide stable housing, permanent connections,  
22 emotional wellbeing, education and employment for homeless youth and young adults,  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the fourth benchmark of this comprehensive plan included strategies  
25 to decrease the overrepresentation of people of color and LGBTQ people among  
26 homeless youth and young adults, and

27 WHEREAS, the Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative has been working to  
28 address this overrepresentation by tracking access to services and parity in program  
29 outcomes, and

30 WHEREAS, the initiative, in coordination with The Northwest Network of Bi,  
31 Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse, has developed Project EQTY to improve the  
32 effectiveness of the community's services for LGBTQ youth and young adults, and

33 WHEREAS, Project EQTY is based on the premise that institutional and  
34 structural inequality is at the heart of homelessness and that centering services around the  
35 needs of marginalized youth will result in better services for all youth, and

36 WHEREAS, one of the recommendations developed as part of the 2015 review of  
37 the comprehensive plan is to develop an LGBTQ equity toolkit that is modelled on the  
38 city of Seattle racial equity toolkit to provide support for agencies that serve homeless  
39 youth and young adults and to support future decision-making through centering services  
40 around the experiences of the most marginalized young people, and

41 WHEREAS, the King County council has expressed its support for the  
42 comprehensive plan to prevent and end youth and young adult homelessness in King

43 County by 2020 by appropriating funding for the implementation of the plan's strategies  
44 in the 2014 and 2015/2016 budgets;

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

46 A. The King County council supports efforts to ensure parity of access to and  
47 success resulting from appropriate services for homeless youth and young adults of color  
48 and for homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning ("LGBTQ") youth  
49 and young adults.

50 B. The King County council supports the goals of Project EQTY and other  
51 efforts to ensure that all youth and young adults in need receive equal access to services,  
52 that services are centered in the experiences of marginalized youth and young adults and  
53 that services are designed to meet the needs and support the strengths of young people of  
54 color and LGBTQ youth and young adults.

55 C. The King County council supports approaches to serve homeless LGBTQ  
56 youth and young adults that: promote acceptance of their identities; support families, so  
57 that young people can stay in or return to their homes or, if not possible, support the

58 development of relationships in the community; and provide safe, affirming and  
59 competent care.  
60

Motion 14379 was introduced on 3/16/2015 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/15/2015, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr. Upthegrove  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Mr. von Reichbauer

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments:** None