



City of Longview

1525 Broadway
Longview, WA 98632
www.ci.longview.wa.us

Agenda

Homeless Housing Taskforce

Monday, March 18, 2024

2:30 PM

Training Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall

HYBRID MEETING DETAILS

24-00241 Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84015494317>
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 253 205 0468 US
Webinar ID: 840 1549 4317

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MINUTES

24-00244 Minutes from February 26, 2024.
Meeting rescheduled from February 19, 2024 due to holiday.

NEW BUSINESS

24-00245 SUBCOMMITTEE TO ADDRESS COLD WEATHER SHELTER FOR SEASON 2024-2025

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

24-00242 5 YEAR PLAN, ONGOING

24-00243 POVERTY SIMULATION / BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

PUBLIC COMMENTS

TASK FORCE COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT



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Agenda

Homeless Housing Taskforce

Monday, February 26, 2024

2:30 PM

Training Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall

HYBRID MEETING DETAILS

24-00179 Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84015494317>
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Webinar ID: 840 1549 4317

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 pm.

ROLL CALL

In attendance: Ruth Kendall, Chair; Dian Cooper, CoChair; Steven Boyer; Gena James; Connie Lantz (joined online at 2:56); Shannon McLain; Rob Painter-Johnson; Lauren Princehouse; Kayce Settlemier, non-voting member
Absent: Tim Watson, LPD
Staff present:; Kris Swanson, City Manager; Nancy Vandehey, Admin

MINUTES

24-00181 Minutes from January 22, 2024.
Meeting on January 15, 2024 rescheduled due to holiday.
The minutes were approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Ruth Kendall provided an update from Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

24-00182 5 YEAR PLAN, ONGOING

The Cowlitz County Plan was shared and reviewed with the draft addendum. There was a discussion on permanent housing. There are 3 local agencies that do coordinated entry. About 1000 people connect with coordinated entry and programs that have openings are around a 100 each year. Added education piece (c) to inform the community about homelessness. A decision was made to continue not to label shelters (ie Hope Village), as it could limit our options under shelters in Objective 4. A draft will come back next month with the County objectives showing the City's priorities.

Gena reported that the State will be coming out with their new plan in April with guidance to local governments in June or July.

24-00183 POVERTY SIMULATION / BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

Kayce reported that she met with Liz. Lower Columbia CAP is willing to participate in that simulation. Costs are food and space, so that will need to be worked out. Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels or Longview School District lunches might be an idea to give a perspective on homelessness. Goal is between 50 to 70 individuals.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

TASK FORCE COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned 3:51 pm.

Cowlitz County 5 Year

Homeless Housing Plan



Cowlitz County 5 Year Homeless Housing

Plan December 2019-December

2024

Table of Contents

Acknowledgement	2
Introduction	3
Overview	3
Local Homeless Housing Plan.....	8
Goal Summary	8
Goal Details	8
Recommendations to the State.....	16
Appendix A-Consolidated Homeless Grant Performance Tracker.....	17
Appendix B- Current Cowlitz System Capacity	18
Appendix C-Washington State Department of Commerce-Cowlitz Modeling Tool	22
Appendix D-Types of Homelessness	27
Appendix E-County Statistics	30
I.-Point in Time Count Results	30
II.-Wages and Income	31
III.-Unemployment Rates in Cowlitz County	32
IV.-Cost Burdened Rental Households in Cowlitz County	32
V.-Distressed Areas in Washington State-Like Counties	33
VI.-Poverty Rates in Cowlitz County	33
VII.-Available housing in Cowlitz County.....	34
VIII.-Population of Cowlitz County by geographic area.....	34
IX.-Race of residents in Cowlitz County as of 2010	35
X. Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)	38
Acronym Glossary	39
Endnote References.....	40

Acknowledgement

Homeless Housing Task Force

History

In 2005 the legislature created the homeless housing program to develop and coordinate a statewide strategic plan aimed at housing homeless persons. RCW 43.185C.160 requires each participating County to create or designate a Homeless Housing Task Force. The Board of County Commissioners transitioned coordination of the Homeless Housing Task Force to the Health and Human Services Departments on January 1, 2017. To comply with RCW 43.185C.160, the County created a Homeless Housing Task Force. In 2018 The Department of Commerce issued Local Plan Guidance to support counties in aligning to Commerce's Five-Year Homeless Housing Strategic Plan.¹

Purpose

The purpose of the Homeless Housing Task Force (HHTF) is to provide input into the ongoing development of a five-year homeless housing plan to address homelessness in Cowlitz County as required by RCW 43.185C.160. The HHTF has regularly scheduled meetings monthly and occasionally holds special meetings. The HHTF meets membership requirements of 2 formerly homeless individuals, representative from the largest city within the county, and a representative from the county. The members have provided input on the development of a 5 year plan to address homelessness in Cowlitz County. The following plan has been reviewed and approved by the Homeless Housing Task Force as well as the Board of County Commissioners.

Introduction

The Cowlitz County 5 year Homeless Housing Plan was first created in 2007 as a mandate of RCW 43.185c, otherwise known as the Homeless Housing and Assistance Act. At the same time, the Washington State Department of Commerce was also given the directive to create the Washington State Homeless Housing Strategic Plan to address the growing numbers of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.ⁱⁱ

In 2009 the HEARTH Act (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act) was reauthorized to consolidate grant programs for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and to reauthorize the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.ⁱⁱⁱ This created a change in HUD’s definition of homeless and provided an increase in prevention resources. By 2010 the Federal “Opening Doors” plan launched with the goal to reduce the number of homeless veterans, reduce the number of chronically homeless, and end family homelessness across the United States.^{iv} In 2018, the federal plan was updated and renamed “Home Together” and sets direction for states and local governments through 2022.^v

The RCW also mandated changes by local governments and required each county to create a local task force that can include representatives of the county, cities, towns, housing authorities, civic and faith organizations, schools, community networks, human services providers, law enforcement personnel, criminal justice personnel, including prosecutors, probation officers, and jail administrators, substance abuse treatment providers, mental health care providers, emergency health care providers, businesses, at large representatives of the community, and an individual who is currently or formerly homeless. The intention of the group is to meet to address planning for housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.^{vi}

Overview

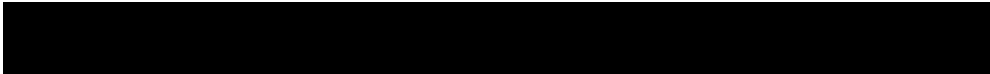
Homeless Prevention

Believe it or not, homelessness is incredibly expensive to a community. The most cost-effective way for the community to respond to homelessness is to prevent it in the first place. Affordable housing, physical and behavioral health services, and jobs that provide a living wage are the most effective interventions to preventing homelessness; all of which are factors outside the control of any housing service system.^{vii}

Evidence Based Best Practice

When deciding on the intervention types that will address homelessness in Cowlitz County, it’s important to consider evidence based/data driven best practices that have proven to be effective and help to utilize resources more effectively. In “Opening Doors; Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness,” The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness defines “evidence based” in the following way:

“To attain value for money, agencies and communities alike must direct resources towards evidence-based and cost-effective solutions like permanent supportive housing, Housing First,



and rapid re-housing, and away from models and programs that are outdated, unsupported by evidence, or are not cost-effective. Agencies must use data to measure and improve program performance and quality. These practices bolster the case for adequate resource investments to bring solutions to scale.”^{viii}

The Cost of Status Quo

Homelessness doesn’t just affect individuals with low incomes. When someone becomes homeless there are usually costs incurred judicially, medically, and higher costs for crisis services. Individuals often cycle through other expensive interventions such as shelter, jail, hospitals and treatment while never having their housing needs resolved.^{ix}

Intervention Types

Targeted Prevention and Diversion- Provides diversion from becoming homeless by working with landlords and individuals to resolve issues and can include assistance for rent to keep a person housed.

Emergency Shelter (ES)- Provides short term temporary shelter for those experiencing homelessness

Transitional Housing (TH)- Provides ongoing support for a period of two years until individuals can learn the skills necessary to transition to housing in the community.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH)- Provides housing focused case management and support needed to house individuals quickly by assisting with deposits and rent so the person can regain housing and end their homelessness.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)- Provides ongoing support for individuals with high needs related to medical, mental and behavioral health or substance use.^x

Housing Resources

Community House on Broadway, Emergency Support Shelter, Faithful Servants, Family Health Center-Phoenix House, Family Promises, Housing Opportunities of South West Washington, Kelso Housing Authority, Lower Columbia Community Action Program (CAP), Love Overwhelming, Oxford houses, Salvation Army, Veteran’s Integration Program and the faith based community.

Barriers

There are a number of barriers individuals may experience when seeking housing that makes it difficult to find an affordable and safe unit to rent. The primary initial barrier in Cowlitz County is the absence of affordable housing. Additional typical barriers include; income requirements that require tenants to earn three times the amount of rent, prior eviction(s), lack of or poor credit history, criminal history, pets, history of homelessness, and high behavioral or physical health issues.^{xi}

Coordination

Combining the eligibility and assessment process for multiple programs makes access easier for individuals seeking services and eliminates duplication of services. Coordination between all the components of a housing response system is critical to addressing and reducing homelessness.^{xii}

Components of an effective housing response system

Outreach and access- Individuals who are chronically homeless often have distrust for service providers and may not solicit assistance. It is critical to have a system that provides access for vulnerable populations that does not have high barriers in order to receive support. By applying approaches such as trauma-informed care, peer mentorship and other evidence-based practices to engage people living outside, we can maintain a high level of coordination between outreach workers and the coordinated assessment system to ensure access to housing.^{xiii}

Coordinated Assessment/Coordinated Entry- Provides fair and equal access to participating projects by assessing individuals who enter or are at risk of experiencing homelessness. The assessment prioritizes the most vulnerable individuals and directs intervention types for the individual situations people may be experiencing. This method is accessible in person, by phone, and should include the ability to be mobile when needed.^{xiv}

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)- When individuals engage with participating projects within the housing response system, they are entered into the HMIS database. HMIS is used nationally to record and store client level information such as characteristics and services utilized.^{xv}

Taskforce- This group is a local planning body that provides input to the 5 year Homeless Housing Plan. This group might represent county and city officials, individuals who have formerly experienced homelessness, and other members who may represent service providers, faith based community, or members at-large.^{xvi}

State Continuum of Care (COC)- The Washington State Department of Commerce runs the Washington Balance of State CoC to represent 34 counties throughout the state. This group coordinates housing services and funding based on grants applied for from federal homeless assistance funds.^{xvii}

Defining “Homeless”

Individuals can experience homelessness for many reasons, and different federal programs may have definitions of homelessness that differ from one another slightly. While the housing response system works together, some areas are funded by programs operating under different definitions of homelessness. This plan operates under the definition of homelessness set by RCW 43.185C.010:

“Homeless person” means an individual living outside or in a building not meant for human habitation or which they have no legal right to occupy, in an emergency shelter, or in a temporary housing program which may include transitional and supportive housing program if habitation time limits exist. This definition includes substance abusers, people with mental illnesses, and sex offenders who are homeless.”^{xviii}

The definition of homeless youth varies slightly, this plan will use the definition of homeless youth as outlined in RCW 43.330.702 which references the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless youth and children as “individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Children and youth abandoned in hospitals
- Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)
- Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- Migratory children and youth living in any of the above situations

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definitions of homelessness

Literally homeless- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, or has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation, or is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter.

Imminent risk of homelessness- An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance and who lacks the resources or supports needed to obtain other permanent housing.

Homeless under other federal statutes- Unaccompanied youth (under 25) or families with children who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition and are defined as homeless under another federal statute, have not had permanent housing during the past 60 days, have experienced persistent instability, and can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time.

Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence- Any individual or family fleeing, or attempting

to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.^{xix}



Homeless populations- Households without children, Households with at least one adult and one child, Households with only children.

Homeless subpopulations- Chronically homeless, severely mentally ill, chronic substance abuse, veterans, HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, parenting youth, children of parenting youth.^{xx}

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

The OSPI operates under the definition of homelessness given by the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act, a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney-Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students.

School districts are provided funding for a Homeless Liaison who connects with youth and offers resources as well as collects and submits data to the district regarding the volume of homeless youth.^{xxi} In the 2020-2021 school year, there were 499 homeless youth reported by school districts in Cowlitz County.^{xxii}

Point in Time Count (PIT)

The Homeless Housing Assistance Act RCW 43.185C requires that counties conduct an annual count of individuals experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered or sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night, usually the last Thursday in January.^{xxiii} Since 2012, Cowlitz County has hosted and participated in Project Homeless Connect in order to draw individuals at risk of or who are currently experiencing homelessness into a service fair. Prior to entry, individuals are given a voluntary survey to complete that is then organized and entered into HMIS. Outreach is also conducted throughout the county at foodbanks and meal sharing programs. The Department of Commerce then collects data from State and other community partners and submits the data for 34 counties to HUD in order to apply for the next grant cycle. With this data the Department of Commerce can determine the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Cowlitz County and the subpopulations to target prevention to in an effort to reduce homelessness.^{xxiv}

2018 Update

During 2018, Cowlitz County supported a variety of housing/homeless efforts to address homelessness in our community including:

- Financial Literacy training for over 150 at-risk youth and family members
- Prevention/Diversion served 1,538 people and 90% of those were prevented or diverted from entering into the housing/homeless system
- Emergency Shelter for victims of domestic violence served 318 people
- Rapid Rehousing served 274 people and achieved 79% exits to permanent housing and a

return to homelessness after exit to permanent housing of less than 5%.

- Permanent Supportive Housing programs served 61 people to obtain and maintain permanent housing.

Local Homeless Housing Plan

Each local homeless housing task force shall prepare and recommend to its local government legislative authority a five-year homeless housing plan for its jurisdictional area. The goals of this plan shall be assessed annually and updated at a minimum of every 5 years. The local legislative authority determines allocations and relies on Health and Human Services to administer resources in alignment with the plan.

Eligible activities under the plan include (RCW 43.185C.050):

- Rental and furnishing of dwelling units for the use of homeless persons
- Costs of developing affordable housing for homeless persons, and services for formerly homeless individuals and families residing in transitional housing or permanent housing and still at risk of homelessness
- Operating subsidies for transitional housing or permanent housing serving formerly homeless families or individuals
- Services to prevent homelessness, such as emergency eviction prevention programs including temporary rental subsidies to prevent homelessness
- Temporary services to assist persons leaving state institutions and other state programs to prevent them from becoming or remaining homeless
- Outreach services for homeless individuals and families
- Development and management of local homeless plans including homeless census data collection; identification of goals, performance measures, strategies, and costs and evaluation of progress towards established goals
- Rental vouchers payable to landlords for persons who are homeless or below thirty percent of the median income or in immediate danger of becoming homeless
- Other activities to reduce and prevent homelessness as identified for funding in the local plan^{xxv}

Goal Summary

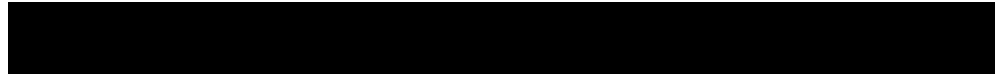
Goals are listed in order of priority

1.	Increase access to affordable housing
2.	Quickly identify and engage people experiencing homelessness
3.	Increase prevention and education opportunities
4.	Maintain a crisis response system in Cowlitz County
5.	Increase the use of data to drive strategies and decision making

Goal Details

The goals below are categorized into 'Objectives Required by the Department of Commerce' and 'Local Priorities.' The Objectives Required by the Department of Commerce reflect areas of focus that our local plan must include, per Washington State legislation. The Local Priorities represent

areas of focus that our local Homeless Housing Task Force has identified, through a series of special meetings and discussions (See Appendix D), as ways to address housing and homelessness in our community and are listed in order of priority.



1. Increase access to affordable housing units**Strategy**

Support plans and development to increase access to affordable housing units. Affordable housing can include, but is not limited to: workforce housing, low income tax credit housing, subsidized housing, and other definitions that create housing affordability.

Objectives Required by the Department of Commerce

Commerce Objective	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Milestones complete by 2022	Success measurement
Not Applicable	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Local Priorities

Action	Task	City of Longview
<p>a. Collaborate with cities, and other appropriate partners, around efforts to increase affordable housing, aligning efforts when appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Including supporting community partners in pursuit of additional affordable housing resources such as federal and state voucher funding, housing trust funds, low income housing tax credits, and tax- 	<p>Convene county, cities, other appropriate partners to discuss any current efforts, policy, or legislation towards increasing affordable housing units (HHS, cities, others)</p>	<p>Interlocal Agreement with Housing Opportunities of SW Washington (HOSSWA) funded by Affordable Housing Sales Tax Levy to facilitate development of housing projects in Longview.</p>
<p>b. Identify and maintain a listing of County owned vacant properties, land and structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with cities, or others, as appropriate to provide opportunities for publically owned assets to participate in programs related to the five 	<p>Meet with county and cities to discuss publically owned vacant properties, land and structures (HHS, cities, others)</p>	<p>N/A- Supporting County Plan</p>
<p>c. Coordinate with local jurisdictions to review land use codes and development standards to ensure that developers have flexible opportunities and that development of cost-efficient housing products is allowed and encouraged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amend local codes and standards to allow for increased housing density, new and cost-efficient housing products (such as cottage housing, park-models, and accessory-dwelling units) - Engage stakeholder groups, including elected officials, planning commissions, and industry professionals to proactively address the development of diverse housing types. - Encourage and allow optional inclusionary 	<p>Receive annual updates from local jurisdictions (including Cowlitz County, Kelso, Longview, and other jurisdictions) on any changes to land use codes and/or development standards.</p>	<p>Revise local zoning to allow for denser housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessory Dwelling Units, • Cottage Housing, • Shared Driveways, • Modified light industrial zoning to allow residential use, and • Explore other opportunities for denser housing.
<p>d. Support and enhance Landlord Liaison Programs</p>	<p>Explore opportunities to expand housing locator assistance (HHS)</p>	<p>N/A- Supporting County Plan</p>

2. Quickly identify and engage people experiencing homelessness – Maintain effective and efficient coordinated entry system for housing and housing related services.

Strategy

Continue implementation of a Coordinated Entry system that provides a streamlined process to access, assess, and refer to specific housing programs in the community.

Objectives Required by the Department of Commerce

Commerce Objective	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Milestones complete by 2022	Success measurement	City of Longview Addendum
a. Quickly Identify and Engage	Continue and increase use of HMIS for CE data	HHS, Department of Commerce	Continuous	By-name list in HMIS by 2022	Compliance with state and federal CE data collection requirements CE data includes by-name list that tracks status, engagements and housing placements in HMIS	
	Engage system partners	HHS, community partners	Continuous	Monthly meetings held with community partners	Missing systems are identified and invited to meeting	
	Street Outreach – not applicable	N/A	N/A	N/A	Positive outcome destinations $\geq 76\%$ of those exiting project	City of Longview Outreach Coordinator and Behavioral Health
b. Prioritize housing for people with the greatest need	Maintain prioritization policy within County level CE policies and procedures	HHS	Continuous	2 CE Evaluations complete by 2022	Compliance with state and federal Coordinated Entry requirements	N/A- Supporting County Plan

Local Priority

Action	Task	City of Longview
c. Prevent/Divert, as often as possible, households from entering into the homeless/housing system. This will be accomplished by supporting households in maintaining and preserving current housing and targeting resources to those who are most at risk of becoming homeless	Review # served through prevention/diversion annually (HHS, HHTF) Review reason for entry into homelessness annually (HHS, HHTF)	N/A- Supporting County Plan

3. Increase Prevention and Education opportunities

Strategy

Support Prevention and Education Projects

Objectives Required by the Department of Commerce

Commerce Objective	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Milestones complete by 2022	Success measurement
Not Applicable	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Local Priority

Action	Task	City of Longview
<p>a. Support and maintain evidence based educational programs on self-sufficiency skills for adults and youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examples include, but are not limited to: Financial Literacy, Tenant Education, Landlord Tenant Laws, Employment supports, etc. 	<p>Identify adult specific educational opportunities (HHS, community partners)</p> <p>Identify youth specific educational opportunities (HHS, community partners, including youth serving organizations and school districts)</p> <p>Integrate educational opportunities into existing county funded programs - ie. Therapeutic court programs (HHS,</p>	<p>Support community life skills programs.</p>
<p>b. Provide regular opportunities for continued training and education for community partners to foster collaboration between programs and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examples include, but are not limited to: SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery), Trauma Informed Care, Evidenced-Based 	<p>Collaborate with local, state or regional partners to support educational or technical assistance opportunities. (HHS)</p>	<p>Provide education and information for the general public.</p>

Action	Task	City of Longview
programs, etc.		

4. Maintain a crisis response system in Cowlitz County – System is effective and efficient, with the most appropriate resources and interventions for the homeless population.

Strategy

Consistently evaluate current system capacity, reviewing characteristics of the homeless population and the resources/interventions available to meet the need

Objectives Required by the Department of Commerce

Commerce Objective	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Milestones complete by 2022	Success measurement	City of Longview Addendum
a. Crisis response system swiftly moves people into stable permanent housing	Review percentage of exits to permanent housing (PH) within county funded programs	HHS	2020-2021	Baseline data for county funded programs obtained by 2022	Increase percentage of exits to PH to above 59%	N/A- Supporting County Plan
	Review returns to homelessness after PH exit within county funded programs	HHS	2020-2021	Baseline data for county funded programs obtained by 2022	Reduce returns to homelessness after PH exit to less than 10%	
	Review average length of stay in temporary housing projects within county funded programs	HHS	2020-2021	Baseline data for county funded programs obtained by 2022	Reduce average length of stay in temporary housing projects to less than 90 days	

Local Priority

Action	Task	City of Longview
<p>b. Review capacity of short term/emergency shelter, temporary, and permanent housing interventions. *Appendix B</p>	<p>Review system capacity of housing interventions annually (HHS, HHTF)</p> <p>Connect with service providers to review project specific capacity (HHS, community partners)</p>	<p>N/A- Supporting County Plan</p>
<p>c. Maintain housing interventions that enhance the continuum of housing/homeless services, address system capacity gaps (resources available vs population need), and increase opportunities for households to be stably housed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intervention types include: Prevention/Diversion, Emergency Shelter 	<p>Collect and review project level data annually (HHS)</p>	<p>Support efforts to maintain existing housing interventions</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing (PSH), Subsidized Housing, and Homeownership. - Interventions demonstrate alignment with evidenced based or promising practices and demonstrate outcomes that strive to move households out of homelessness and into permanent housing destinations. 		

Action	Task	City of Longview
<p>d. Maintain process to support projects that address homelessness during an emergency. An emergency is defined as: A situation which poses an immediate risk to health, life, property or environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural Disasters (e.g. fire, flood, tornado, storm damage, loss of utilities) - Emergency Needs (e.g. phase-out costs associated with the closure of a program, equipment failure, civil disturbance, severe weather event, or other conditions determined by the Cowlitz County Health Officer to be an emergent 	<p>Review process annually (HHS, HHTF)</p>	<p>Ensure access to shelter during severe weather events.</p>
<p>e. Support and develop policies to allow alternative interim habitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examples include, but are not limited to: micro housing/cottage housing, public/vehicle habitation, etc. 	<p>Explore policies that support allowance for interim habitation (HHS, HHTF)</p> <p>Solicit input from emergency services and other community partners (HHS, HHTF)</p>	<p>Support efforts to increase alternative interim habitation options, including but not limited to transitional housing, vehicle habitation, and all types of sheltering.</p>
<p>f. Consider temporary projects that address impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Coronavirus Pandemic and the unforeseen circumstances surrounding it have impacted communities. Local businesses have shut down or have reduced staff hours, unemployment rates spiked through the pandemic, and there has been a continuous eviction moratorium that will soon be lifted and may result in significant evictions. Due to these unexpected conditions, the County may consider temporary projects to address housing/homelessness impacts and/or recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic. 	<p>Consider temporary emergency shelter or housing projects that address housing/homelessness impacts and/or recovery from the Coronavirus Pandemic and the lifting of the associated eviction moratorium.</p>	<p>N/A- Supporting County Plan</p>

5. Increase the use of data to drive strategies and decision making

Strategy

Coordinate with local and state partners to collect and review data.

Objectives Required by the Department of Commerce

Commerce Objective	Action	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Milestones complete by 2022	Success measurement	City of Longview Addendum
a. Project the impact of the fully implemented local plan on number of households housed & number of households left unsheltered, assuming existing resources and state policies	Complete modeling tool provided by Department of Commerce *Appendix C	HHS, Department of Commerce	December 2019	Initial and follow-up estimate complete by 2022	Includes an estimate of the # of people experiencing homelessness that will be housed during 2024 after implementation of plan and count of households left unsheltered at a point in time in 2024	N/A- Supporting County Plan
b. Address racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness	Complete analysis, using the racial equity tool an data provided by Department of Commerce *Appendix E (1X)	HHS, Department of Commerce	Initial complete by December 2019	Initial and follow-up analysis complete by 2022	Completion of an initial analysis using a racial equity tool an data provided by Commerce	N/A- Supporting County Plan

Local Priority

Action	Task	City of Longview
<p>c. Administer the annual collection of data and reporting to the Department of Commerce for the Point in Time Count and the Housing Inventory Count.</p>	<p>Collect and report county wide data annually (Department of Commerce, HHS, community partners)</p> <p>Publish countywide data to the public (Department of Commerce, HHS)</p>	<p>Report on City progress annually.</p>
<p>d. Collect quarterly project-level data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Utilize the state’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) </p>	<p>Attend HMIS training as necessary (HHS, community partners)</p> <p>Publish project-level data annually to the public (Department of Commerce, HHS)</p>	<p>Develop measurable objectives and returns on investment measures.</p>
<p>e. Collect and utilize data and information from Coordinated Entry</p>	<p>Review data and use to inform future priorities (HHS, HHTF)</p>	

Recommendations to the State

- State homeless housing program contract requirements
 - o Recommendation – Support Counties with local flexibility in addressing housing and homelessness by allowing Counties full authority with how local Document Recording Fees are invested and remove current requirements in the CHG contract that impose requirements for local investments.
 - o Recommendation – Remove current requirements in the CHG contract around system wide performance measures and/or requirements.
- State data collection and reporting
 - o Recommendation - Support Counties to have the best Point in Time data possible by developing a check system between Commerce and Counties *before* Point in Time Count results are published by Commerce.
- Refinements, additions, or replacements for existing homeless system performance measures and benchmarks
 - o Recommendation – Remove from the unsheltered system performance measure, those served in homeless prevention projects.
- State behavioral health policies and investments
 - o Recommendation – Support the behavioral health system and the housing system to together make local investments to develop resources that are appropriate to serve the homeless population that experience behavioral health issues.
- Social Services
 - o Recommendation - Support DSHS with addressing the movement of people currently on the HEN caseload, to more quickly move people off the HEN caseload by expediting the process to connect eligible individuals to long term disability supports.

Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) Performance Tracker

Housing Outcome Performance Measures

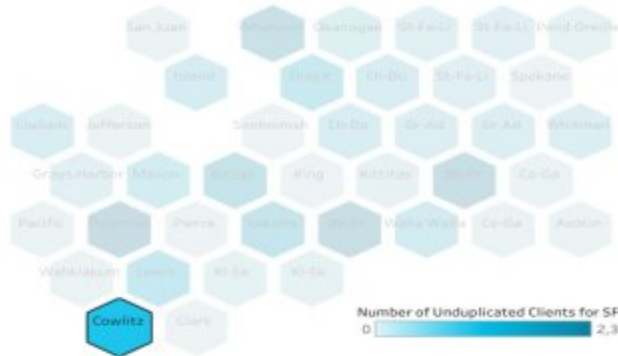
i 3 Hover over for more information

Instructions

w Default numbers are for the Balance of State (BoS).

w Select *Project Type* and/or *Drop-In Shelter* options to filter map to show only selected project types.

w To view county- or region-level measures, click on the desired county/region on the map **4**

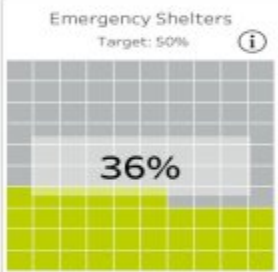


- Project Type**
- Null
 - Emergency Shelter
 - Homeless Prevention
 - Other
 - PH - Permanent Supportive Housing (di..
 - PH - Rapid Re-Housing
 - Transitional Housing

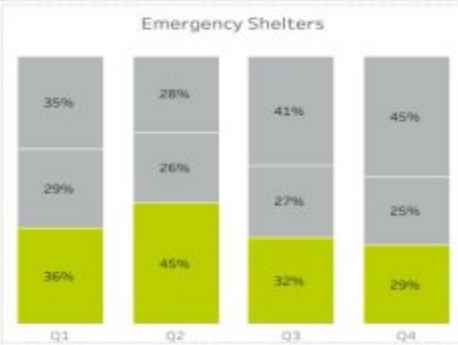
Has a Drop-In Shelter?
All



Year-to-Date Housing Outcomes



Quarterly Housing Outcomes



Each color represents exits to:
■ Permanent Housing | Positive Outcome
■ Retained Housing or Permanent Housing
■ Other/Unknown Destination or Negative Outcome

For detailed information about the CHG Performance Tracker, please refer to the

[Reporting Specifications](#)

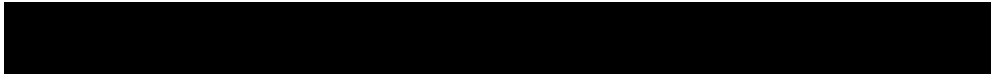


Click here to download a PDF copy.

Select Scaling: At most 1 page high

Appendix A-Consolidated Homeless Grant Performance Tracker

Data Reference: July 2018-July 2019 ^{xxvi}



Appendix B- Current Cowlitz System Capacity

Short term/Emergency Shelter (≤90 days)	Any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless					
Intervention/Agency	Population	Specific	Length	Units	Beds	2016 # Served
Community House on Broadway	Families or single adults	Clean and sober living, background check - may stay longer if working towards stable housing.	≤ 90 days	65	93	558
Emergency Support Shelter	Individuals fleeing domestic violence	Fleeing domestic violence	≤ 60 days	16	56	340
Family Promise	Families with children		≤ 90 days			
				81	149	898
Temporary (>90 days up to 2 years)	A project that has as its purpose facilitating the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing within a reasonable amount of time (usually					
Intervention/Agency	Population	Specific	Length	Units	Beds	2016 # Served
Country Run	Single adults or families	Low income	≤ 2 years	20	60	
Faithful Servants	Single men & women with	Clean/sober living, commit to program rules	≤ 2 years			
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - HOME TBRA	Homeless & Veterans	Homeless Veteran	≤ 2 years	27	0	48
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Emergency Transitional Housing (Hemlock)	Veterans	Homeless Veteran	≤ 2 years	2	8	35
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Transitional Housing (33rd House)	Veterans	Homeless Veteran	≤ 2 years	1	3	8
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Bridge Housing (Hemlock)	Veterans	Homeless Veteran	≤ 2 years	2	8	35

Salvation Army - Hope House	Single adults (18+)	Clean/sober living, background check, self-sufficiency plan (employment, recovery)	≤ 2 years	8	16	
				60	95	126
Permanent Housing	Community-based housing without a designated length of stay in which formerly homeless individuals and families live as independently as possible.					
<i>Sticks & Bricks (includes project based voucher programs)</i>						
Intervention/Agency	Population	Specific	Length	Units	Beds	2016 #
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA/Family Health Center - Phoenix House	Pregnant or parenting women	Substance Use Disorder - recently completed residential SUD treatment		20	40	76
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Stratford Arms	Homeless Veterans	HUD Voucher		20		21
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Sylvester Apartments PBRA	Elderly (62+)	HUD Voucher		42		45
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Casa de San Juan Diego	Farm Workers - Woodland	HUD Voucher		5		23
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Lilac Place	Woodland	HUD Voucher		46		111
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Tulip Valley	Family - Woodland	USDA/Rural Development subsidy		46		102
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Hawthorne House	Elderly/Disabled - Woodland	USDA/Rural Development subsidy		69		75
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Riverview	Elderly/Disabled - Castle Rock	USDA/Rural Development subsidy		44		49
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Columbia View Harbor	Elderly/Disabled - Kalama	USDA/Rural Development subsidy		17		17

Kelso Housing Authority - Chinook/Columbia	Adults	Disability - Mental Illness		21	21	29
Lower Columbia Community Action Program	Vulnerable population - medical needs, physical disability, mental illness, substance use	House Rules		6	6	19
Oxford Housing	Individuals in recovery - both men and women (some houses accept men or women with children)	Accept rules and expectations, pay equal share of household expenses, recommended to be clean 10+ days		10		
				346	67	567

<i>Tenant based voucher programs</i>	Assistance for low-income families, including elderly and disabled, to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market			<i>Vouchers</i>		<i># Served</i>
Intervention/Agency	Population	Specific	Length	Units	Beds	2016 # Served
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Housing Choice (Section 8)	Families, Elderly, Disabled - Cowlitz (excluding Kelso & Kalama)	HUD Voucher		952		1935
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - VASH	Veterans - Cowlitz (excluding Kelso & Kalama)	HUD Voucher		18		20
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Non-elderly, Disabled (NED)	Non-elderly, disabled - Cowlitz (excluding Kelso & Kalama)	HUD Voucher, Transitioning from institutional setting		13		13

Kelso Housing Authority - Housing Choice (Section 8)		HUD Voucher		308		
				1291		1968

<i>Other</i>						
Intervention/Agency	Population	Specific Eligibility	Length	Capacity	2016 # Served	
Kelso Housing Authority - Public Housing	Low income families	Family pays adjusted rent (Kelso)		100		
Kelso Housing Authority - Public Housing	Low income families	Family pays adjusted rent (Kalama)		16		
Lower Columbia Community Action Program - Rapid Re-Housing	Adults and families	DSHS referral (HEN/ABD eligibility)			406	
Lower Columbia Community Action Program - YAHP Rapid Re-Housing	Young adults ages 18-24				22	
HabitatforHumanity- Build and buy own home	Low income families and individuals	Enrollment/Application process, commit to 500 hrs 'sweat equity'			2.5 homes/yr	

Appendix C-Washington State Department of Commerce-Cowlitz Modeling Tool

This section lists the current funds from sources in the homeless housing system that enter data in to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in Cowlitz County and compares the cost to the number of successful exits of homelessness for each intervention type. This modeling tool addresses plan goal/objective #5a and is one of the required objectives from the Department of Commerce. Please see Commerce website for more information on this tool and contact information if there are any questions:

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/homelessness/state-strategic-plan-annual-report-and-audits/>

Current Cowlitz System Funds per Successful Exit						
<i>Interventions</i>	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Rapid Rehousing	Permanent Supportive Housing	Permanent Housing dedicated to homeless persons	Total
Households served at a point in time (occupied units)	11	-	132	24	-	167
Annual Spending	\$ 542,907	\$ -	\$ 1,212,826	\$ 194,672	\$ -	\$ 1,950,405
Households served in housing type annually	141	-	248	30	-	419
Cost per household served in year	\$ 3,850	\$ -	\$ 4,890	\$ 6,489	\$ -	
Exited households	126	-	158	4	-	288
% of households who exit	48%	0%	64%	13%	0%	
Cost per exit	\$ 4,309	\$ -	\$ 7,676	\$ 48,668	\$ -	
Successful exits	60	-	116	3	-	179
% Successful exits	48%	0%	73%	75%	0%	
Cost per successful exit	\$ 9,048	\$ -	\$ 10,455	\$ 64,891	\$ -	
Cost per unit/slot	\$ 49,355	\$ -	\$ 9,188	\$ 8,111	\$ -	
Average length of stay for households served during year	28	0	194	292	0	
Failed/unknown exits	66	-	42	1	-	109
Returned to homelessness after successful exit	29	-	7	-	-	36
Returned to homelessness after successful exit %	48%	0%	6%	0%	0%	
Net successful interventions	46	-	199	29	-	274
Supply vs. Demand						
TOTAL interventions	419					
Successful interventions	274					
Unsuccessful interventions	145					
Unsheltered not served annually (PITx3)	408					
TOTAL demand for successful interventions	827					
Deficit of successful interventions	553					
2018 Point in time count of unsheltered households	136					

This section is intended to illustrate future funding needs for homeless housing. The chart below reflects the current data reflected above. If there is an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness, the funding needed to address housing increases as well.

Future Cowlitz System Funds per Successful Exit							
Demand change - change in households facing unsheltered homelessness annually:		(Negative values are fewer households needing homeless housing interventions due to reasons such as income increases)					
		31					
Interventions		Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Rapid Rehousing	Permanent Supportive Housing	Permanent Housing dedicated to homeless persons	TOTAL
Households served at a point in time (occupied units)		10	-	178	10	-	198
Annual Spending		\$ 493,552	\$ -	\$ 1,635,477	\$ 81,113	\$ -	2,210,143
Households served in housing type annually		128	-	334	13	-	475
Cost per household served in year		\$ 3,850	\$ -	\$ 4,890	\$ 6,489	\$ -	
Exited households		62	-	213	2	-	
% of households who exit		48%	0%	64%	13%	0%	
Cost per exit		\$ 8,022	\$ -	\$ 7,676	\$ 48,668	\$ -	
Successful exits		31	-	170	1	-	
% Successful exits		50%	80%	80%	75%	0%	
Cost per successful exit		\$ 16,043	\$ -	\$ 9,595	n/a	n/a	
Cost per unit/slot		\$ 49,355	\$ -	\$ 9,188	\$ 8,111	\$ -	
Average length of stay for households served during year		28	-	194	292	-	157
Failed exits		31	-	43	0	-	74
Returned to homelessness after successful exit		3	-	9	-	-	12
Returned to homelessness after successful exit %		10%	5%	5%	0%	0%	
Net successful interventions		94	-	283	12	-	390
Supply vs. Demand							
TOTAL interventions		475					
Successful interventions		390					
Unsuccessful interventions		85					
Change in successful interventions		116					
TOTAL demand for successful interventions		858					
Deficit of successful interventions		468					

No inflation									
Forecast point in time count of unsheltered households				115					
Forecast change in point in time count of unsheltered households				(21)					
% Forecast change in point in time count of unsheltered households				-15%					
2024 after population growth and rent-driven increase in need									
TOTAL demand for successful interventions				2,309					
Households housed				475					
Successful				390					
Deficit of successful				1,897					
Forecast point in time count of unsheltered households				586					
Forecast change in point in time count of unsheltered households				(29)					
% Forecast change in point in time count of unsheltered households				-5%					
Change Current Cowlitz vs. Future Cowlitz System Funds per Successful Exit									
				Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Rapid Rehousing	Permanent Supportive Housing	Permanent Housing dedicated to homeless persons	TOTAL
Households served at a point in time (occupied units)				(1)	-	46	(14)	-	31
Annual Spending				\$ (49,355)	\$ -	\$ 422,651	\$ (113,559)	\$ -	\$ 259,738

This section is intended to show the increase in funding needed to keep pace with population growth, rent-driven increase in need, rent inflation, and general inflation to provide housing support for people experiencing homelessness. The first chart represents the current system with inflation, and the second chart represents a 5 year projection of inflation based on the current system.

Annual increase in funding and beds needed to keep pace with population growth, rent-driven increase in need, rent inflation, and general inflation								
			Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Rapid	Permanent Supportive Housing	Permanent Housing dedicated to homeless persons	TOTAL
Households served at a point in time (occupied)			10	-	182	10	-	202
Cost per unit/slot each			\$ 50,342	\$ -	\$ 9,289	\$ 8,274	\$ -	\$ 67,905
Annual			\$ 513,441	\$ -	\$ 1,686,372	\$ 84,382	\$ -	\$ 2,284,195
Annual increase in households served at a point in time (units) needed to keep pace with need			0	-	4	0	-	4
Net annual cost increase per unit/slot each year			\$ 987	\$ -	\$ 101	\$ 162	\$ -	
Net increase in annual spending necessary to keep pace with need and cost inflation			\$ 19,889	\$ -	\$ 50,894	\$ 3,269	\$ -	\$ 74,052
% Net annual increase in households served at a point in time (occupied units)			2%		2%	2%		2%
% Net additional cost per unit/slot each year			2%		1%	2%		
% Net increase in annual			4%		3%	4%		3%



Five year increase in funding and beds needed to keep pace with population growth, rent-driven increase in need, rent inflation, and general inflation

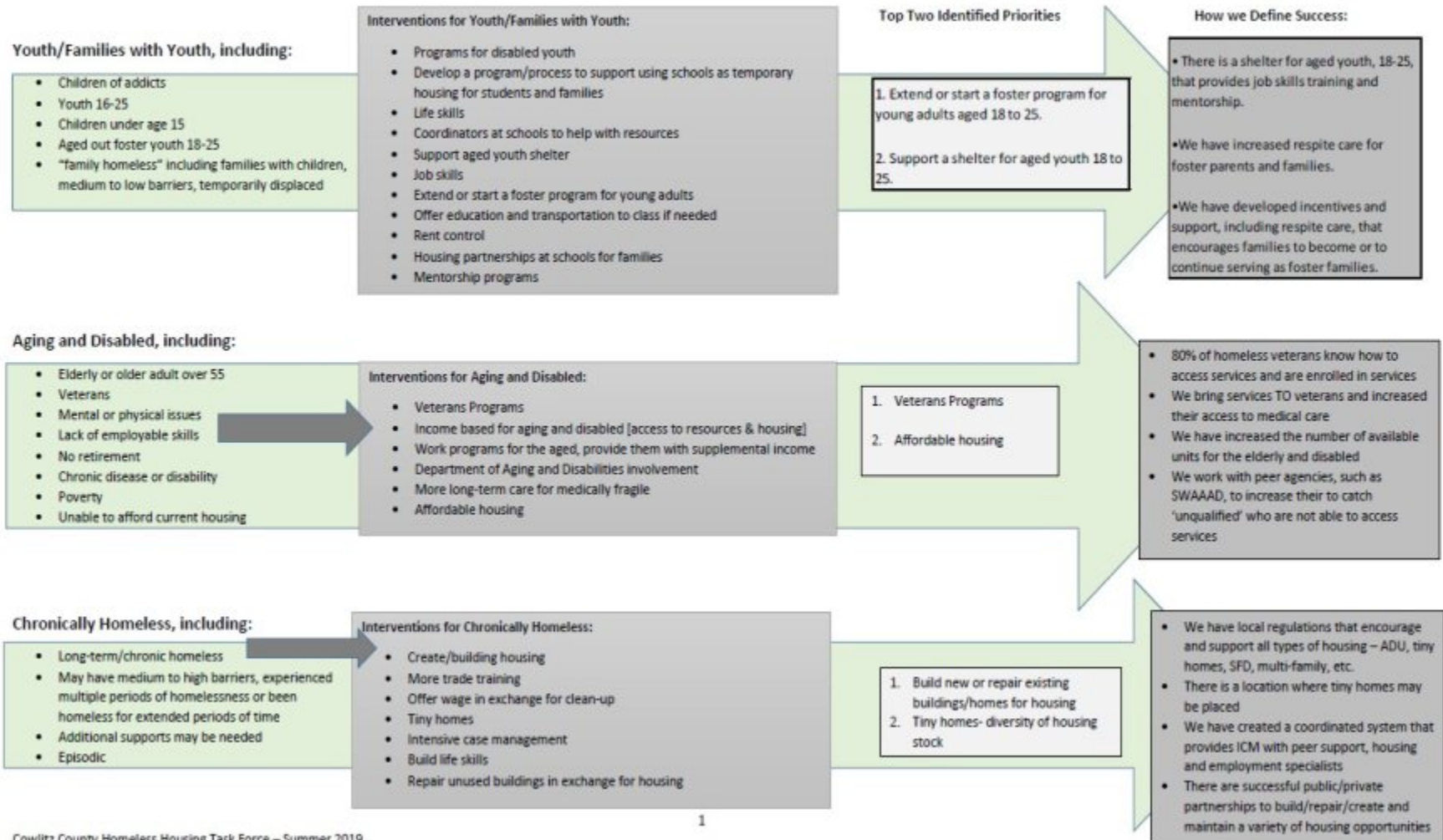
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Rapid	Permanent Supportive Housing	Permanent Housing dedicated to homeless persons	TOTAL
Households served at a point in time (occupied units)	11	-	196	11	-	218
Cost per unit/slot each	\$ 54,492	\$ -	\$ 9,706	\$ 8,956	\$ -	\$ 73,153
Annual	\$ 660,368	\$ -	\$ 1,411,409	\$ 236,791	\$ -	\$ 2,308,568
Five year increase in households served at a point in time (units) needed to keep pace with need and cost	1	-	18	1	-	20
Net annual cost increase per unit/slot each year	\$ 5,137	\$ -	\$ 517	\$ 844	\$ -	
Net increase in annual spending necessary to keep pace with need and cost inflation	\$ 117,461	\$ -	\$ 198,583	\$ 42,119	\$ -	\$ 358,163
% Net annual increase in households served at a point in time (occupied units)	1%		6%	8%		5%
% Net additional cost per unit/slot	10%		6%	10%		
% Net increase in	22%		16%	22%		18%

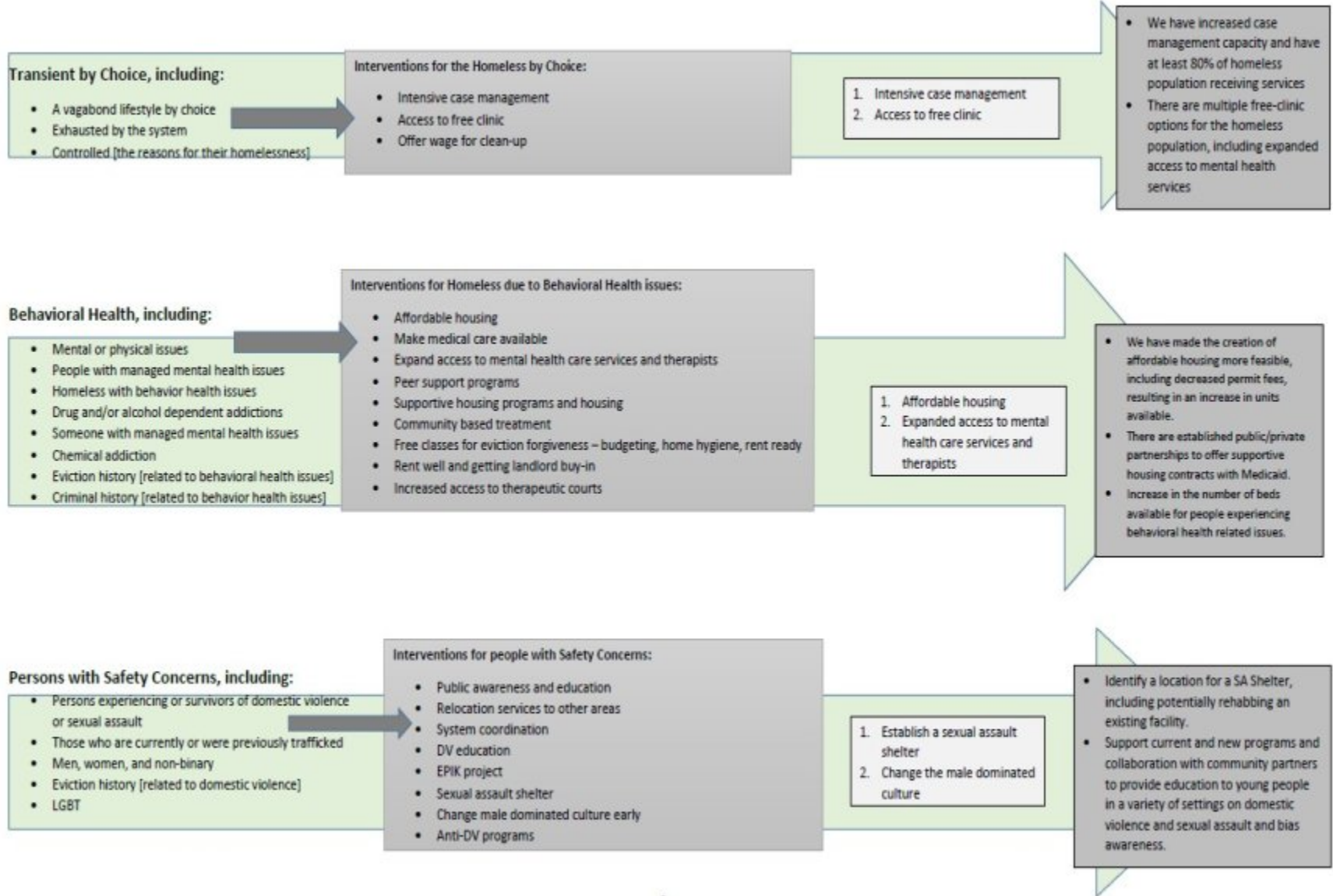
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Appendix D-Types of Homelessness

Identifying Types of Homelessness in Cowlitz County, Setting Priorities and Defining Success:

**This document represents a discussion from the Homeless Housing Task Force, it does not represent formal recommendations (please see goals, page 9).*





Situational Homeless, including:

- The 'Hidden Homeless'- those doubled up, experiencing an eviction, who have unstable housing, those with low barriers to housing
- Sleeping in a car
- Uncontrolled [reasons for homelessness]
- No HUD housing available
- Working homeless
- Rent/income burdened
- Impacted by a divorce
- Missing middle- lack of affordable housing
- Someone who is employed full/part-time
- No family
- Couch surfing
- Acute
- Lack of education
- Someone without mental health issues
- Lack of employable skills
- Transitional
- Homeless due to disaster
- Homeless with housing

- Interventions for Situational Homelessness:**
- Affordable housing
 - Temporary housing solution
 - Comprehensive homeless service area
 - Public-Private Partnerships for housing interventions
 - Job/skill training
 - Legal place to park if in a car
 - Increase rental properties
 - Resources come to you [the homeless]
 - Community mail – postal resources for homeless
 - One phone number to connect with all services
 - Public transitional housing that is not religious based
 - Income based housing

1. Affordable, income-based housing
2. Mobile Resources

- There is an increase in the amount of middle income and workforce housing to achieve a 4-6% vacancy rate, freeing up housing stock.
- Building owners are offered tax breaks or other incentives to establish income based housing.
- We support system coordination for homeless outreach with healthcare, mental health and intensive case management. The system incorporates those who are homeless in problem solving and uses a system of peer support.

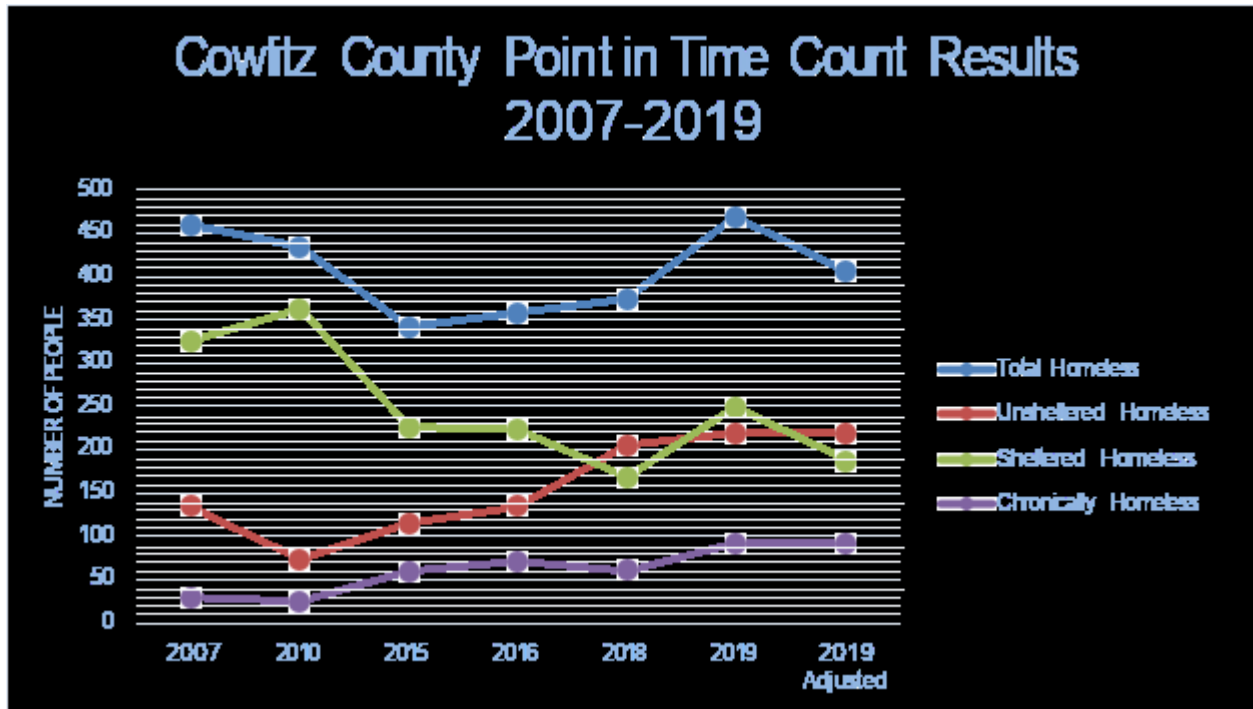
We will recognize the challenges related to Cultural Barriers in all classifications of homelessness and all interventions, including:

- English is a second language
- Tribal
- LGBT
- Undocumented
- Discrimination based on any protected class

- Interventions to address Cultural Barriers:**
- Education programs that cross language barriers
 - Strong support for cultural response organizations- Rainbow Network, Ethnic Support Council, churches, others
 - Access to translators
 - Cultural competency
 - Immigration assistance

Appendix E-County Statistics

I.-Point in Time Count Results



The data above reflects trends for homelessness in Cowlitz County from 2007 to 2019. These numbers are issued from the Department of Commerce based on data they receive from Counties, the State, and other partners.

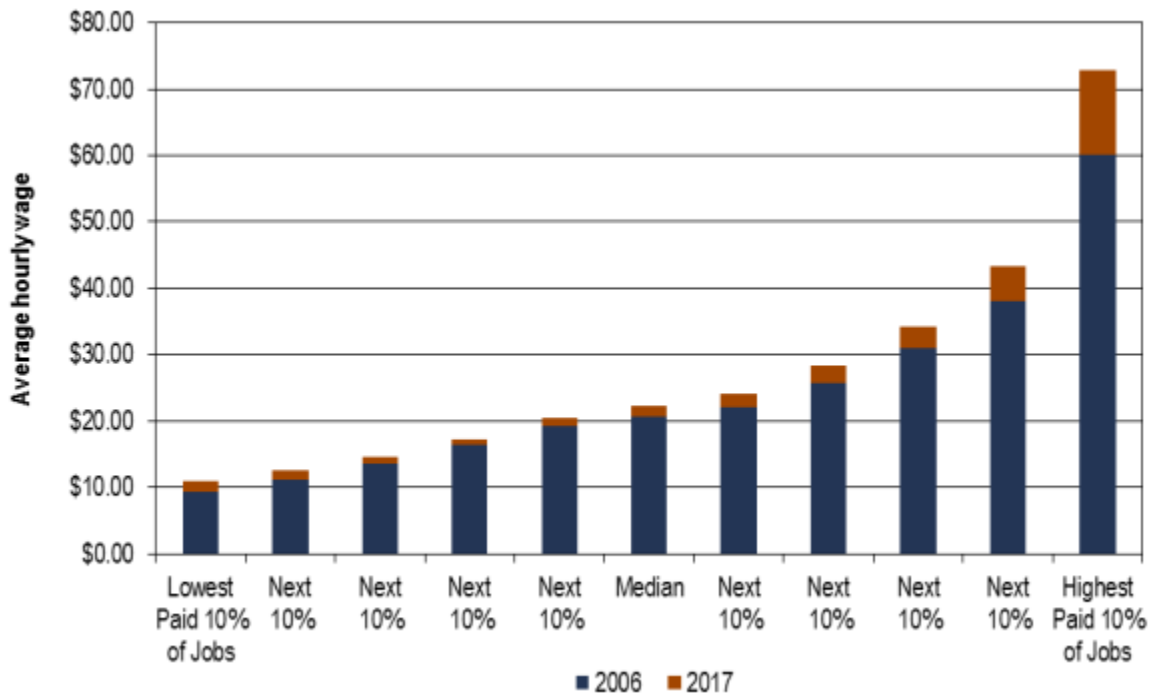
Counties do not have the opportunity to review the numbers before they are issued to ensure accuracy. When the data was published for the 2019 Count, Cowlitz County Health and Human Services noticed an increase in homelessness for our County. After consulting with the Department of Commerce, it was confirmed that an increase of 62 people was attributed to a data error. Once the issue was identified and resolved, the Department of Commerce was unfortunately not able to update the final numbers from the Count.

Cowlitz County Health and Human Services continues to work with the Department of Commerce to improve the quality of our Point in Time Count Data.^{xxviii}

II.-Wages and Income

The median hourly wage for jobs in Cowlitz County in 2017 was \$22.23, a very solid inflation-adjusted increase of 3.4 percent over the 2016 median. The bottom 10 percent of jobs paid 10.5 percent more than in 2016, due to the jump in the minimum wage and the tightening labor market. Average wages actually declined on the upper end.

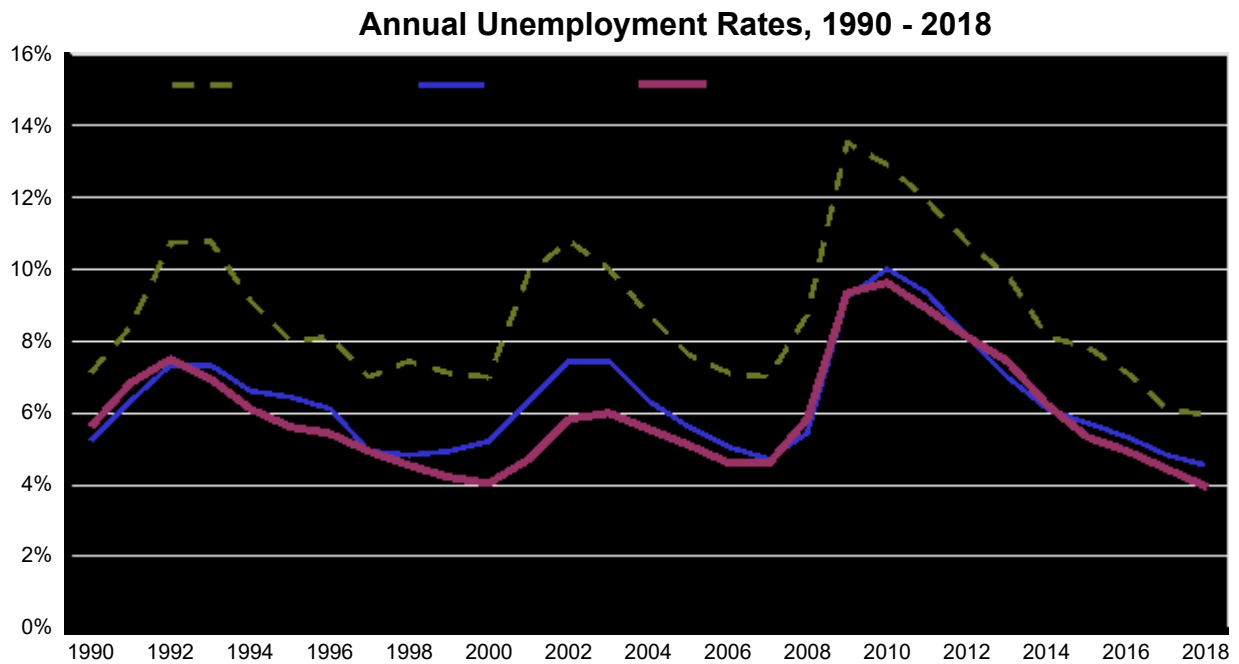
Average hourly wage by decile, and change since 2006



In 2017, average annual wage was \$47,677, 10th highest among counties in the state, but well below the state (\$62,077) and national (\$55,375) averages. The average has risen relatively slow but steadily over the past three decades.

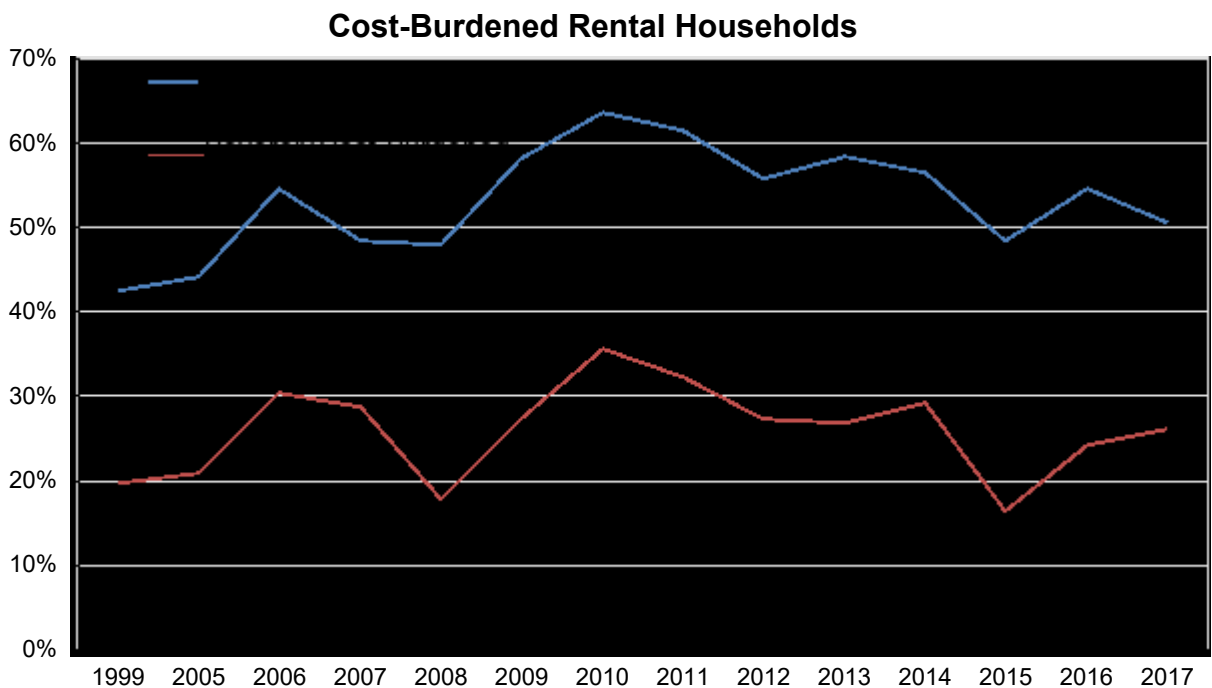
The chart above shows the average wage for the lowest 10 percent of jobs all the way up to the highest 10 percent of jobs, and how those averages compared in 2006 and 2017. Wages increased the most on the upper end 20 percent – and on the lower end – 17 percent. Gains were smaller in the middle of the wage spectrum (5 to 8 percent). Thus, wage inequality increased, and likely would have been worse without the increase in the minimum wage. ^{xxix}

III.-Unemployment Rates in Cowlitz County



xxx

IV.-Cost Burdened Rental Households in Cowlitz County



Cost-burdened is defined as 30% or more of income going to rent while severely cost-burdened is defined as 50% or more of income going to rent.

xxx

V.-Distressed Areas in Washington State-Like Counties

THREE YEAR AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES USED TO DETERMINE DISTRESSED AREAS¹

Area	Three Year Average Unemployment Rate (Jan 2016-Dec 2018) (Not Seasonally Adjusted)	Distressed Area: Unemployment Rate Greater Than or Equal to 6.2%
Washington State	4.8%	
Benton County	5.7%	
Chelan County	5.0%	
Clallam County	6.9%	Yes
Cowlitz County	6.4%	Yes
Douglas County	6.0%	Yes
Grant County	6.5%	Yes
Grays Harbor County	7.4%	Yes
Lewis County	6.9%	Yes

xxxii

VI.-Poverty Rates in Cowlitz County

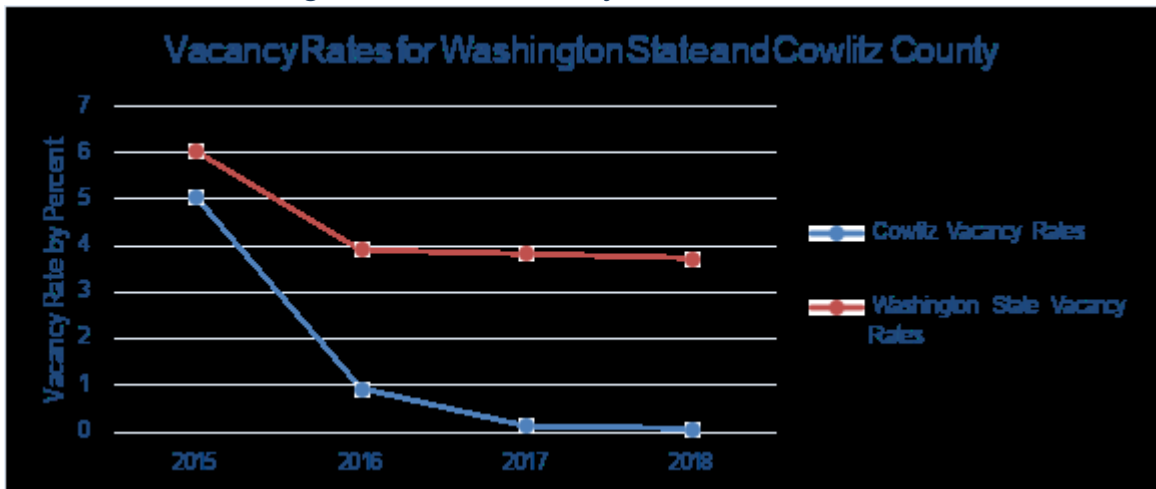
Poverty Rate: Total					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
U.S.	15.8%	15.5%	14.7%	14.0%	13.4%
State	14.1%	13.2%	12.2%	11.3%	11.0%
Cowlitz	14.5%	22.5%	15.1%	16.8%	17.2%

Poverty Rate: Children (<18 years old)					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
U.S.	22.2%	21.7%	20.7%	19.5%	18.4%
State	18.8%	17.5%	15.5%	13.7%	14.3%
Cowlitz	18.5%	31.4%	20.5%	19.6%	20.5%

Poverty Rate: Ages 65 and older					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
U.S.	9.6%	9.5%	9.0%	9.2%	9.3%
State	8.1%	8.4%	7.4%	7.6%	8.0%
Cowlitz	5.0%	11.0%	11.7%	12.2%	12.2%

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VII.-Available housing in Cowlitz County



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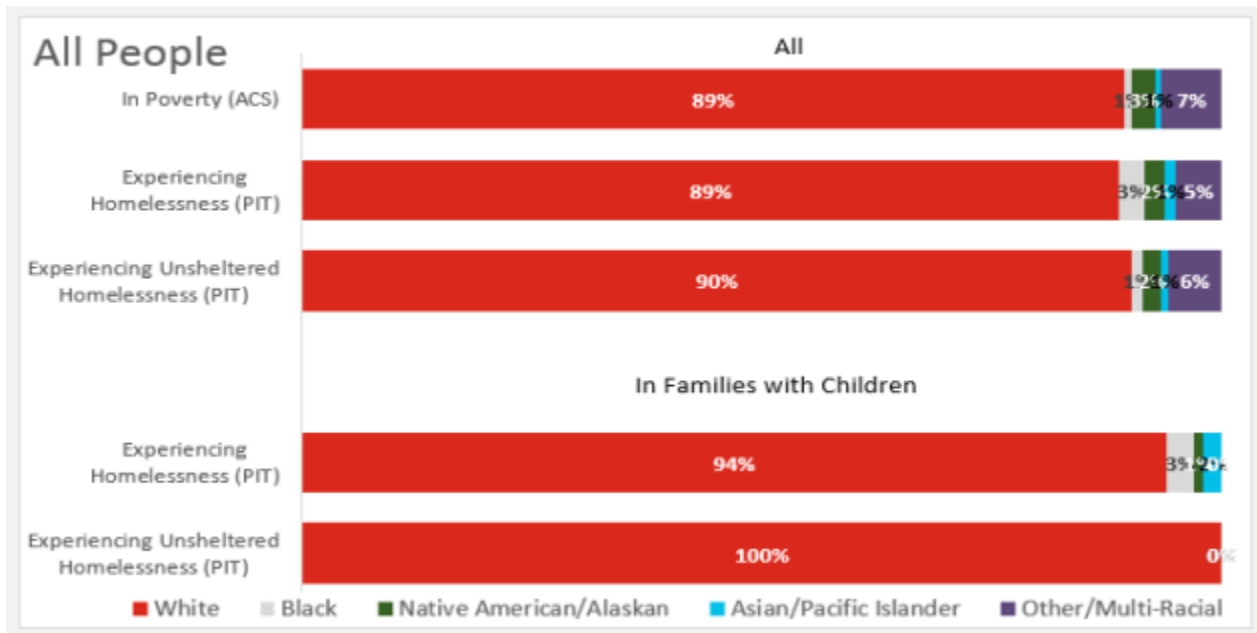
April 1, 2019 Population of Cities, Towns and Counties Used for Allocation of Selected State Revenues Office of Financial Management, Forecasting and Research Division										
Jurisdiction	2010 Population Census	2011 Population Estimate	2012 Population Estimate	2013 Population Estimate	2014 Population Estimate	2015 Population Estimate	2016 Population Estimate	2017 Population Estimate	2018 Population Estimate	2019 Population Estimate
Cowlitz County	102,410	102,700	103,050	103,300	103,700	104,280	104,850	105,900	107,310	108,950
Unincorporated Cowlitz County	44,085	44,225	44,180	44,345	44,515	44,765	45,080	45,640	46,460	47,295
Incorporated Cowlitz County	58,325	58,475	58,870	58,955	59,185	59,515	59,770	60,260	60,850	61,655
Castle Rock	1,982	1,995	2,135	2,135	2,145	2,175	2,190	2,200	2,200	2,215
Kalama	2,344	2,365	2,390	2,400	2,430	2,500	2,540	2,620	2,750	2,900
Kelso	11,925	11,920	11,930	11,940	11,960	11,950	11,970	11,980	12,080	12,220
Longview	36,648	36,730	36,910	36,940	37,040	37,130	37,230	37,510	37,710	38,100
Woodland (part)	5,426	5,465	5,505	5,540	5,610	5,760	5,840	5,950	6,110	6,220

VIII.-Population of Cowlitz County by geographic area

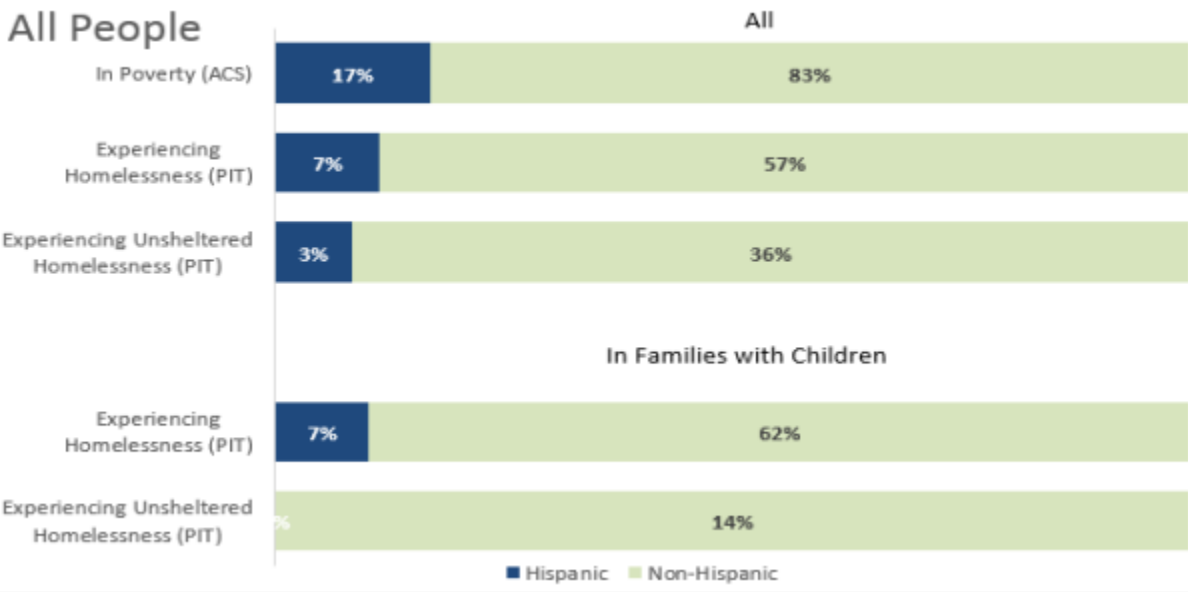
IX.-Race of residents in Cowlitz County as of 2010

The charts below compare data on poverty and race for the general population of Cowlitz County compared to the homeless population of Cowlitz County to determine if race or poverty is a factor in homelessness.

When comparing the sheltered and unsheltered data, non-Hispanic whites had a higher trend of unsheltered homelessness than individuals with Hispanic ethnicity and individuals who identified as belonging to non-white racial groups.

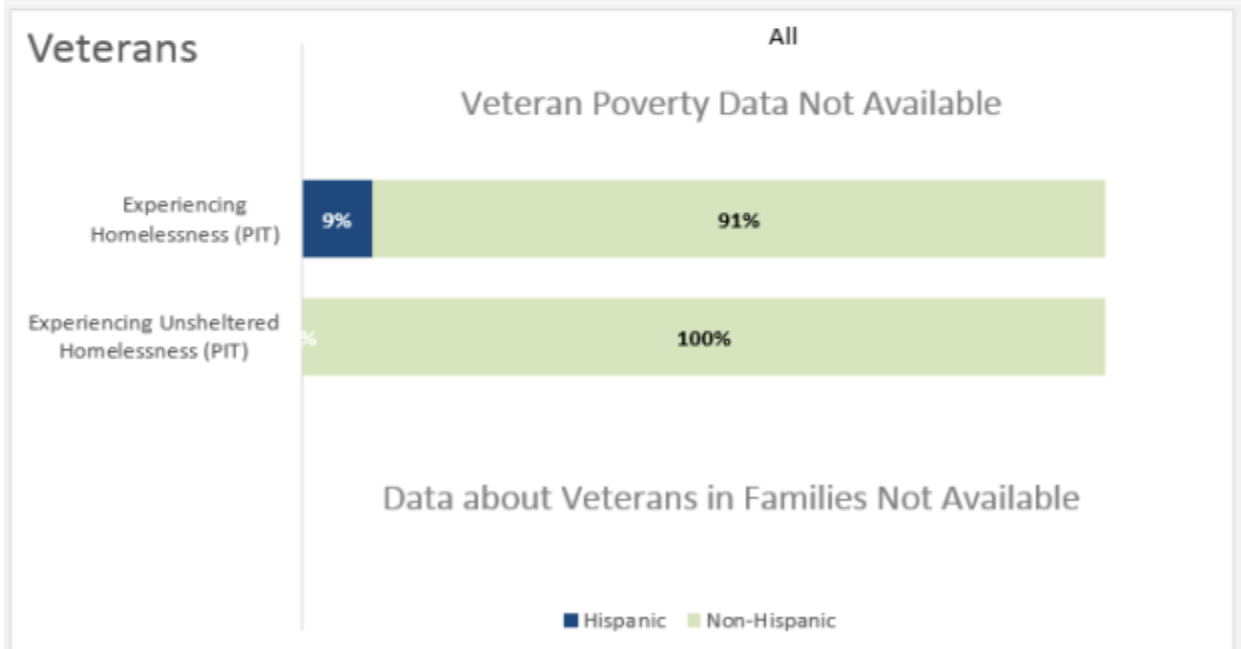
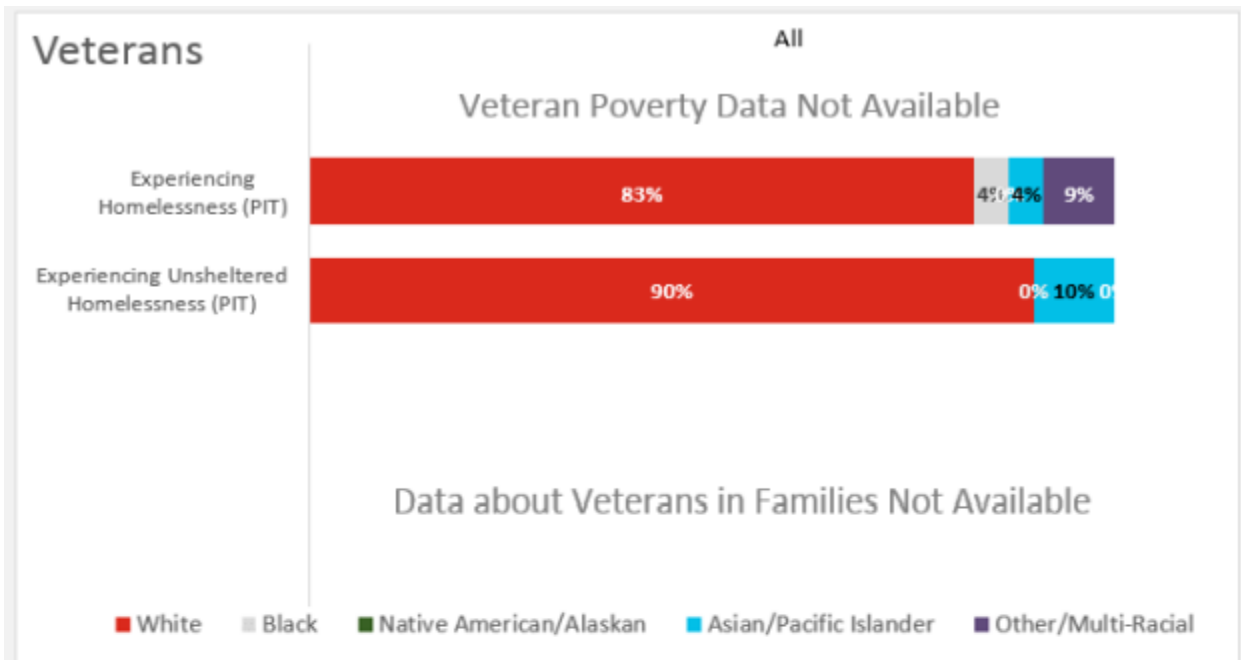


All People



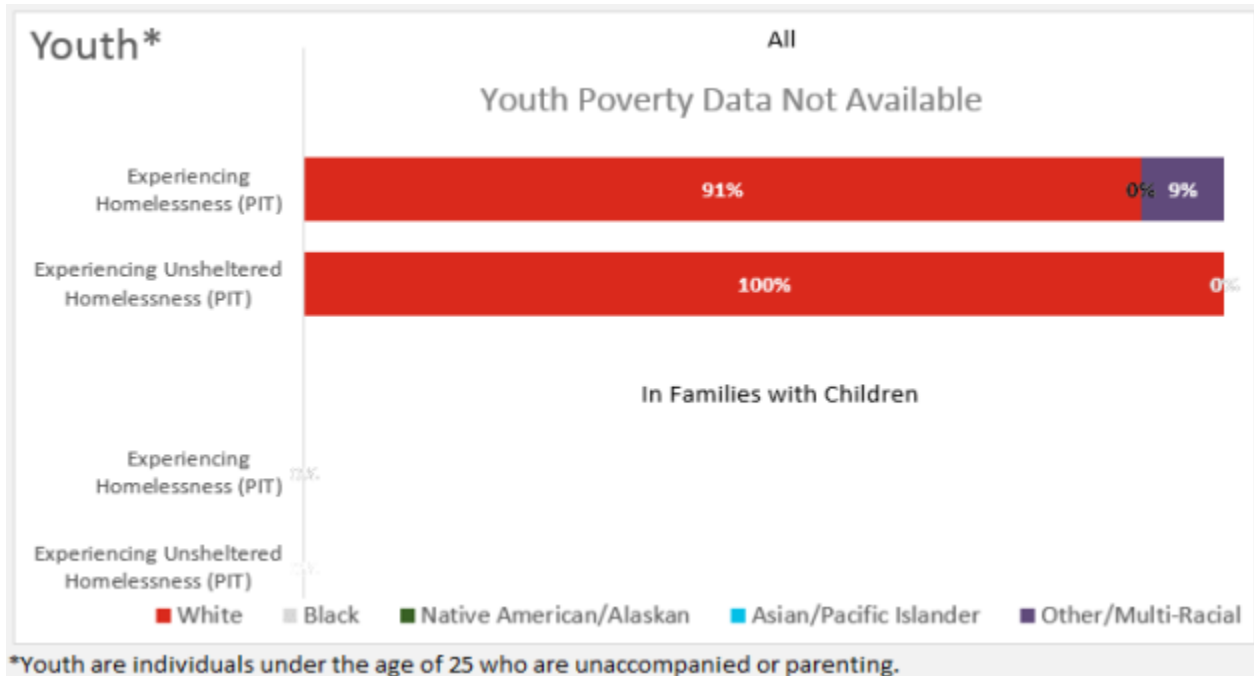
Race and Ethnicity of Veteran Residents

This data shows that among Veteran's in Cowlitz County, there are higher numbers of Native American's, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and Other/Multi-Racial individuals when compared to the general population, which is consistent with data averages for Washington State.



Race and Ethnicity of Cowlitz Youth Residents

Other than data reflected for Veteran's, the data suggests that no racial groups are over or under represented among individuals or families in the homeless population in Cowlitz County. Numbers for youth are also consistent with the numbers reported for individuals and the data suggests no significant over or underrepresentation of race or ethnicity when compared to the census.





X. Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Homeless Student Count, by district							
2017-18 school year							
<i>"N<10" refers to data that has been suppressed because the total is fewer than 10 students.</i>							
<i>"Suppression" indicates that data was suppressed because the count of smaller subgroups can be deduced by subtracting from the total</i>							
District Name/ By Grade	Castle Rock School District	Kalama School District	Kelso School District	Longview School District	Toutle Lake School District	Woodland School District	Cowlitz County Total
PK	0	N<10	0	N<10	N<10	0	0
K	N<10	N<10	26	49	N<10	11	86
1st	N<10	N<10	28	44	N<10	Suppression	72
2nd	N<10	N<10	22	43	0	13	78
3rd	N<10	N<10	15	42	N<10	11	68
4th	N<10	N<10	18	49	N<10	N<10	67
5th	N<10	N<10	21	44	N<10	20	85
6th	N<10	N<10	13	37	N<10	11	61
7th	N<10	N<10	N<10	36	N<10	12	48
8th	0	N<10	N<10	29	N<10	12	41
9th	N<10	N<10	13	Suppression	N<10	12	25
10th	0	N<10	15	31	N<10	11	57
11th	N<10	N<10	N<10	24	N<10	13	37
12th	N<10	N<10	26	29	N<10	21	76
Total 1	29	43	217	486	38	167	980
Doubled-Up	Suppression	Suppression	171	351	Suppression	113	635
Hotel/motel	0	N<10	Suppression	37	0	Suppression	37
Sheltered	N<10	N<10	22	76	0	N<10	98
Unsheltered	N<10	N<10	N<10	22	N<10	38	60
Total 2	29	43	217	486	38	167	980
English Language Learner	N<10	N<10	24	34	0	31	89
Low Income	29	43	216	482	38	167	975
Migrant	0	0	0	N<10	0	N<10	0
Section 504	N<10	N<10	N<10	15	0	N<10	15
Student with Disabilities	N<10	13	40	104	N<10	35	192
Unaccompanied Youth	0	0	25	67	0	19	111

Acronym Glossary

CE	Coordinated Entry
CH	Chronically Homeless
CHG	Consolidated Homeless Grant
CoC	Continuum of Care
DD	Developmental Disabilities
DV	Domestic Violence
ES	Emergency Shelter
HEARTH	Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to
HEN	Housing and Essential Needs
HHS	Health and Human Services
HHTF	Homeless Housing Task Force
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HUD	Housing and Urban Development
OSPI	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
PHC	Project Homeless Connect
PIT	Point in Time count
PSH	Permanent Supported Housing
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
RRH	Rapid Rehousing
SSI	Social Security Income
TH	Transitional Housing
WAC	Washington Administrative Code

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Additional Resources

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Longview City Council adopted the Cowlitz County 5 Year Plan to Address Homelessness on February 8, 2024

The County plan can be found here: [5 Year Plan to Address Homelessness | Cowlitz County, WA - Official Website](#)

The City of Longview’s Homeless Housing Task Force has developed and recommends to City Council adopting the below addendum, in addition to the County’s plan, to identify additional priorities specific to the City of Longview.

Objective 1: Increase access to affordable permanent housing units.

- a. Add more affordable housing.
 - ~~Support and facilitate development of housing projects in Longview Interlocal Agreement with Housing Opportunities of SW Washington (HOSSWA) funded by Affordable Housing Sales Tax Levy to facilitate development of housing projects in Longview.~~
- ~~cb.~~ cb. Revise local zoning to allow for denser housing.
 - ~~Explore opportunities for denser housing, including but not limited to: Accessory Dwelling Units, Cottage Housing, Shared Driveways, modified light industrial zoning to allow residential use, etc. 2. Cottage Housi3. Shared Driveways, 4. Modified light industrial zoning to allow residential use, a5. Explore other opportunities for denser housing.~~

Objective 2: Quickly identify and engage all people experiencing homelessness. ~~Maintain effective and efficient coordinated entry system for housing and housing related services.~~

- a. ~~a. Engage homeless~~ individuals.
- b. City of Longview outreach and ~~enforcement~~ Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) project will engage homeless individuals and assist them in accessing services to acquire housing.
- ~~b. See County Plan.c. See County Plan.~~

Objective 3: Increase prevention and education opportunities.

- a. Support community life skills, such as Rent Well programs.~~b. See County Plan.~~
- b. Provide education and information for the general public.

Objective 4: Support efforts to maintain and increase a housing/homeless crisis-response system in Cowlitz County the City of Longview. ~~System is efficient~~ with the most appropriate resources and interventions for the homeless population.

- a. ~~a. See County Planb. See County Pc. See County Plan.d~~ Ensure access to shelter during severe weather events.

- b. Support efforts to increase alternative interim habitation options, including but not limited to transitional housing, vehicle habitation, and all types of sheltering.

~~f. See County Plan.~~

Objective 5: Increase the use of data driven strategies and decision making. ~~a. See County Plan.~~

- a. ~~b. See County c~~Report on City progress annually.
- b. Include measurable objectives and return on investments for all contracts or allocations.