

# Regional Housing Council

**Agenda:** Wednesday November 9th, 2022 (4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) (via Zoom)

**Carolyn Cox: Chair, Carolina Mejia: Vice-Chair**

#	TIME	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD	ACTION
1	4:00 – 4:05	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check-in</li> <li>• Review Agenda/Meeting Purpose</li> </ul>	Carolyn	
2	4:05 – 4:15	Public Comment For public comment, please keep your comments to 3 minutes.	Carolyn	Information
3	4:15 – 4:20	Approval of October 26th minutes	Carolyn	Action
4	4:20 – 4:45	Proposed Pilot project to reduce smoke and hazardous burning in encampments	Keylee Tye Gundel Jeff Johnston	Information, Discussion and Possible Action
5	4:45 – 5:00	RHC Governance Update	Keylee Jacinda Darian	Information and Discussion
6	5:00 – 5:15	2023 RFP Process Overview	Tom	Information and Discussion
7	5:15-5:20	ROW Update	Rick Keylee	Information
8	5:15-5:30	Scott Spence Farewell	Carolyn	
9	5:30 – 6:00	Good of the Order	Carolyn	Information
10	6:00	Upcoming Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next RHC Meeting Wednesday December 14th 2022, 4pm Location: Zoom meeting</li> </ul>		

# REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday October 26th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

## **ATTENDEES:**

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Andy Ryder, Rick Walk, Kelly Adams

Tumwater: Michael Althausser, John Doan, Joan Cathey

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Darian Lightfoot, Rich Hoy

Thurston County: Carolina Mejia, Ramiro Chavez, Tom Webster, Keylee Marineau, Jacinda Steltjes, Meghan Porter, Arielle Benson, Jessica Olson

Yelm: Brian Hess

Public: Carly Colgan, Trish Gregory, Jenny Milchenko

Meeting began at 4:00 pm.

**Agenda Item 1:** Agenda approved, motion and second

**Agenda Item 2:** Minutes from October 12th meeting, motion and second, approved.

### **Agenda Item 3: Franz Anderson Proposal**

Jacinda and Darian presented a proposal for development of the Franz Anderson site into permanent supportive housing (PSH). This is a 6.2 acre parcel purchased with ARPA funds by Thurston County and City of Olympia earlier this year. Currently the county and Olympia are working with Commerce to construct a tiny home village on the western portion of the property with funds from the Right of Way Initiative. On the eastern portion of the property the goal is to construct PSH units, which is the focus of today's presentation.

In February 2023 Olympia plans to send out an RFP to developers and sponsors asking them to submit a proposal on how they would develop, and then operate, PSH units and a phase 2 plan regarding further development on the western portion of the property. The goal is to initially have 40-70 PSH units to serve low-income single adults with a focus on those who are actively homeless at the time of entry.

A developer is expected to be selected by May 2023. Permitting of the property will go through Olympia. Construction time will be approximately 15-18 months with a goal of full occupancy by June 2026.

Lacey Mayor, Andy Ryder, commented that there is an urgency to obligate ARPA funds to this project as soon as possible so they are not returned to Congress. County Manager Ramiro Chavez also noted that these funds need to be obligated in contract form with the developer so there is no risk of losing these funds.

Rick Walk discussed briefly how Lacey is working to create a funding strategy that both helps support this project and Lacey's needs. Lacey is looking to use general funding dollars to help support the Franz Anderson project.

Jacinda and Darian asked that members discuss this information with their councils and return in December with their funding commitments.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Camp Sweep Proposal**

Keylee lead a discussion on creating a process to conduct camp sweeps and removals from a public health perspective. The guidelines in this proposal are based on federal recommendations of best practices around homelessness and come from the United States Intra-Agency Council on Homelessness. The goal is to standardize our best practices with the intent that across county jurisdictions camp sweeps and removals are consistent in how they are handled resulting in minimal harm to the individuals within the camps and frontline staff.

Tumwater Councilmember Michael Althaus, though in support of this proposal, expressed concerns about staff capacity to work on developing these standards. Olympia Councilmember Jim Cooper recommended that criteria around what triggers a displacement be established including timeframes. Andy Ryder sought clarification on how this policy is applied to public versus private property.

RHC members indicated overall support for this proposal and agreed that Keylee and her team should continue to work with the Department of Health to begin the development of this proposal.

#### **Agenda Item 5: RHC Governance**

Darian gave an update on the recruitment, nominations, and appointment of the Affordable Housing and Homeless Services advisory boards. Links for the applications will be posted to the RHC website. Applications will be open for 3 weeks starting in January 2023. The Technical Team will review applications based on eligible criteria. This criterion is still being developed but will be presented to the RHC at the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Once applications have been reviewed, the Tech Team will present nominations to the RHC for approval. If approved, nominations will then go to the BoCC for final approval. Once approved with the BoCC, onboarding and training for new Advisory Board members will begin. The group agreed that this plan is moving in the right direction.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Good of the Order**

Keylee asked if the jurisdictions would be interested in having a warm clothing drive which would be coordinated by the Point in Time Count (PIT) Team.

Tom reminded everyone that for November and December there is only one two-hour meeting a month. These will take place November 9<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:33pm

Next Meeting: November 9th, 4:00 pm

# Reducing fire, smoke and hazardous burning at Thurston County Camps

## OlyMAP Proposal Summary

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Olympia Mutual Aid Partners (OlyMAP) is a homeless services organization that provides a variety of outreach-based support and services for people living in camp communities across Thurston County. OlyMAP provides these services through two programs:

- 1) Right-of Way Outreach Program (ROWOP), serving specific camp communities located on state property along right of ways in Thurston County.
- 2) Safer Spaces, Outreach and Advocacy Program (SSOAP), previously known as the Scattered Site Pilot Project (SSPP).

In effort to continue, strengthen and expand the level of harm reduction support that may be provided through these programs, OlyMAP is proposing a 3-6 month pilot with the specific aim of identifying, reducing and mitigating challenges and impacts related to fire, smoke and hazardous burning at specific camp communities in Thurston County.

It is generally accepted and reflected in OlyMAP's experience that many issues related to unsafe warming/cooking practices and the burning of hazardous materials like garbage, are the result of inadequate access to basic resources or safer alternatives. Improving access to needed resources and alternatives is a harm reductive and practical strategy for reducing or eliminating reliance on less safe or harmful practices that lead to problematic fire, smoke and hazardous burning.

## Proposed sites to be served

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**The Jungle:** Population fluctuates between 80-100

**Percival Creek/Decatur:** 35-40

**Nickerson:** 25

## Proposed services to be provided

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- **Communication, basic needs assessment and problem-solving** with residents and stakeholders about concerns and problems associated with warming/cooking practices and the burning of hazardous materials
- **Connection to safer warming and cooking alternatives**, including the provision of supplies that will support access to such alternatives. Supplies provided may include:
  - Blankets, sleeping bags, warm clothing

- Fire extinguishers
- Tent safe heaters
- Safer fuel sources, such as propane
- Camp stoves
- Battery-powered lighting
- Water and water purifying methods that do not require fire
- Garbage bags and other garbage removal supplies
- Supporting increased access to garbage removal services
  - Dumpsters
  - Facilitating and supporting community clean-ups

## Proposed Budget/Funding Needed

Line Item	What would be covered	Cost per month
Staffing	Two part time outreach workers: 1 at 30 hr/wk 1 at 15 hr/wk	\$6,600
Supplies	Supplies specific to supporting safer warming and cooking practices, as well as reducing burning. Listed above in proposal. Roughly \$18.00/person per month	\$3,000
Administrative	(fiscal sponsorship fee + B&O tax, may be less depending on when OlyMAP receives standalone 501c3 status)	\$739.00
<b>Total cost per month</b>		<b>\$10,339</b>

<b>Total cost for 3 months:</b>	\$31,017
<b>Total cost for 6 months:</b>	\$62,034

Some notes on the proposed budget:

- General –It is our hope that multiple entities might contribute towards covering the cost of this effort. ORCAA, Providence, InterCity Transit and the City of Oly or Thurston County etc.
- Staffing
  - Additional outreach hours and outreach to additional camps would be needed to distribute supplies and improve access to alternatives. Because of our reduced resources and staffing, OlyMAP does not currently have workers that would be able to add to their current outreach schedule. We would need funding for two part time staff to do this pilot effectively (OlyMAP requires two staff minimum for outreach)
  - Staffing cost includes employer taxes, employee benefits, ongoing training, staff supplies, account/phone costs etc.
  - There may be room for reducing staff cost through reduction of hours. However, there is not a lot of room for that since this estimate is based on number of outreach hours needed to distribute supplies and communicate with camp residents, as well as hours needed to participate in mandatory all-staff activities (meetings, trainings, documentation etc). The lowest we could probably go for hours would be 2 staff at 20 hours per week.
- Supplies
  - This estimate reflects a more ideal budget for supplies specific to addressing smoke, fire & burning concerns that we believe would lead to a significant reduction in unsafe practices. However, this cost has more wiggle room than staffing. For sure, there is (in our experience) a direct correlation between level of supply support and these kinds of concerns, but any amount of support is better than the current level of supply support people are receiving. Supplies needed are more easily offset through donations than staffing cost needs.

## 2023 Consolidated RFP – List of Key Dates

Housing Action Team presents to RHC recommended funding priorities for homeless services and affordable housing funding, not including Home Fund.	January 11, 2023
RHC Tech Team presents to RHC proposed scoring criteria, set asides and funding levels	January 11, 2023
RHC approves funding priorities, scoring criteria, set asides and funding levels	January 25, 2023
BoCC approves issuing RFP	February 7, 2023
Request for Proposals is released	February 24, 2023
Bidders Conference	March 2, 2023
Applications Due	March 31, 2023
Advisory Boards Review and Score Applications	April 1 – 25, 2023
Advisory Boards Present Funding Recommendations to RHC for approval	April 26, 2023
Board of County Commissioners Vote on Funding Recommendations	May 9, 2023

## Estimated Affordable Housing and Homeless Services Revenues for 2023 RFP

Revenue Source	Purpose/Use of Funds	2022 Awards	2023 RFP – Estimated Amount Available	Notes
<b>HOME</b>	Federal – affordable housing (pipeline)	\$750,000		Not expecting major change in federal budget allocation
<b>2060</b>	Local – affordable housing (pipeline)	\$450,000		Experiencing a reduction in document recording fee of 35-45%
<b>CHG</b>	State – Homeless services	\$1,087,000		Initial award was \$780k, but received an additional allocation. Based on doc recording fee, so reduction to \$780k or less is likely
<b>HEN</b>	State – Housing and Essential Needs	\$3,787,390		Anticipate a proposal in Leg to increase funding
<b>2163</b>	Local – Homeless services	\$2,840,000		Experiencing a reduction in document recording fee of 35-45%
<b>HSF</b>	Local Sales Tax	\$291,041		Not expecting a significant change in funding availability
<b>1277</b>	State Doc recording fee	\$1,584,399 – Hotel/RRH \$2,350,000 - EPRA		Unclear, but with decreases in document recording fee collections, a reduction in funding is likely.
<b>1406</b>	Sales Tax Retention	\$1,741,380		2022 award is 2 years of funding, 2021 and 2022.
<b>Home Fund</b>	Local Sales Tax	\$0		Project collecting roughly \$2.4 million in last 6 months of 2022 for County Home Fund
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$14,881,210</b>		

### Other Current One-Time Fund Sources

Fund Source	Total Award	Time Period	Notes
Shelter Program Grant	\$1,578,340	8/2020- 6/2023	State funding. Funding renewal is uncertain
Right of Way Initiative	\$37,209,999	State FY 2023, 2024, 2025	Split between Thurston County, City of Olympia and LIHI

### COVID Funding

Fund Source	Total Award	Time Period	Notes
Emergency Housing Grant	\$1,006,351	3/2020 – 6/2021	State Funding
CARES Act	\$3,150,464	7/1/2020 – 11/30/2020	Rent assistance and services
Emergency Solutions Grant	\$4,104,145	11/6/2020- 9/2023	About \$100k remaining, will be spent by 12/2022
CDBG-CV	\$2,040,250	12/2020 – 6/2023	Funds all expended
Rent Assistance (ERAP/TRAP)	\$55,689,533	8/2020- 6/2023	Fully expended by early 2023



## 2163 Set Asides for 2023

	2022 Actual	2023 Proposal	Length of Award	Notes
Coordinated Entry	\$350,000		2 years	\$100,000 additional funding from HEN was provided in 2022. \$250,000 was the original set aside.
Housing Basic Needs	\$200,000		2 years	
Cold and Hazardous Weather	\$400,000		2 year	
Point in Time Count	\$25,000		1 year	
Emergency Funds	\$200,000		1 year	
Homeless Coordinator	\$120,000		1 year	Propose to pay from Home Fund Admin
Lived Experience and Advisory Board stipends	\$0		1 year	Cost of stipend and for agency to manage
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,295,000</b>			