

January 2008 Status Report on 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness in Washington

Island County's 10-year Homeless Housing Plan emphasizes eviction prevention, shared housing opportunities and case management. The current focus of the plan is on transitional housing opportunities for those exiting incarceration or mental health hospitalization.

King County has opened 1,175 new units of homeless housing. Another 1,059 are in the pipeline. A new King County Veterans and Human Services levy will generate \$13 million each year. King County Council adopted a .1% sales tax for mental health and chemical dependency treatment to provide \$50 million per year in new service dollars. United Way of King County is raising \$25 million to go towards housing and supportive services for chronically homeless single adults.

Citlatum County homelessness has decreased 24% and street homelessness is down by 50%. Through the 10 Year Plan there is increased emphasis on prevention & discharge planning and coordinated offender re-entry. There are now an additional 100 supportive housing units for veterans and chronically homeless persons, as well as safe housing choices for youth.

Jefferson County opened winter emergency shelter in partnership with churches, community agencies and the American Legion. New transitional housing has been developed for families and for persons coming directly from in-patient treatment. In 2008 a new program begins that places homeless families directly into permanent housing.

Kitsap County 10-Year Homeless Housing Plan is governed by Kitsap County Regional Coordinating Council that unites the efforts of four cities, two tribes and the county. Investment in their efforts to reduce homelessness. More than \$3 million in local funds have supported the creation, preservation & maintenance of 500+ units/beds of low-income & homeless housing.

Pierce County and the City of Tacoma have unified their efforts to end chronic homelessness through their 10 Year Plan, "The Road Home." The City of Tacoma's aggressive Housing First project houses homeless persons directly from encampments. After two years, the number of chronically homeless has dropped by 28%. More than 150 Housing First placements have been made.

Thurston County's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness calls for the creation of 300 new permanent housing units, and for more effective homelessness prevention. 172 new housing units will be completed as well increased emergency bed capacity for chronically homeless men and women.

Lewis County's updated ten year plan has been approved by the County Commission. New funding in support of the plan will be released in January 2008.

The Cowlitz County 10 Year Plan shifted the local strategies from a linear CoC model to a Housing First Model. A county "Handbook of the Streets" resource guide was published. New funding was secured for 48 units of service-enriched transitional housing serving vets, domestic violence survivors and pregnant/parenting women with co-occurring disorders. 24 new units of permanent supportive housing for mentally ill were built.

Skagit County Commissioners have endorsed the development of a Skagit County Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. The plan is being developed through the Skagit County Community Action Agency and will seek full endorsement from the intergovernmental Skagit County Council of Governments.

Snohomish County's 10 year plan, Everyone@Home NOW has developed 250 housing units in 2007, 114 of those for chronically homeless, and the successful implementation of the Community Case Management system, a single point of entry into the housing continuum.

Whatcom County will open its Homeless Services Center in spring 2008. The Center will centralize homeless resources, implement evidence based models of prevention, and standardize homeless housing assessment. The goal of this comprehensive Housing First Model is to house 1,500 homeless households. In 2008 a \$1.5 million offender re-entry program will start up that will provide transitional and master leased housing.

Okanagan County is developing housing for homeless families, individuals and youth. Housing for families will include on site services and workforce training. A migrant worker camp is serving as an emergency homeless shelter during winter months.

Chelan & Douglas Counties' 10 Year Plan instituted new systems to end homelessness that appear to be working. Numbers in emergency shelters are down 56%; number in transitional housing up 97%; number of homeless individuals down 33%; \$10 million added 50 new housing units and a new emergency shelter. \$2.1 million went to services to reduce homelessness.

Spokane County, City of Spokane and City of Spokane Valley have created a regional plan. The plan focuses strong effort on the downtown street homeless population, and also has a defined strategy to house homeless families and youth.

Walla Walla County hired a new 10 Year Plan Coordinator as well as a Housing Coordinator. New resources include an 11 bed Oxford House, six transitional housing units for homeless families, housing and services for ex-offenders, and a "Renters with Mentors" Program.

Garfield County has just developed new emergency shelter units for individuals and families that will commence operation in early 2008.

Benton and Franklin Counties' Home Base Program reduced homelessness by 21.66%. This 10 Year Plan strategy connects 49 case managers from 16 agencies via the Internet. 1,424 households were served in the first 9 months of 2007. 136 new housing units were created and 452 housing vouchers household were supported.

Yakima County coordinated all local efforts through the 10 Year Plan and produced a 15.5% reduction in homelessness. 27 long term housing units were created along with 31 transitional units, 10 low barrier units and 2 homeless youth transitional beds. The plan included the provision of 87 housing vouchers, 2 seasonal overnight shelters, a remodeled homeless youth drop-in center, and the creation of a one-stop resource center.

Clark County completed the first 10 Year Plan in Washington State. The recently updated plan will distribute \$3.7 million dollars over the next two years. Bridges to Housing, an innovative Portland/Vancouver metro area partnership, provided housing for 20 Clark County families last year.

The State of Washington legislature in 2005 passed the landmark Housing and Homeless Assistance Act that will now provide over \$23 million per year targeted to the efforts of the local 10 Year Plans. The State Interagency Council on Homelessness meets regularly to coordinate state agency efforts in support of the county homelessness plans. In 2008 Governor Gregoire has proposed an increase in the State Housing Trust Fund of \$50 million and an additional increase of \$6 million for funds targeted to permanent supportive housing for homeless families.

