

Thurston County 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan Summary

Thurston County is in the final review phase of the draft Five-Year Homeless Housing Plan, intended to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and a one-time occurrence. Local homeless housing plans are required by RCW 43.185c.050 which provides guidance centered on 10-year plans to end homelessness. The 10 year mark has passed and the State is providing further guidance on developing local homeless plans for all state and local recording fees, federal Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funded counties. State Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) guidelines also require that counties must update and approve local plans to address homelessness at least every five years.

These plans and updates must be submitted to State Department of Commerce annually to assess performance. This detailed plan outlines three strategy areas and details the specific activities, timeline and the lead entity responsible for facilitation progress and reporting, summarized as follows:

Expand Housing Resources and Safety Net

- **Housing Resources:** Increase housing solutions for all target populations (*single adults, families with children, unaccompanied youth and transition age youth*)
- **Diversion:** Increase family reunification and diversion
- **Shelter Resources:** Strengthen existing shelter capacity

Standardize Best Practices

- **Prioritization of Housing:** Prioritize placements based on vulnerability (*using a standardized "Vulnerability Index" assessment tool*)
- **Supportive Services:** Integrate housing services with behavioral health
- **Strengthen Coordinated Entry:** Continue to develop the Coordinated Entry (CE) System
- **Data Entry Enhancement:** Improve and enhance system reporting (*i.e. synchronize and standardize all related homeless and housing reporting systems*)
- **Data Enhancement:** Improve Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) reporting

Regionalize Public Homeless Policy

- **Alignment of Plans:** Develop closer alignment of Regional Comprehensive Plans, housing development standards and related government plans
- **Other Local Resources:** Explore other municipal resources and funding sources
- **Housing Inventory:** Develop a comprehensive list of affordable and low-cost housing resources
- **Synchronize Planning Efforts:** Clarify the roles and relationships of all regional planning groups

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