

## Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

Friday, November 4, 2022 – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Time	#	Task
1:00 (10 min)	1	<b>Roll Call and Review Agenda</b> <i>Objective:</i> check in and determine if we need to alter the agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll call</li> </ul>
1:10 (5 min)	2	<b>Approve Minutes</b> <i>Objective:</i> Ensure minutes reflect conversation <i>Leader:</i> Gerrit Nyland
1:15 (10 min)	3	<b>Communication Update</b> <i>Objective:</i> Understand and influence communication efforts <i>Presenters:</i> Kari Moore
1:25 (45 min)	4	<b>Unified Regional Approach Consultant Report</b> <i>Objective:</i> Update on consultant activities and discussion <i>Presenters:</i> Reed Connell, Social Change Partners
2:10 (5 min)	5	<b>Break</b> <i>Objective:</i> health and safety break
2:15 (10 min)	6	<b>Data and Metric Review</b> <i>Objective:</i> Understand new sources of data <i>Presenters:</i> Ashley Colburn
2:25 (10 min)	7	<b>Implementation Update</b> <i>Objective:</i> updates on implementation projects <i>Leader:</i> Gerrit Nyland
2:35 (10 min)	8	<b>Old Business</b> <i>Objective:</i> Items from prior meeting that require a response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding options</li> </ul> <i>Leader:</i> Gerrit Nyland
2:45 (5 min)	9	<b>Meeting Review</b> <i>Objective:</i> review how race and geographic equity were included today. <i>Leader:</i> Gerrit Nyland
2:50 (10 min)	10	<b>Public Comment and Good of the Order</b> <i>Objective:</i> get input from the public attending the meeting <i>Leader:</i> Gerrit Nyland

Next Meeting – Friday, December 2, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

## Meeting Norms:

1. Lead with racial and geographic equity at the forefront of all decisions.
2. Be present during our time together. Cameras remain on throughout the meeting. Turning off your camera indicates that you have stepped away from the conversation.
3. Show respect for those who are presenting, speaking, and sharing. Use the 'raise your hand' function to speak.
4. Come prepared to discuss topics and issues outlined on the agenda. Review all group documents prior to the start of each meeting.
5. Committee members represent a specific agency/jurisdiction, not their own personal views, and are responsible for providing updates, information, and communication back to their respective communities.
6. Consensus on decisions will be reached through a voting process.
7. Committee members will notify Becki Foutz if they are unable to attend a meeting.
8. Meetings are held in an environment with shared power and decision-making.
9. Meetings will start and end on time.
10. Committee members will recuse themselves from voting when there is an actual or perceived conflict of interest.

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# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

NOVEMBER 4, 2022

Below is a brief update on a variety of initiatives in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness.

### DATA DASHBOARDS

The development of data dashboards is broken into three distinct projects. Each project is key the deployment of some or all the new data dashboards.

- 1) Creation of a new data warehouse – move to the new data warehouse is complete and in production. Planning is starting up for Phase 2 enhancements, timeline to be determined.
- 2) Development of data visualizations – this project is to create data visualizations for use in dashboards. Current Timeline:
  - a. Length of Stay - December 1, 2022
  - b. Permanent Housing Retention January 1, 2023
  - c. Contract Awards - February 1, 2023
  - d. Shelter Locations - March 1, 2023
  - e. Shelter Proximity to Need - April 1, 2023
  - f. Wait Times - May 1, 2023
- 3) Developing additional data marts – this project is to create non-HMIS data stores for use in dashboards
  - a. Homeless program contracts – Centralizing all homeless system contract information is underway. Contract database now includes Pierce County and Tacoma projects. Decision was made to include current expenditures from the County finance system, which pushes launch date to February 1, 2023
  - b. Affordable Housing – centralized database of all affordable housing project both existing and in the pipeline. Initial dashboard published on the [South Sound Housing Affordable Housing Partners \(SSHA3P\) website](#). Current dashboard shows a subset of affordable housing projects completed 2017-2021. Additional projects will be added as the dashboard is further developed.
  - c. Institutional Exit Counts – data mart with monthly counts of exits to homelessness from institutional settings. Project not yet started. Expected completion by March 2023.
  - d. Rent Assistance – Current [data mart of rental assistance](#) is operational. Correlating rental assistance clients to homeless system enrollments for 2020 to 2022 is underway, with analysis expected in November, 2022. When rental assistance data moves to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), public dashboards will be created that monitor the number of rent assistance clients that become homeless.

## ADJACENT SYSTEMS

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Pilot Workforce Development for People Experiencing Homelessness project is targeted for Q4 of 2022.

### TRANSPORTATION

The 500 bus vouchers as part of the ARPA funded pilot transportation project have been distributed to service providers and are in use by clients. First quarter usage showed over 3,000 trips taken.

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Awaiting completion of a county-wide behavioral health system gap analysis slated for availability in January of 2023. Bringing County Behavioral Health team to Advisory Committee meeting.

### CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM

Working with Pierce County Probation team on potential replication of the transitional housing program operating out of the Washington County Community Corrections Center outside of Portland, Oregon.

### VETERAN PROGRAMS

Meeting regularly with the Pierce County Veterans Steering Committee. Work is being done to integrate the veteran rental assistance program into the County's rental assistance portal.

Many potential projects are under consideration from a variety of sources, including an affordable housing project and potentially Housing and Urban Development Veteran Administration Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers in coming permanent supportive housing projects.

The City of Lakewood had capital funding available in a [Request for Proposals for an Emergency Shelter for veterans](#) that closed on October 17, 2022. Awards could be made in December 2022 or early 2023.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- As of October 4, roughly 2,500 affordable housing units are in development.
- [\\$17.7M in 2022 affordable housing financing awarded](#) to a mix of different projects
- A combined \$24M in State Rapid Acquisition 2.0 and City of Tacoma funding allowed LIHI to purchase the 82 unit Heron apartment building for use as a mix of Permanent Supportive Housing and affordable workforce housing.
- Pierce County Village project is schedule to move in November to Council to fully allocate the \$22M set aside the project. This project will create at least 150 permanent supportive housing units. Additional details are available on the [Pierce County Village website](#).

## SHELTER SYSTEM

### JOINT SHELTER NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

A joint notice of funding availability (NOFA) bringing four separate funding streams together is published with a close date of November 18, 2022, with first review of proposals in November, 2022. Proposals

can be for each separate streams, portions of those streams, or join the funding streams into a single project. The four funding sources:

- MEDICAL RESPITE SHELTER - \$4.6M of HOME-ARP capital funding for the purchase of a facility. Additional funding via federal earmarks is still pending.
- SHELTER ACCESS POINT - \$1M of ARPA funding for capital and operations for a 30 bed 72-hour shelter with 24x7 staffing to coordinate entry into the shelter system.
- NEW NON-CONGREGATE SHELTER(S) IN UNDERSERVED GEOGRAPHIC AREA - \$8.4M in ARPA funding for non-congregate shelter(s) to be constructed and operated for 2years.

#### RIGHT OF WAY FUNDING

The State Department of Commerce is releasing around \$35M for the 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023 period for Pierce County projects that move people from the state right of way into improved situations – which can be anything from safe parking and shelter to permanent housing. Continued operational funding of \$10M will be provided in each of the two following years, with an expectation of funding to continue indefinitely. Pierce County has finalized a slate of project for funding and is working with the State on a memorandum of understanding and contracts for provider agencies. A [press release](#) has additional details. A brief overview of the funded projects is below:

Agency	Project	Shelter Units	Annual Households Served	Annual Permanent Housing Exits	Estimated Launch
Comprehensive Life Resources	House-Based Shelter	50	100	50	October, 2022
Helping Hand House	Hotel Room Rental-based Family Shelter	5	10	5	October, 2022
Low Income Housing Institute	Tiny House Village	65	130	65	March, 2023
Catholic Community Services	Congregate Shelter Set Aside	15	30	15	October, 2022
Homeward Bound Puyallup	RV Safe Parking	20	40	20	December, 2022
City of Fife	Fife Jobs Program Shelter	10	10	8	Operating
City of Fife	Hotel Room Rental-based Shelter	20	40	10	January, 2023
Low Income Housing Institute	Candlewood Shelter	80	160	N/A	January, 2023
<b>Total</b>		<b>265</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>173</b>	

#### 34<sup>TH</sup> AND PACIFIC SHELTER PROJECT

The City of Tacoma is developing a new shelter on the 34<sup>th</sup> and Pacific property in Tacoma. The site will begin with tents and be operational in mid-November, 2022, before being converting to tiny houses. Eventual site population will be around 50 units.

## HOMELESS PREVENTION

### STATE EVICTION PREVENTION FUNDING

The State funded eviction prevention Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) closed on September 30. [Awards were announced](#) on November 1, 2022. This funding is for two years of operation with State Rent Assistance funding. Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center was awarded \$2.5M for two years operation. Share and Care House was awarded \$3.8M for two years as well. State eviction prevention funding require integration with the Coordinated Entry system. So, the Coordinated Entry system will undergo changes to expand beyond people experiencing literal homelessness and fleeing domestic violence to households at risk of homelessness. Details on this change are still in development.

CASE MANAGEMENT FOR DOUBLED UP AND HOUSEHOLDS STAYING IN MOTELS  
\$2M of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding will be released in Q4 2022 in a NOFA for households without a lease but not experiencing homelessness – primarily households living doubled up or in a hotel/motel. Funding is designed around a 2-year program offering Diversion-like case management and temporary financial assistance.

### ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR EVICTION PREVENTION ELIGIBILITY

The Final document was provided to County Council in October 2022.

## UNIFIED REGIONAL APPROACH

Social Change Partners is engaging stakeholders and conducting research on models in other communities. Preliminary recommendations will be provided in November 2022 with a presentation to County Council in December 2022 and implementation slated to begin in July 2023. Additional update information is available in Social Change Partners October Status Update.

## CLOSE FUNDING GAP

The final funding options document was provided to County Council in October, 2022.

## QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF HOMELESS SYSTEM

Initiating conversations with Advisory Board and Continuum of Care to develop assessment methodology with implementation in Q4 2022 or Q1 2023.

## BY NAME LIST DEVELOPMENT

The cities of Puyallup, Tacoma, Fife and Lakewood are meeting with Pierce County staff to develop the most effective approach to managing a by name list. Initial business needs assessment will be undertaken to determine best approach for both the by name list and an encampment tracking tool. Business Needs assessment should be complete in early Q4 2022 with technology solution selected in

late Q4 2022 and implementation targeted for Q1 or Q2 of 2023, with expanded adoption for wider set of organizations interacting with people experiencing homelessness.

When complete, the count of individuals on the By Name list will replace the current methodology for counting people currently experiencing homelessness. Using the By Name list for the official count of people experiencing homelessness shouldn't substantially change the number but will help to highlight the importance of actively managing the list.

## NAVIGATION SERVICES

Inside Passage, the agency contracted with \$1.5M in ARPA funding, expanded navigation services to all populations via the Critical Time Intervention model in July 2022.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical Assistance is now available to nonprofits currently funded for work in the homeless system or interested in being funded for work in the homeless system. [501 Commons](#), based out of Seattle, will provide technical assistance in a wide variety of topics, including board development, accounting practices, grant writing, human resources, policies, procedures, and more.



**To: Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness Advisory Board**  
**From: Reed Connell, Social Change Partners, LLC**  
**Date: October 31, 2022**  
**Re: October Status Update**

Dear Advisory Board,

This memo provides updates on our activities and progress during the month of October. We look forward to providing additional detail and answering questions during the Board's November 4 meeting.

This month:

- We have conducted over 20 additional interviews and met with the Racial Equity Committee of the Continuum of Care.
  - Below is a complete list of interviews completed and planned.
- We have deepened our research into the experience of other jurisdictions.
- We have a preliminary structure for our primary deliverable, a written report and accompanying presentation to the Pierce County Council.

Our interviews to date have documented the varied perspectives of the broad range of stakeholders who are deeply engaged in advancing solutions to homelessness in Pierce County. There are several points of consensus:

- Racial equity and justice can and must be operationalized and structured into any new approach
- Additional regional coordination and collaboration is necessary to advance the goals of the CPEH and related efforts
- There is no "off the shelf" URA model that would meet Pierce County's needs, but the experience of other jurisdictions illuminates key choices

There are three primary ways to advance a unified regional approach:

1. Invest in building capacity in existing structures
2. Establish a new interlocal agreement
3. Revise an existing interlocal agreement

Each of these has real and specific advantages and challenges. For example, crafting a new interlocal agreement would allow for careful negotiation and inclusion of all necessary and desired policies and structures, but would take time to get off the ground.



Furthermore, within each path there are a number of key choices. What is the desired and necessary level of contractual formality and specificity? What are the mechanisms of advancing racial equity and accountability to the community? What additional human resources are necessary to improve or accelerate outcomes?

We will review and discuss these choices during the November meeting, and look forward to the Advisory Board's feedback and further recommendations.

We are always available by email at [reed@socialchangepartners.com](mailto:reed@socialchangepartners.com) or by phone at 510-387-7518.

Sincerely,

Reed Connell and Eliza Blackorby  
Social Change Partners, LLC

## **Interviews to Date:**

### **Pierce County Stakeholders:**

- Caleb Carbone, City of Tacoma
- Courtney Love, Lived Experience Coalition
- Delmar Agee, Pierce County Human Services
- Erika Tucci, Cheney Foundation
- Faatima Lawrence, Catholic Community Services
- Kevin Bates, Helping Hand House
- Rob Huff, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
- Tiffany Speir, City of Lakewood
- Andrea Reay, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber
- Adam Reichenberger, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
- David Schroedel, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber
- Ed Jacobs, Tacoma Shelter Chaplain
- Gina Marie Cabiddu, Children's Home Society
- James Pogue, Comprehensive Life Resources
- Kirstin Hofmann, City of Puyallup
- Michael Mirra, Affordable Housing Advocate
- Russ Blount, City of Fife
- Timothy Anderson, City of Fife
- Wendy Wotjanowicz, Communities In Schools of Peninsula
- Michelle Jackson, CPEH Advisory Board
- Geoff Campion, Pierce County Health and Human Services
- Ned Witting, City of Puyallup
- Selena Woods, Reach Center
- James Pogue, Comprehensive Life Resources
- Anne Marie Edwards, Pierce County Health and Human Services
- Matthew Jorgensen, City of Tacoma
- Naomi Wilson, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
- Sally Perkins, Practical Solutions
- Dakota Foxx, Power of Two
- Seth Kirby, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
- Sarah Appling, Pierce County Health and Human Services
- Jeff Rodgers, Pierce County Health and Human Services

The following grantmakers responded to a survey:

- Ben Cheney Foundation
- Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
- Bamford Foundation
- Forest and Sequoia Foundations

Stakeholders in Other Jurisdictions:

- King County
- Snohomish County
- Thurston County
  
- Montgomery County, OH
- Sacramento County, CA
- Los Angeles County, CA

Interviews Planned:

- Tanisha Jumper, City of Tacoma
- Debbi Trosvig, Snohomish County
- Felicia Salcedo, We Are In, King County
- Fred Palmiero, Community Representative
- Jeffrey Boyce, Episcopal Diocese Homeless Ministries
- LaMont Green, Washington State Lived Experience Coalition
- Additional stakeholders in comparison jurisdictions

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# HOMELESS SYSTEM FUNDING

Pierce County's Homeless Crisis Response System provides emergency shelter, permanent housing programs, and case management to help households establish stable housing. This report identifies potential operational funding to expand the homeless crisis response system across the county. This analysis has been requested by the Pierce County Council as identified in Ordinance R2022-22s: Develop a strategic funding plan, consistent with Goal 1.5, by no later than October 31, 2022. Goal 1.5 of the Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness (CPEH) states:

*Develop and maintain a strategic funding plan to retain existing funding and close the funding gap using identified potential funding sources and pursue that funding with a coordinated, County-wide, cross-industry effort.*

This document outlines current and possible funding sources in response to the CPEH. As suggested by the Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness Advisory Board, staff have also included a racial equity impact analysis of each type of funding source.

**Please note the options contained herein do not constitute a recommendation of the Executive, the Department or its staff.**

## FUNDING NEED ESTIMATE

Around **\$50M** is spent annually in Pierce County to operate the homeless crisis response system. An additional **\$100M** is needed to close the gap between the size of the current system and what is required to meet the need. Details on how staff arrived at this estimate and the funding gap for each type of program is available in the Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness.

## EXPANSION PRINCIPLES

As officials consider expansion of our county's homeless response system, staff propose following these principles:

1. Creating or expanding programs and interventions that are researched-based or otherwise proven **best practices**.
2. Using **data** to measure effectiveness of current system and to clarify future need.
3. Ensuring the system grows **proportionally**; that is, we first ensure the system in place does not have any bottlenecks before we move to expand capacity across the whole continuum.
4. System funding increases in an **incremental** fashion, as ongoing need is verified, and potential new revenue sources are identified.

# CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### GENERAL FUND

Currently, only the City of Tacoma allocates general funds to homeless programs, budgeting approximately \$3.6M annually (or 1.5% of their total general fund). Tacoma, Pierce County and other jurisdictions could allocate a set amount of their general fund revenues to address homelessness. For example, if Pierce County and each town and city allocated 3% of their general funds to homeless programs, that could generate **\$23M** annually.<sup>1</sup>

### PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Jurisdictions can choose to bring voters a proposition authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the levy limitation contained in chapter 84.55 RCW for a consecutive 6-year period at a rate of \$0.25 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. With \$137B in total assessed values across Pierce County in 2022, this source could generate up to **\$34M** annually.

### ADDITIONAL SALES TAX

Jurisdictions could consider a 0.1% increase of the local sales tax rate, which would require state legislation, and could raise in Pierce County approximately **\$20M** annually.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING SALES TAX

Pierce County could adopt a 0.1% set-aside in the local sales tax for affordable housing, which can be passed by a Pierce County Council supermajority. This tax is already collected in the City of Tacoma. County-wide adoption would generate approximately **\$20M** annually.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE TAX

Both the City of Tacoma and Pierce County have authorized a 0.1% set-aside in the local sales tax. The City of Tacoma allocates \$5.9M of this tax to the homeless system annually. \$16M of additional County and City of Tacoma funding goes to other behavioral health programs.

## Who benefits, who is burdened and how does this revenue source impact racial equity?

*New taxes take additional funds out of the hands of taxpayers, and sales and property taxes are generally regressive (disproportionally impacting low-income communities of color). Redistributing current tax revenue represents an opportunity cost (some other program loses funding). Revenue from these sources would be spent to benefit those with very low incomes, but only a tiny percentage of those who are taxed. Since taxes would be spent disproportionately on households of color these local revenue sources could be seen to increase racial equity. However, since taxes will more significantly impact lower income households and households of color, it can also be seen to decrease racial equity.*

<sup>1</sup> PCHS staff determined each jurisdiction's annual general fund budget to estimate this total. Work papers available upon request.

## **NON-GOVERNMENT**

Non-government funding is often approached as a resource for funding capital projects, but it could also have a role in funding ongoing operations.

### PRIVATE PHILANTHROPIC

Private philanthropic resources could provide operations funding to meet unfunded provider needs.

### BUSINESS

Businesses could contribute funds to prevention and intervention with the goal of offsetting business costs of responding to homelessness.

### FAITH COMMUNITY

The faith community has been an incubator for many of the homeless programs operating in Pierce County and continues to stand up new programs and offer facilities and property for programs. They will likely continue to be a key partner in addressing homelessness.

## **Who benefits, who is burdened and how does this revenue source impact racial equity?**

*Similar to allocating funds from general funds, the burden anticipated for these non-government expenses is mostly an opportunity cost, where additional funds directed to homelessness would be diverted from other investments in the community. Without identifying programs that would not be funded because resources are going to homeless programs, it is not possible to estimate if this would increase or decrease racial equity.*

## **STATE GOVERNMENT**

Many homeless programs are funded directly from the State budget. Current programs include:

### HOUSING AND ESSENTIAL NEEDS (HEN)

This source covers a mix of Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Families (PSH CHF). Current funding coming to Pierce County is approximately \$4.8M per year. Funding could be increased by the State Legislature.

### CONSOLIDATED HOMELESS GRANT (CHG) STANDARD

This source funds services across the Homeless Crisis Response System. Current funding coming to Pierce County is approximately \$1.8M annually. Funding could be increased by the State Legislature.

### ANCHOR COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (ACI)

This source funds youth and young adult homeless services. Current funding coming to Pierce County is approximately \$500K annually. Funding could be increased by the State Legislature.

### APPLE HEALTH AND HOMES ACT

This source offers funding to purchase, coordinate and operate permanent supportive housing. The program is still in development, but Pierce County could receive approximately \$1M annually in housing vouchers for use in permanent supportive housing projects.

### RIGHTS OF WAY INITIATIVE

These are recent increases in homeless-related expenditures, and it is possible the State Legislature will continue them.

### DOCUMENT RECORDING FEES

This source is a state tax collected locally, with a portion managed locally that can fund a wide variety of homeless programs. Current funding coming to Pierce County is approximately \$6.5M per year. Revenue is based on the number of documents recorded. Increased funding is possible with a fee increase passed by the State Legislature, or by an increase in recorded documents.

### OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Future State funding will include opioid settlement funds, which could be used in part to help individuals experiencing homelessness. This annual funding is not yet determined.

### STATE EVICTION PREVENTION PROGRAM

This State program provides case management and rental assistance to households with a lease, an eviction notice, and who are behind in rent. This new funding replaces federal and state funded eviction prevention, was established in House Bill 1277, and starts in January 2023. Funding will be around \$3.5M per year. Funding could be increased by the State Legislature.

### **Who benefits, who is burdened and how does this revenue source impact racial equity?**

*Adding or increasing funding to homeless programs from the State general fund does not increase revenue to the general fund, so there is no impact of a new tax. Instead, it would cause programs funded by the general fund to be reduced or eliminated. The bulk of general fund spending goes to education and healthcare, but a wide variety of programs are funded. Without identifying programs to eliminate or reduce funding to, it is not possible to estimate the impact.*

## **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Most federal funds for homeless services run through Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) through the following various funding programs:

### CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC)

This HUD source of annual funding covers Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and administration. Pierce County receives less than similarly sized counties, and opportunities to expand funding are now limited to expansion grants. Current funding to Pierce County is approximately \$3.7M per year. Funding increases are possible based on competitive applications

for the [Youth Homeless Demonstration Program](#) award and expansion opportunities offered by HUD.

#### [SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERANS FAMILIES \(SSVF\)](#)

This Veterans Administration program funds homeless prevention, diversion, and Rapid Rehousing for veteran households. Funding is offered to local jurisdictions based on current resources, community need and community ability to use the resources. Communities where need for veteran services exceeds supply and are fully expending grant funds are often able to increase funding from the Veterans Administration.

#### [HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT VETERAN ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTIVE HOUSING \(HUD-VASH\) PROGRAM](#)

HUD-VASH is a Permanent Supportive Housing program that uses housing vouchers managed by local public housing authorities and case management provided by either the Veterans Administration or locally-contracted providers.

#### [VETERANS ADMINISTRATION GRANT PER DIEM PROGRAM](#)

This federal source offers funding for shelter and transitional housing for veterans.

#### [EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT \(ESG\)](#)

This federal source offers funding to cities, counties and states. The Emergency Solutions Grant funds capital and operations for street outreach, emergency shelters, rapid rehousing, and homeless prevention. Current funding to Pierce County is approximately \$1.8M annually. Any increases would be made by Congress.

#### [PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES<sup>2</sup>](#)

Both the [Tacoma Housing Authority](#) and the [Pierce County Housing Authority](#) provide vouchers to subsidize rent in permanent housing. The Tacoma Housing Authority also funds Rapid Rehousing and a community college program for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Current non-voucher funds dedicated to homelessness total \$1.3M annually. Any increases in Public Housing Authority funding would be made by Congress.

#### [MEDICAID FOUNDATIONAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT](#)

Some homeless service programs seek [Foundational Community Support](#) billing to fully or partially fund their program. This has potential to be a significant supplement to many existing outreach and permanent supportive housing programs. Funding could potentially replace nearly 20% of case management costs, freeing a potential \$1.3M of funding for further homeless system expansion.

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<sup>2</sup> The Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness identifies a need for approximately \$30M in additional housing vouchers dedicated to people currently experiencing homelessness.



## Who benefits, who is burdened and how does this revenue source impact racial equity?

*The federal government is mainly funded through a progressive income tax. Increased federal government spending will burden higher income households and programs funded by these sources will serve low-income and minority populations, increasing racial equity.*

## COMMUNITY-WIDE SAVINGS BY ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

Addressing homelessness can save public and private expenditures in other areas. The direct ongoing costs of serving people experiencing homelessness, the indirect costs incurred in adjacent systems such as schools and the medical system, and lost opportunity costs related to the impacts of homelessness on tourism and business are all substantial. **The costs of homelessness are spread across many different systems, but taken together, research indicates they exceed \$40,000 for a chronically homeless individual per year.** Although currently most of these savings would not be reinvested in homeless services and could not be counted as a revenue source, a community-wide data tracking system of homeless contacts within these systems would help make the case that they should invest in homeless programs to increase and scale savings. See the Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness for additional detail.

## HOW OTHER COMMUNITIES FUND HOMELESS SERVICES

### SPOKANE COUNTY, WA

In addition to receiving funding from many of the “traditional” state and federal sources outlined above, Spokane adds around **\$9M** of city general funds.

### KING COUNTY, WA

Most of the homeless operational funding from King County and the City of Seattle goes to the King County Regional Homelessness Authority. In addition to the usual funding sources, The City of Seattle provides **\$84M** from the general fund and **\$60M** from the Veteran and Human Services Levy.

### PORTLAND, OR REGION

This three-county metro region taxes high earners to fund **\$250M** annually in homeless and housing programs. The Metro Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Personal Income Tax levies a 5% personal income tax for individuals earning over \$125K or joint filers earning over \$200K.

### SAN ANTONIO, TX

This jurisdiction uses an existing debt service property tax to fund a **\$150M** homeless program and affordable housing fund.

### AUSTIN, TX

Approximately \$40M in FY21 from the city's general fund accounts for approximately 59% of local government homeless funding.

### MIAMI, FL

This jurisdiction levies a 1% tax on food and beverages at establishments with over \$400K in annual receipts that sell alcohol for on-site consumption, which generates **\$7.5M** annually.

### LOS ANGELES, CA

Local officials have proposed 4% tax on house sales valued \$5M-10M and 5.5% tax on houses valued over \$10M. If enacted, this tax could generate \$10M annually. LA also dedicates .025% of the local sales tax to fund homeless programs, raising **\$454.8M** annually.

### SAN FRANCISCO, CA

This jurisdiction levies a 0.5% tax on gross receipts for businesses with over \$50M in gross annual receipts, and it current generates around **\$300M** annually for homeless services. San Francisco is also exploring a tax on residential property unoccupied for a set number of days. This would generate revenue for the homeless system and disincentivize property owners from leaving residential units vacant.

### VANCOUVER, BC

The [Empty Homes Tax](#), often called a Vacancy Tax, levies a 3% tax of a residential property deemed empty. This tax raised \$28M in 2020.

10/15/2022

**To:** Councilmembers  
**From:** Pierce County Human Services Department  
**RE:** Homeless Prevention Eligibility

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## HOMELESS PREVENTION ELIGIBILITY

Resolution R2022-22s, adopting the Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness, required a revision of homeless prevention services eligibility.

These new eligibility requirements incorporate state requirements into the eligibility criteria, and also include feedback from community partners, such as the Continuum of Care, Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, landlord groups, and the Lived Experience Coalition.

### HISTORY OF EVICTION PREVENTION IN PIERCE COUNTY

Prior to 2020, few homeless prevention resources were available in Pierce County. Less than \$1M was spent annually in eviction prevention programs.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought an unprecedented increase - \$157M - in one-time eviction prevention funding into Pierce County.

### FUTURE OF EVICTION PREVENTION IN PIERCE COUNTY

2023 will see a dedicated, long-term eviction prevention program funded by the State Department of Commerce. However, that program will be substantially smaller, estimated at \$2-2.5M per year, depending on state document recording revenue

### PROPOSED ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following is required by the Washington state Department of Commerce:

- 1) Must live in Pierce County
- 2) Must have lease in their name
- 3) Under 80% Area Median Income

- 4) At risk of homelessness
- 5) Must be living in unit
- 6) Must be late on rent
- 7) Equitable distribution exceeding proportionality across racial and ethnic group experiencing homelessness in Pierce County.

Additional proposed eligibility requirements and prioritization will be determined with selected providers. Pierce County Human Services staff have conducted community meetings to gather feedback and recommendations utilizing lived experience experts, landlords and homeless service providers.

#### LOTTERY SYSTEM

With demand significantly exceeding eviction prevention resources, eviction prevention resources must be rationed. Starting in January 2023, eviction prevention will utilize a monthly lottery to allocate eviction prevention resources.

#### ANNUAL REVIEW

Targeting eviction prevention by limiting eligibility to specific populations continues to be a potential strategy. An annual review of eligibility will provide an opportunity to target specific populations at elevated risk of experiencing homelessness more precisely. An annual review of both needs and available resources, as well as research on best practices in other communities and a qualitative assessment of the eviction prevention program, will inform any alterations in eligibility.