

Current Homeless Response and Affordable Housing Initiatives

Home Fund Levy



Public Safety Funding Package



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)



Funding Reponses

- October 2017 City Council voted to place ballot proposal on February 2018 ballot
- February 2018 The proposal was approved by voters
- 2018 Approximately \$550,000 will be received
- Annually Expected to receive \$2.2M
- Currently Implementation plans are being developed
- Fall 2017 Received voter approval
- Includes: mobile mental health outreach, services for downtown and more
- Continues community court program keeping minor offenders, many who are poor and homeless, out of the criminal justice system
- April 2018 Crisis Mental Health Program Manager begins
- 2018 City is looking to allocate up to \$350,000 for its CDBG program
- As well as reallocating another \$300,000-400,000 from 2017
- In the past CDBG dollars have gone to fund low income housing/housing related services

Revisions to the Church Tent Encampment Ordinance



Regulatory Responses

- City staff drafted changes to the church encampment ordinance making it more feasible for churches to consider hosting
- Input from Just Housing, Interfaith Works and others has been included
- Mayor Selby met with local church leaders to solicit their help
- City officials mention possibility of paying for porta potties and garbage at tent encampment sites
- Revised ordinance is set for City Council action after further revisions

Missing Middle



Property Tax Exemption



- City Planning Staff are actively working with neighborhoods, stakeholders and Planning Commission to develop a package of development regulation amendments to encourage production of infill housing types
- Housing types range from accessory dwelling units to fourplexes
- March 19 Planning Commission held a public hearing
- Mayor Selby made a referral, approved by City Council, to the Land Use & Environment Committee (LUEC)
- April 18 LUEC will review extending the property tax exemption for low income and market rate housing projects beyond the current boundaries (predominantly downtown)
- LUEC will review the possibility of reducing or eliminating impact fees for qualifying projects serving low income individuals and families
- If approved by City Council, this could facilitate construction of more assistive and market rate housing

Staffing/Program Responses

- To date the City's homeless and affordable housing responses have been managed with along with existing staff duties and responsibilities
- February 2018 City Council approved partnering with Evergreen Christian Church to create a Homeless Response Coordinator to be able to focus efforts on these pending issues and more
- May 1 position will be filled
- January 2018 City took over program to improve oversight, coordination, and effectiveness
- Budget increased to \$460,000
- Includes outreach to street dependent people downtown and employment opportunities on the clean team for disadvantaged young people
- Committee held nine meetings to develop an understanding of housing priorities to consider for City HOME fund dollars and possible ordinances related to renter notifications, among other initiatives

Homeless Response Coordinator



Ambassador Program



Ad Hoc Committee on Housing Affordability



Thurston County's Cold Weather Task Force



shelter coordination system so beds do not go unused and warm space is available for the most vulnerable.Union Gospel Mission and the Community Care Center are

Along with Olympia, currently working with entities to

possibly provide a warming center equivalent and a real time

- Union Gospel Mission and the Community Care Center are presently serving as day center options
- The Salvation Army is actively exploring options for opening a day center
- February 2018 A cold blue (extreme weather event) sheltering plan has been developed and put into operation by the County

Family Support Center (FSC)



- Mayor and City Manager working with FSC for several months to help develop a master plan and funding package to eventually build a new facility with attached housing to serve even more homeless families
- FSC has made an offer on potential Westside location with significant land available for housing development

Fair Housing Assessment



- Being done in conjunction with the County and the Thurston County Housing Authority to identify barriers and biases to low income renters and residents, including discrimination against the poor.
- October 2017 A joint hearing was held with
- 2018 City Council action set to occur

Community Care Center

- Received \$200,000 grant from City
- City fast tracked permits on the facility
- Four members of City staff including the Police Chief, Deputy Fire Chief and others serve on an advisory board to help manage and support the Center
- City Council approved an additional \$35,000 for staffing support for the Center from 2017 CDGB funds
- Interfaith Works is seeking an additional \$30,000 to fund services through 2018



- 2017 the two County programs began and working mostly through OPD to increase effectiveness in serving mentally ill persons, many of whom are homeless
- This includes not only mental health services but referrals to services such as housing.

County Mental Health Outreach (Telecare) & Triage Center