



# Washington State Attorney General's Office



## HearMeWA Annual Report

February 2024

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# Letter from Attorney General Bob Ferguson



Dear Washingtonians,

Youth in Washington State are struggling with depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and self-harming behaviors. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth ages 15 – 24. These are urgent concerns for young Washingtonians that we must address head on.

My team is stepping up and taking action. We are preparing to launch HearMeWA in 2024.

HearMeWA will be a statewide resource exclusive for young Washingtonians ages 0 to 25. Unlike other existing helplines in Washington State, this program will be available for youth 24/7/365 via mobile application, chat, text, web-form, and phone, and will respond to a wide range of tips related to youth safety and well-being, including, but not limited to, suicide ideation, bullying, violent threats, and sexual abuse.

In the last year, our team:

- Continued engaging with youth and youth-serving organizations across the state;
- Expanded the HearMeWA Advisory Committee membership to include youth and youth-serving organizations;
- Administered a survey to 574 youth to select a new name for the program;
- Conducted workshops with youth to co-design the bylaws and implementation plan for the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group;
- Selected Navigate360 to run the HearMeWA call center and develop the technology for an anonymous reporting system, and The Vida Agency to develop the program's branding, marketing, and website.

We commit to using an antiracist, trauma-informed, and youth-centered lens when it comes to the development, implementation and continuous improvement of HearMeWA. Youth and youth-serving organizations are at the center of this work, and their expertise, needs, and experiences inform the work we do.

This is our second annual report. We will continue to keep Washingtonians updated on the progress of HearMeWA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bob Ferguson  
Washington State Attorney General

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# Executive Summary

In 2021, the Washington State Legislature appropriated funds through a proviso<sup>1</sup> for the Washington State Attorney General's Office (AGO) to create a statewide program for receiving and responding to tips from the public regarding risks or potential risks to the safety or well-being of youth. The proviso required the AGO to convene an advisory committee and consult with youth on the development and implementation of the program. Youth consulted with in 2023 named the program HearMeWA.

HearMeWA strives to be antiracist, trauma-informed and youth-centered by working in collaboration with youth and historically excluded communities<sup>2</sup> to build a program that will support all youth and have equitable outcomes across the state.

Unlike other helplines, HearMeWA will be a resource exclusively for young Washingtonians ages 0 to 25. The program will reach youth statewide, be available 24/7/365 via mobile application, chat, text, web-form, and phone, and respond to a broad array of safety and well-being concerns.

## Youth Engagement and Outreach Work 2021 – 2023

### A Youth-Centered Approach

- Collected survey input from 1776 youth to inform the AGO Youth Program Team of their needs for the program, engagement preferences, and program name.
- Convened five workshops with 50 youth to co-design the bylaws for the Youth Advisory Group.

### Statewide Outreach

- Contacted over 1100 state agencies, community-based organizations, youth groups and other entities.
- Held more than 500 virtual and in-person outreach meetings.
- Conducted 17 presentations to state agencies and other organizations, reaching 293 attendees.
- Presented at 4 in-person events.

## HearMeWA Advisory Committee 2023

- The AGO Youth Program Team expanded the HearMeWA Advisory Committee membership to include youth and youth-serving organizations.
- The advisory committee held 3 meetings in 2023, where advisory committee members received updates on the progress of HearMeWA, including youth outreach and engagement work, and the vendor RFP process.
- The advisory committee provided feedback on the Best Practices Toolkit for tip responder agencies.
- Advisory committee members participated in a youth-led training on how the advisory committee can share power and work in collaboration with the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group.

## Next Steps

- The HearMeWA Advisory Committee will continue meeting and advising the AGO as the agency implements the program in Washington.
- The HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group will start convening in February 2024.
- HearMeWA will soft-launch in Spring 2024.

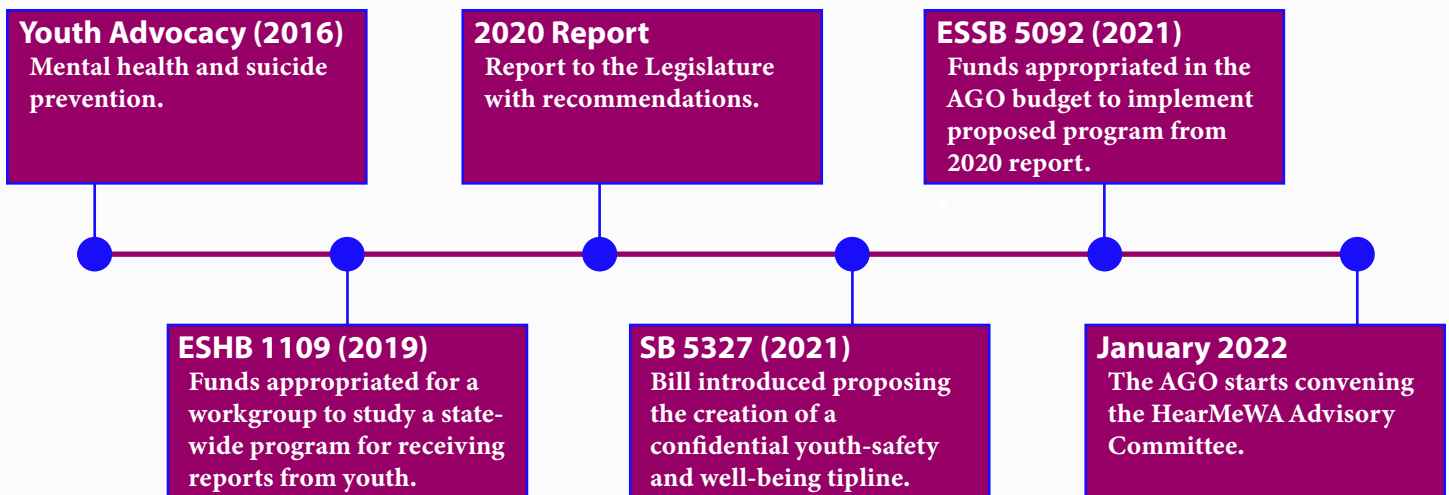
# Introduction

In 2016, a youth from Kennewick named Conner used influential platforms to raise awareness regarding issues LGBTQIA2S+<sup>3</sup> youth face and the increasing rates of suicide among youth in the Tri-Cities. While working with a local representative to strategize ways to address the youth mental health crisis in the Tri-Cities, Conner learned about an anonymous reporting system from Michigan<sup>4</sup> that helps youth struggling with suicide and other mental health needs.

Conner shared about this program with stakeholders in the Tri-Cities, which in 2019 led to the creation of a workgroup<sup>5</sup> to explore the possibility of developing a statewide program in Washington for youth to report safety and well-being needs. The Legislature used the recommendations from this workgroup to draft and introduce Senate Bill 5327 in 2021,<sup>6</sup> proposing the creation of a youth safety and well-being tipline in Washington.

SB 5327 did not pass during the 2021 legislative session, but the Legislature appropriated funds through a proviso in Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5092<sup>7</sup> for the AGO to implement a statewide program to support youth and convene an advisory committee to advise the agency as it develops and implements the program. The AGO started developing the HearMeWA program in 2021, and this report summarizes the work of the agency to create a program that is antiracist, trauma-informed and youth-centered.

**Figure 1 – HearMeWA History Timeline**



## AGO Youth Program Team

The AGO Youth Program Team leads the development and implementation of HearMeWA. The team is composed of four members: a Program Manager who sets the vision and leads the team; a Policy Analyst who convenes the HearMeWA Advisory Committee, conducts research, and develops program policies and procedures; and, an Outreach Lead and an Outreach Coordinator who are responsible for developing relationships with communities, such as youth and youth-serving organizations, families, educators, behavioral health providers, and law enforcement.



## An Antiracist, Youth-Centered and Trauma-Informed Program

HearMeWA intends to be a holistic program that meets youth's safety and well-being needs by linking them to existing support systems. It will receive and respond to a wide range of tips including, but not limited to: bullying, suicide ideation, violent threats, and sexual abuse. This program will be available statewide, provide support to youth 24/7/365, offers an app, text, chat, and phone line, and serve youth up to the age of 25.

The AGO Youth Program Team works in collaboration with state agencies, community-based organizations, youth and historically excluded communities to strive to build a program that will be antiracist, trauma-informed and youth-centered, and have equitable outcomes across the state.

The AGO Youth Program Team adapted guiding definitions of antiracism, trauma-informed, and youth-centered and used these definitions in the development of the program.

**Table 1 - Antiracist, Trauma-Informed, and Youth-Centered Program Lens**

### Antiracism

Antiracism is a commitment to the learning and unlearning required to locate the problems, concerns, and policies that promote racism and doing one's best to eradicate and/or change them. HearMeWA is committed to recognizing, addressing, and eradicating all forms of racism within the scope of its work. HearMeWA acknowledges that racism and discrimination are embedded into organizational structures, policies, and systems, and that it must, at all times, utilize an antiracist lens to identify practices that perpetuate white supremacy and discrimination, and work to undo systemic racism.

### Trauma-Informed

Trauma can be experienced on an individual and collective level both consciously and unconsciously. Trauma has no boundaries in regards to age, gender, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, geography, or sexual orientation. HearMeWA strives to be trauma informed by acknowledging that every individual may have experienced trauma in their lives and being mindful to avoid re-traumatizing youth.

### Youth-Centered

Having youth actively provide input in program planning, implementation, evaluation and focusing on what is important to youth now and acting upon this in alliance with their family, friends, stakeholders, and other experts.



This report summarizes the AGO Youth Program Team's work to develop HearMeWA and its efforts to remain aligned with the program's antiracist, trauma-informed, and youth-centered principles. Its goal is to update Washingtonians on the state of HearMeWA in 2023 but also inform them of the work of the AGO Youth Program Team since its inception.

# A Youth-Centered Approach

## 2022 Youth Surveys

In 2022, the AGO Youth Program Team launched two online surveys to gain input from youth on key features of HearMeWA. The information collected through these surveys allowed the AGO Youth Program Team to start developing a program that is informed by youth and designed to meet their needs.

Key findings from these surveys include, but are not limited to:

- Specific youth needs not addressed by other services;
- When youth would contact HearMeWA versus 911;
- When youth would contact HearMeWA;
- What would make youth trust and use the program; and
- Data privacy.

The table below summarizes key findings from the 2022 youth surveys. More information about the surveys is in the 2022 Washington Youth Safety and Well-being Tipline Report.<sup>8</sup>

**Table 2 – Key Findings from the 2022 Youth Surveys**

<b>Youth’s needs not addressed by other services</b>	Youth identified mental well-being, social pressures, sexual abuse/assault, and bullying/cyberbullying as the most relevant needs not addressed by other services. In the open-ended section, youth also mentioned racism, hate crimes, LGBTQIA2S+ concerns, abuse, neglect, housing, bills, food assistance, learning disability disparities, and non-criminal activities as relevant issues that other resources do not address.
<b>When youth would contact HearMeWA versus 911</b>	Youth are more likely to contact HearMeWA than 911 when seeking non-emergency support. Examples include when they or someone they know needs help, when looking for advice, when they need to talk to someone they can trust, and when they are concerned about themselves or someone else.
<b>When youth would contact HearMeWA</b>	Talking to a trained professional and being able to communicate concerns via app, text, or website are the main reasons youth under 18 would contact HearMeWA. Youth 18 and older, however, reported being more likely to contact the program when they are concerned about family and friends and do not have access to a trusted adult.
<b>What would make youth trust and use HearMeWA</b>	Youth reported they would trust HearMeWA if their personal information is kept private, the person they are speaking to addresses their concerns, and their conversation is not shared with third parties. They also expressed not involving the police as a factor for building trust.
<b>Data privacy</b>	Youth highlighted the importance of having control over who has access to the information they are sharing, not sharing their information with third parties and law enforcement, and not sharing details of the conversation with people they know.

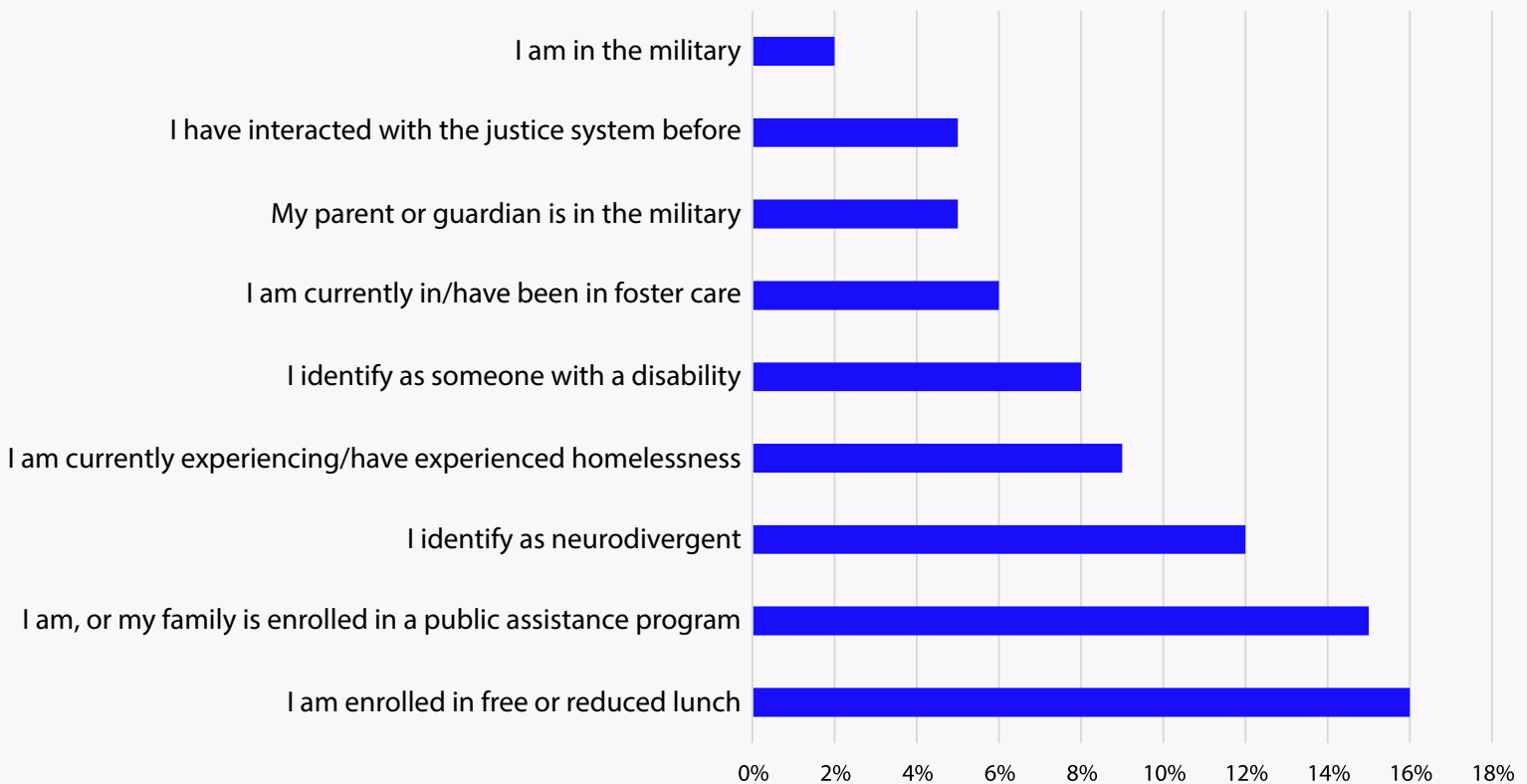
## 2023 Program Name Survey

After receiving feedback from youth and youth advocates that the term ‘tipline’ may deter youth to trust and use the program, the AGO Youth Program Team launched a third survey asking youth to select a new name for the program in 2023. The survey collected responses from 574 youth from across the state. Of all survey participants, 68% were 19 to 25 years old, 30% were 13 to 18 years old, and 1% were under the age of 13.

In terms of youth demographics, 68% of the respondents identified as White, Caucasian or European American, while 30% identified as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).<sup>9</sup> Of those who disclosed their gender identity,<sup>10</sup> 88% reported identifying as cisgender men/women, and 24% as bigender, non-binary, agender, gender queer or gender fluid, transgender, questioning or unsure, and androgynous.

Other respondent's characteristics<sup>11</sup> included being enrolled in free or reduced lunch, being enrolled in a public assistance program, identifying as neurodivergent, experiencing homelessness, identifying as someone with a disability, being in foster care, having a parent or guardian in the military, being in the military, and having interacted with the justice system.

**Figure 2 – Youth Characteristics**



To gain a better understanding of what safety and well-being means to youth and how it aligns with the name of the program, the survey asked respondents to select characteristics that best define safety and well-being to them. Youth were then presented with three program name options and asked to select the one they like the most. “HearMe” was youth’s top choice, and those who selected that name defined safety and well-being as their overall sense of security, the happiness and safety of the people they care about, mental health protection, and having their basic needs met.

After receiving the survey results, the AGO Youth Program Team decided to add “WA” to the name of the program to ensure youth know this is a program that will be available across the state of Washington, exclusively for Washington youth.

## Co-Designing With Youth

In 2023, the AGO Youth Program Team contracted with Do Big Good to conduct five workshops with youth to co-design the bylaws and implementation plan for the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group. The workshops were held in Stanwood, Bremerton, Moses Lake, Tacoma, and Rainier Beach between June and September of 2023. Workgroup participants ranged in age from 11 to 25 and represented historically excluded communities, such



as BIPOC, rural and urban indigenous communities, federally recognized tribes, disabled, neurodivergent, formerly incarcerated or those who had interacted with the justice system, youth who had been in foster care, houseless/unsheltered or transient, immigrants, refugees and asylees, English Language Learners (ELL), LGBTQIA2S+, low-income, rural, and teenage parents.

Do Big Good talked with 50 youth in the five workshops. The co-design process with youth included the identification of the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group priorities, policies, bylaws, and implementation process. Figure 3 summarizes what topics each workshop discussed and youth’s suggestions.<sup>12</sup>

**Figure 3 – Youth Co-Design Workshops**



In these workshops, youth also shared what they want the Youth Advisory Group to look like and the values they consider important. Their recommendations are summarized below.

- **Kindness and respect:** Youth want the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group to nurture a culture of kindness and respect at all times. Respect showed up as the most important value for youth in these workshops.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** Youth value diversity and inclusion, and highlighted the need for an environment that welcomes and accommodates everyone, regardless of their differences.
- **Protection:** Privacy is very important to youth and they emphasized the need for norms and expectations that can protect the group.

As a result of these workshops, youth developed the bylaws that will guide the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group in 2024 (See page 13 for more information under [Youth Advisory Group](#)). The purpose of the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group is to help young people in Washington with their life problems by making the HearMeWA program as effective as possible. Youth believe that with their advice, HearMeWA could save lives.

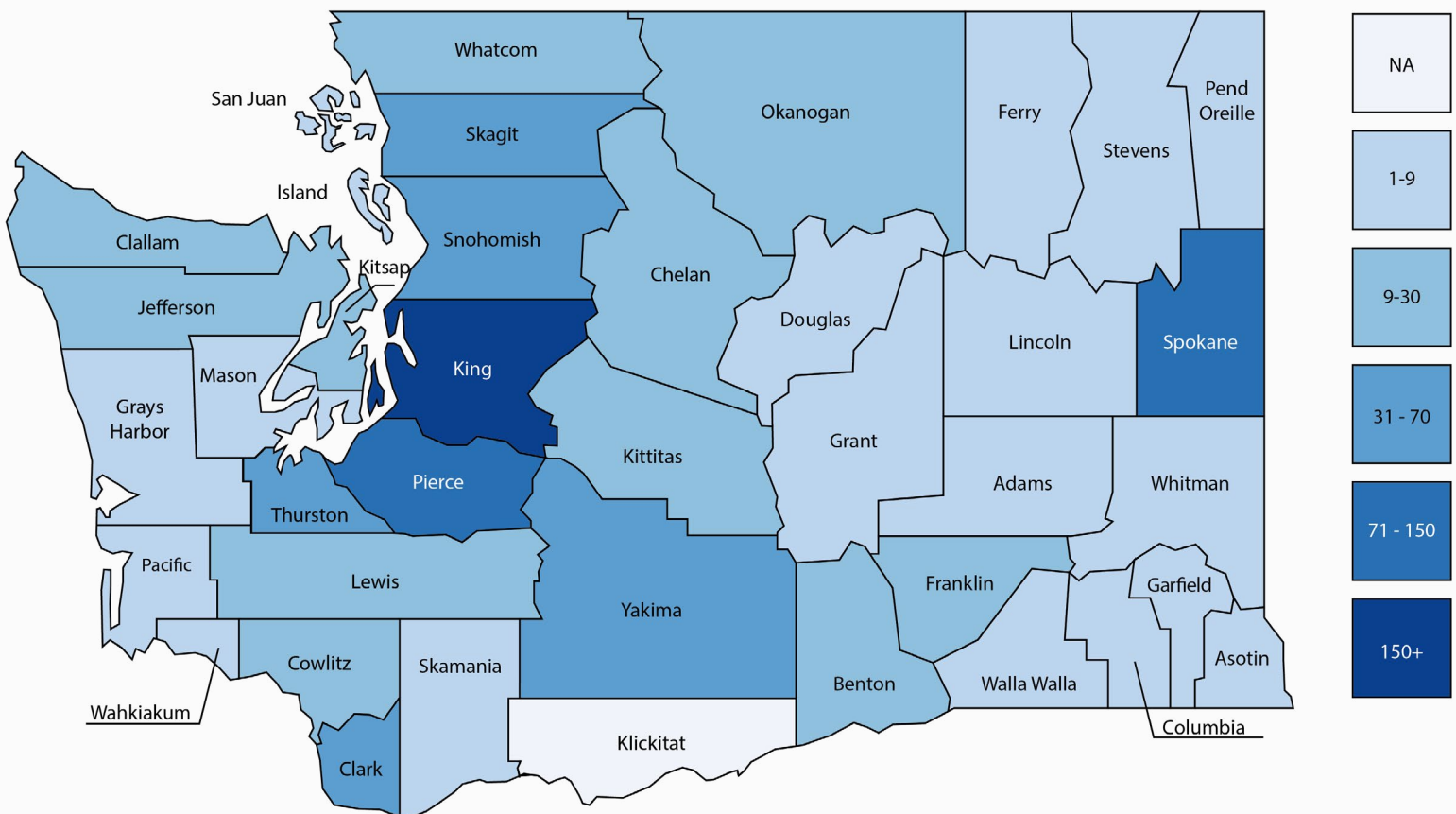
# Statewide Outreach Work

The AGO Youth Program Team has two people dedicated to conducting outreach to a number of stakeholders, including youth and youth-serving organizations, particularly those that serve historically excluded youth. The goal is to initiate relationships with a wide range of service providers, including schools, law enforcement, community-based and state agencies to share about HearMeWA, collect input on youth safety and well-being needs in their communities, and gather feedback. The AGO Youth Program Team contacted over 1100 organizations and groups between 2021-2023, ranging from state agencies and community-based organizations to youth groups, boards and commissions. Over this period, the AGO Youth Program Team held more than 500 virtual and in-person meetings with these organizations.

Figure 4 shows the counties where these organizations are located. The AGO Youth Program Team continues its outreach efforts to build connections with every county in the state of Washington.

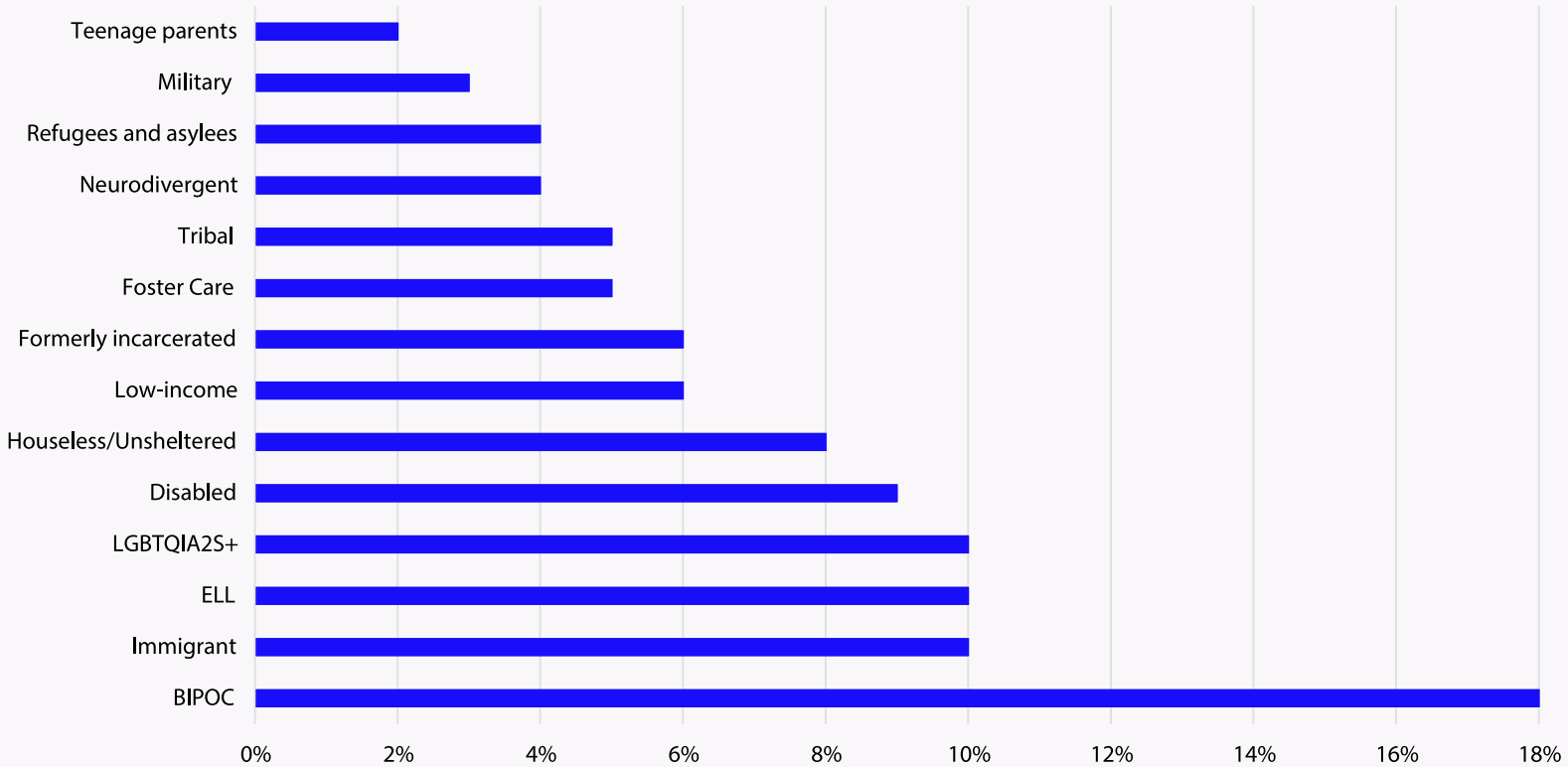
**Figure 4 – Washington Counties**

## Number of organizations HearMeWa staff talked to in each county:



When searching for youth-serving organizations, the AGO Youth Program Team primarily focuses on organizations that provide services to historically excluded youth. Most of the organizations the AGO Youth Program Team contacted provide specific services to BIPOC, immigrant, ELL, LGBTQIA2S+, disabled, and houseless/unsheltered youth. Figure 5 shows the youth groups that these organizations serve.

**Figure 5 – Youth Groups**



The AGO Youth Program Team gives numerous presentations to stakeholders about HearMeWA and to provide updates on its development and implementation. In total, the team conducted 17 presentations between 2022 and 2023, reaching 293 attendees.

Finally, the AGO Youth Program Team increased participation with in-person events to share information about HearMeWA. These events include the 2022 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People Summit, the 2023 Pierce County School-Based Mental Health Summit, the 2023 Washington Mental Health Summit, and the 2023 Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs Conference.

# Outreach & Engagement

**1100+**

Organizations contacted

**500+**

Virtual & in-person meetings

**17**

Presentations to 293 attendees

**4**

In-person events to raise awareness about the program

# HearMeWA Advisory Committee

The AGO Youth Program Team convenes the HearMeWA Advisory Committee (formerly the Youth Safety and Well-being Tipline Advisory Committee) as directed by the Legislature.<sup>13</sup>

In 2022, the HearMeWA Advisory Committee advised the AGO as it developed processes for risk and threat assessment, referral and follow-up, and confidentiality of youth contacting the program. The advisory committee had 18 members representing health, law enforcement, school districts, higher education, legal aid, and child protective services. These organizations were either appointed by the Legislature<sup>14</sup> or the AGO and had a statewide perspective.

The first term of the HearMeWA Advisory Committee lasted for a year and the work included:

- Mapping systems at the local, regional, and state levels that can support or partner in the HearMeWA referral and response processes;
- Defining tip categories and urgency levels;
- Developing a flowchart delineating the steps for a tip response;
- Drafting a list of potential trainings for the vendor who will run the call center; and
- Brainstorming what success looks like for the program.

In 2023, the AGO Youth Program Team invited more agencies and organizations to apply for the new phase of the advisory committee, including community-based organizations and youth. This decision was based on feedback from organizations that work with youth and a racial equity analysis. Opening membership for those who work with youth in the communities the program intends to serve broadens the advisory committee perspective and allows for the creation of a more inclusive program.

As a result, the HearMeWA Advisory Committee currently has 29 members representing health, behavioral health, public safety, school districts, higher education, social services, child protective services, LGBTQIA2S+ youth, and youth with lived experience (see Appendix 1).

The purpose of the HearMeWA Advisory Committee in this new phase is to advise the AGO as it (1) reviews tip trend data; (2) evaluates whether the program is being implemented equitably across the state; (3) proposes solutions for challenges that arise regarding program utilization and tip responses; and (4) promotes the program.

## Meeting Schedule and Progress Report

The HearMeWA Advisory Committee held three meetings in 2023. The table on page 12 summarizes the work of the advisory committee in 2023.

## Committee Overview



**29 members** representing:

- Health
- Behavioral Health
- Public Safety
- School Districts
- Higher Education
- Social Services
- Child Protective Services
- LGBTQIA2S+
- Youth with Lived Experience

**Table 3 – HearMeWA Advisory Committee Meetings**

**June 14, 2023**

- The AGO Youth Program Team outlined the HearMeWA Group Agreement describing how the group will operate and asked committee members to provide feedback via email.
- AGO staff briefly talked about the Public Records Act (RCW 42.56).
- The AGO Youth Program Team reviewed the history of HearMeWA and presented the AGO’s vision for the program.
- The AGO Youth Program Team presented a summary of the work of the advisory committee in 2022, as well as the vision and objectives for the 2023 – 2025 term.
- The AGO Youth Program Team updated the advisory committee on the outreach and engagement work they are doing, including the program naming survey and co-design model for ongoing youth engagement.
- The AGO Youth Program Team provided a progress update on the vendor RFP.

**September 13, 2023**

- Advisory committee members provided updates on new programs and projects their agencies/ organizations are working on.
- The AGO Youth Program Team presented the results from the program naming survey and next steps for the ongoing youth engagement work.
- Advisory committee members adopted the group agreement.
- Advisory committee members engaged in a discussion and provided feedback on the Best Practices Toolkit for tip responder agencies and the Policies and Procedures Manual for the call center.
- The AGO Youth Program Team updated the advisory committee on the work they are conducting to ensure each tip responder organization has a point of contact where tips from HearMeWA will be sent.
- The AGO Youth Program Team provided a progress update on the vendor RFP.

**December 6, 2023**

- Advisory committee members provided updates on new programs and projects their agencies/ organizations are working on.
- Do Big Good presented information regarding the Youth Co-Design Sessions held between June and September of 2023. The presentation also included a youth-led training on how the advisory committee can share power and work in collaboration with the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group.
- The AGO Youth Program Team provided updates on their outreach and engagement work and shared more information about the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group, including application process, participation criteria, and when the group will start convening.
- Navigate360 introduced the team who will be working on the HearMeWA call center and the online platform. Navigate360 works in partnership with Sandy Hook Promise (SHP), who will be responsible for running the crisis line.
- The AGO Youth Program Team presented a summary of the feedback provided by the advisory committee regarding the Best Practices Toolkit and then opened for a group discussion.

The HearMeWA Advisory Committee will hold four meetings in 2024 and two in 2025. Recommendations and progress reports from these meetings will be included in future HearMeWA Annual Reports.

Please visit the HearMeWA Advisory Committee website for more information.<sup>15</sup>



# Next Steps

## Youth Advisory Group

The AGO Youth Program Team used the input from the youth co-design work to develop a plan for the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group. In December 2023, the AGO Youth Program Team launched the application for the Youth Advisory Group and received 240 responses. The Youth Advisory Group will start meeting in February 2024 and will help the AGO Youth Program Team develop and implement a program that is informed by youth and designed to meet their needs.

The AGO Youth Program Team will compensate youth advisory group members for their time and youth will provide input on HearMeWA's branding, marketing, and advertising. Youth will also influence this program by providing feedback, and holding the AGO Youth Program Team accountable to ensure the program is antiracist, youth-centered, and trauma-informed.

By participating in the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group, youth will have the opportunity to:

- Be in conversations with their peers and provide a youth perspective to ensure HearMeWA is meeting youth's needs.
- Gain leadership opportunities to facilitate and conduct meetings, compose notes, and hold the group accountable to the groups' purpose and the community agreements.
- Become more conscious of and knowledgeable about community issues and the larger factors that affect youth's lives.
- Represent the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group at events to create awareness about the program.

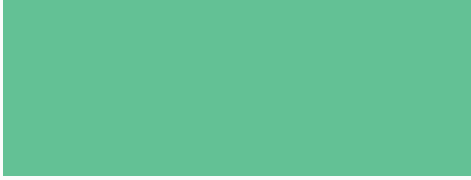
The HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group will meet quarterly, from February to November 2024.

## Launching HearMeWA

In February 2022, the AGO issued a Request for Information (RFI) to learn more from potential vendors about the marketplace for running a call center and developing the technology for an anonymous reporting system. Using the information from the RFI and the process developed by the HearMeWA Advisory Committee, the AGO launched an RFP in November 2022.

Through a competitive procurement process, the AGO awarded the contract to Navigate360 in partnership with SHP's National Crisis Center. Navigate360's P3 Anonymous Tip Reporting software and the SHP National Crisis Center are developed and delivered with a trauma-informed approach and with equity and inclusion at the forefront. The P3 software is designed to capture relevant tip information for appropriate intervention that is in the best interest of the youth, any individuals associated with the tip, and the community.





In August 2023, the AGO posted an RFP to select the vendor who will develop HearMeWA's branding, marketing and website. The AGO named The Vida Agency as the selected contractor based on the results of the competitive procurement process.

The AGO Youth Program Team is working with both vendors with a goal to soft-launch HearMeWA in Spring 2024. Through the soft-launch, the program will identify and resolve any areas that need improvement. The AGO will hold a formal program launch with a press event in the summer of 2024. As HearMeWA goes live, the AGO Youth Program Team will conduct an ongoing evaluation to assess whether the program is aligned with the AGO's vision, is implemented equitably across the state, and achieving its desired outcomes. Data collected through the implementation of this program, along with input from the HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group and the HearMeWA Advisory Committee will help the AGO Youth Program Team continuously improve the program and experience for youth.

For questions regarding this report or the HearMeWA program, please contact the AGO Youth Program Team at [youth.program@atg.wa.gov](mailto:youth.program@atg.wa.gov).

# Appendix 1 – HearMeWA Advisory Committee Members

Name	Affiliation
Margaret Albaugh	Asians for Collective Liberation in Spokane
Tanya Aggar	Washington State Parent Teacher Association
Akshaya Ajith	Youth
Adama Angelina Mbodji	Youth
Jenny Ann Young	Washington State Department of Children, Youth, & Families
Micah Brielle Fitzgerald	Youth
Theresa Carter-Vincent	Building Resilience Awareness & Variations of Excellence
Diana Cockrell	Washington State Health Care Authority
Ella DeVerse	Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Cameron Fordmeir	Greater Columbia Behavioral Health
Kevin Fuhr	Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs
Carri Gordon	Washington State Patrol
Avianah Grace McKenna	Youth Action Board
Jamie Heil	Boys & Girls Clubs of King County
Joshua John William Goss	The Coffee Oasis
Adrienne Marie Jensen	HopeSource
Carolyn Cox	SPARK Peer Learning Center
Kirstin McFarland	Washington State Department of Health
Chastity Pennington	United Way of Lewis County
Liz Pray	Washington Education Association
Kelli Robinson	Our Sisters' House
Maithri Sarangam	Seattle Indian Health Board
Beverly Sarles	Washington State University
Eyota ShadowWalker Wak'ishwit	Pizza Klatch
Adam Wasserman	Washington Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department
Chris Weedin	Washington Association of Educational Service Districts
Mallory Wilson	Association of Washington School Principals
Rashel Wise	Washington Student Achievement Council
Larry Wright	University of Washington Forefront Suicide Prevention Center

# Endnotes

- 1 ESSB 5092 – 67th Legislature (2021-2022): *Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium operating appropriations*. <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5092-S.PL.pdf?q=20220824093727>.
- 2 “Historically excluded communities” refers to a group of individuals who are disproportionately impacted by a combination of social, racial, economic, and health disparities. These groups historically suffer from inequalities in the system that perpetuate social and economic disparities, discrimination, and white supremacy. For the purpose of this report, the term “historically excluded communities” refers to youth who identify as BIPOC, disabled, formerly incarcerated (interacted with the justice system), foster care, houseless/unsheltered, immigrant, English Language Learner (ELL), LGBTQIA2S+, low-income, military, neurodivergent, refugees/asylees, urban and rural indigenous communities, federally recognized tribes, teenage parents, and rural.
- 3 Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or gender expansive, queer, and/or questioning, intersex, asexual, and two-spirit.
- 4 For more information, visit <https://www.michigan.gov/ok2say>.
- 5 The AGO convened the Youth Safety and Well-being Statewide Reporting Tool Work Group as directed by Section 127 (14) of the 2019 Legislative Operating Budget codified in House Bill 1109. For more information, visit <https://agportal-s3bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploadedfiles/2020%20Tip%20Line%20Report.pdf>.
- 6 SB 5327 - 67th Legislature (2021-2022): *Creating a confidential youth safety and well-being tip line*. <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5327.pdf?q=20231031160549>.
- 7 ESSB 5092 – 67th Legislature (2021-2022): *Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium operating appropriations*. <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5092-S.PL.pdf?q=20220824093727>.
- 8 Washington State Attorney General’s Office. (2022). *2022 Washington Youth Safety and Well-being Tipline Report*. <https://agportal-s3bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/2022%20Tipline%20Annual%20Report.pdf>.
- 9 13% identify as African American or Black, 8% as Hispanic or Latino(a), 5% as Asian American and 4% as American Indian and Alaskan Native.
- 10 Note that respondents could select more than one characteristic they identify with, so data exceeds 100%.
- 11 Note that respondents could select more than one characteristic they identify with, so data exceeds 100%.
- 12 Do Big Good. (2023). *Co-Designing With Youth: HearMeWA Case Study*. [https://agportal-s3bucket.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/HearMeWA\\_Co-Design\\_Final%20Report\\_October%202026.pdf?VersionId=UmgQkugq-lg.dFuRwr.q6Lz9bf1XNPXJ7](https://agportal-s3bucket.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/HearMeWA_Co-Design_Final%20Report_October%202026.pdf?VersionId=UmgQkugq-lg.dFuRwr.q6Lz9bf1XNPXJ7).
- 13 ESSB 5092 – 67th Legislature (2021-2022): *Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium operating appropriations*. <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/5092-S.PL.pdf?q=20220824093727>.
- 14 The Legislature appointed the following organizations: Washington State Patrol, Washington State Department of Health, Washington State Health Care Authority, Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington Student Achievement Council, and Washington Association of Educational Service Districts.
- 15 For more information about the HearMeWA Advisory Committee, please visit <https://www.atg.wa.gov/HearMeWA>.