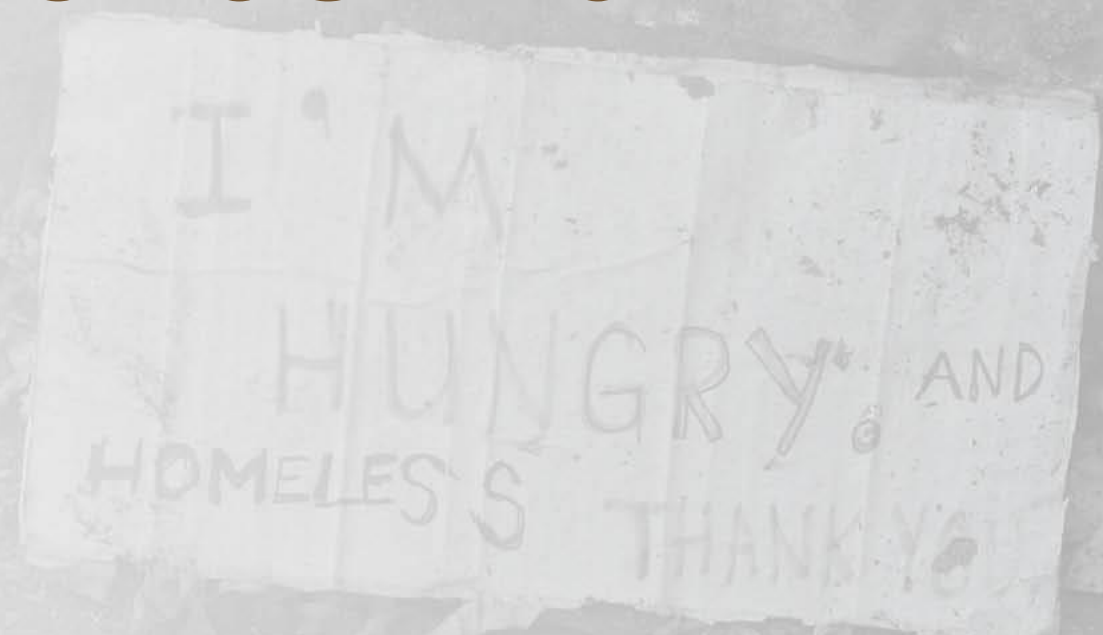# Homeless Response Plan Approach

Amy Buckler, Downtown Programs Manager
Community Planning & Development

Stacey Ray, Senior Planner
Administrative Services, Office of Performance and Innovation

Guiding Principles

- To be effective we must work together, involving diverse stakeholders in the community and the other jurisdictions in Thurston County

- Build our capacity and resources through partnerships and cost effective solutions

- Commit to continued learning about homelessness, particularly around the issues of marginalization, anti-oppression and trauma informed care

- Respect that people have differing points of view and seek common ground

- Keep the public informed through clear and transparent communications

- Recognize we cannot solve this issue, but we can achieve our mission

Homeless Response Plan

Purpose:

To identify how to effectively respond to homelessness and its impacts on the City of Olympia

Homeless Response Plan

- Comprehensive Plan

- Thurston County 5-year Plan

- Downtown Strategy

Participatory Leadership

Participatory Leadership is an approach to identifying community-based solutions to complex issues through building trust, learning together, and having constructive dialogue.

"...A leader these days needs to be one who convenes people, who convenes diversity, who convenes all viewpoints in processes where our intelligence can come forth." - Margaret Wheatley

Participatory Leadership

How is this approach different?

Traditional Process

- Expert committee to provide answers

- A plan for the City to adopt

- Consult with the community

Participatory Leadership Process

- Community work group to ask questions

- Strategies and actions for the community to carry out

- Involve and collaborate with the community

Process

- Build trust and new relationships

- Develop leaders

- Practice inclusiveness

- Learn together about a complex problem

- Discover new partnerships

- Share the investment in solutions

- Model a culture of dialogue

Products

- Core principles to guide our decision-making long-term

- Research/learning

- Objectives, strategies, and actions

- Partner commitments to carry out actions

- Recommendations for City-led actions

- Metrics

Roles

- City Council
- Community Work Group
- Community Resource Partners
- Implementation Partners
- Community-at-large
- Community Planning & Development Staff
- Office of Performance & Innovation Staff

Roles

City Council

- Host the process
- Listen
- Uphold the process

Roles

Community Work Group

- Shape the process

- Invite a broad variety of viewpoints into the process

- Ask questions; listen

- Learn

- Reflect out what's been heard and learned throughout the process

Roles

Community Resource Partners

- Provide history and context
- Provide information and data
- Help invite others into the process

Roles

Community Implementation Partners

- Provide information and data
- Identify actions
- Partner in implementation

Roles

Community-at-large

- Stay informed
- Provide input and information
- Participate in dialogue

Roles

Community Planning and Development Staff

- Provide Council updates

- Communication

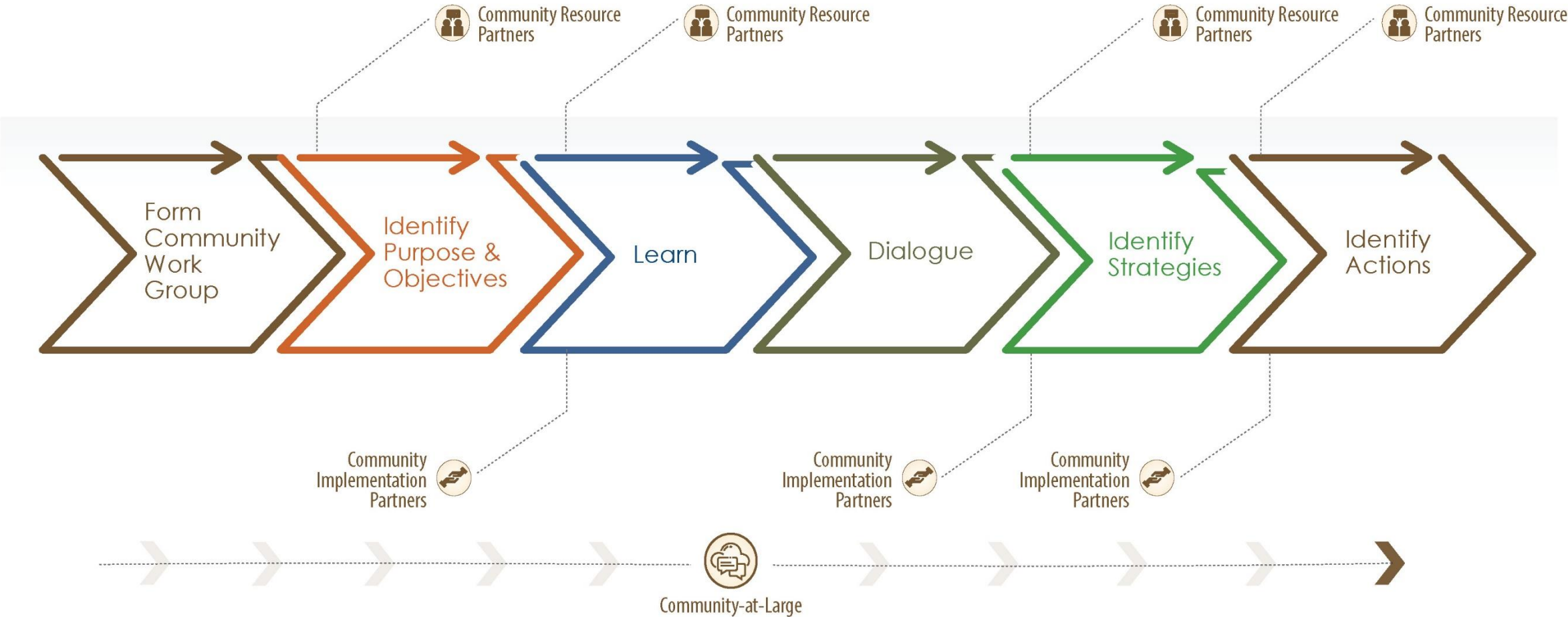- Recommendations to City Council on City-led actions

Office of Performance and Innovation Staff

- Process design

- Form community work group

- Design and facilitate meetings and workshops

Participatory Leadership Process
Hosted by Olympia City Council

Community Resource Partners

Community Resource Partners

Community Resource Partners

Community Resource Partners

Form Community Work Group → **Identify Purpose & Objectives** → **Learn** → **Dialogue** → **Identify Strategies** → **Identify Actions**

Community Implementation Partners

Community Implementation Partners

Community Implementation Partners

Community-at-Large

Process

Form Community Work Group

Key Characteristics:

- Curious
- Open-minded
- Emerging leader

- Committed
- Team-oriented
- Passionate

Process

Identify Purpose and Objectives –

What is it we want to achieve with this process?

- Community Work Group
- Community Resource Partners

Process

Learn –

This is a complex system…

What do we need to understand better?

What conversations do we need have?

What perspectives do we need?

- Community Work Group
- Community Resource Partners
- Community Implementation Partners

Process

Dialogue –

What have we learned?

How can it shape our community response?

What strategies are coming out of this process?

What conversations do we still need to have?

- Community Work Group

Process

Identify Strategies –

What strategies are coming out of the dialogue?

What potential partners can help carry out those strategies?

Where is there energy for action?

- Community Resource Partners
- Community Implementation Partners

Process

Identify Actions –

What actions can we take to carry out our strategies?

Who can take lead on the actions?

Which actions should the City take lead on?

- Community Resource Partners
- Community Implementation Partners
- Community Planning and Development Staff

Keys to Success

- A clear shared purpose
- Commitment to and trust in the process
- Structured, facilitated dialogue
- Diversity of perspectives
- Openness to new, emerging solutions
- Co-creation of solutions
- Strong communication and transparency

Outreach and Communication

Goals:

- Inform, consult, involve, and collaborate (IAP2 Spectrum)

- Be transparent throughout the process

- Be clear about roles and opportunities for community members to participate

- Highlight significant milestones

- Be clear about the relationship between this process and on-going projects

Next Steps

- Communication Strategy
- More detailed timeline and process milestones
- Confidential community interviews
- Community Work Group

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