

# Regional Housing Council

**Agenda:** Thursday November 19, 2020 (4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.) (via Zoom)

**Jim Cooper and John Hutchings: Chair and Vice Chair**

#	TIME	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD	ACTION
1	4:30 – 4:35	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check-in</li> <li>• Review Agenda/Meeting Purpose</li> </ul>	Jim	
2	4:35 – 4:50	Public Comment	Jim	Information
3	4:50 – 4:55	Approval of October minutes	Jim	Action
4	4:55 – 5:00	Status of RHC ILA	Tom	Information
5	5:00 – 5:15	1406 ILA Discussion	Brad	Discussion
6	5:15 – 5:30	Safe Parking Discussion	Keylee and Tom	Information
7	5:30 – 5:50	Technical Team working group updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siting - Keith</li> <li>• Funding/RFP - Tom</li> <li>• Eviction – Amy (Keith or Cary)</li> <li>• Policy               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Relationships to Stakeholders - Tom</li> <li>○ Common Understanding - Keylee</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Staff	Information
8	5:50 – 5:55	Continue Public Comment, if needed	Jim	Information
9	5:55 – 6:00	Good of the Order	Jim	Information
10	6:00	Upcoming Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next RHC Meeting December 17, 2020 Location: Zoom meeting</li> </ul>		Information

# REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Thursday October 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

## **ATTENDEES:**

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Lenny Greenstein, Kelly Adams, Rick Walk

Tumwater: Joan Cathey, Michael Althaus, Brad Medrud, John Doan

Olympia: Jim Cooper, Renata Rollins, Keith Stahley, Cary Retlin

Thurston County: John Hutchings, Ramiro Chavez, Katelin Johnson, Tom Webster, Keylee Marineau, Jacinda Steltjes

South County: JW Foster

Public: Meg Martin (Interfaith Works), Sam Gibbon (Port), and 18 members of the public

Meeting began at 5:00pm.

**Agenda Item 1:** Agenda approved with one modification to delay Interfaith Works agenda item until Ramiro joins the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2:** Public Comment

Debra King: No need to comment, just plans to listen.

**Agenda Item 3:** Minutes from September: Motion and second, all approved.

**Agenda Item 4: Status of Interlocal Agreement (ILA)**

Tom: update on the status, Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater and County have approved. Rainier City Council met on Tuesday, they did not make a decision. Their Attorney has questions and is in contact with County Attorney. Both Tenino and Bucoda have declined to sign. Yelm has approved.

Communications team press release update: The agenda includes a draft press release for RHC comment, do they want to hold on issuing the release until Rainier decides? Keylee wants to point out that the ILA language also has bearing on the RHC website. Decision is to hold the press release until they have response from Rainier and send any edits to Keylee.

**Agenda Item 6: Technical Team working group updates**

Siting Committee, Keith: At least week's meeting they started the evaluation process. Have made progress with technology, City GIS manager has developed a siting tool to evaluate sites with criteria. Agreement that they should all use the same criteria (distances to variables, size, environmental). Althaus adds that they looked at some potential sites within Olympia. Tumwater is now applying the tool to their maps to add to the list of potential sites. Rick adds that Lacey has also started this process. Keith adds they are looking at long term, medium term, and short term properties.

Safe Parking: Olympia is in the process of providing notice to persons on Ensign Rd. There is not an alternate location at this point. Concerns include access to ER at Providence, wetlands, traffic impacts. After vehicles are dispersed, there will be no parking on Ensign for some time. Discussion follows

regarding where RVs might relocate. Keylee adds that the estimate (Natl Association of Housing Agencies) is that there will be over 170,000 evictions filed in January 2021, and there are no best practices in place for safe parking. Olympia passed an anti-eviction ordinance through July 2021.

Policy Team: Common Understanding, Keylee: Met twice in the past month, to look at case law. Question for RHC, do they want to look at Case law and interpretation? Another question, do they want to first focus on terms/glossary? The next task is to complete the glossary. Lenny Greenstein adds that attorneys do not appear to be comfortable dealing in hypotheticals for the case law topic. Discussion follows on case law topic.

Policy Team: Relationship group, Tom: First meeting was last week, and included several local providers. Discussed the role of RHC vs Thurston Thrives and HAT. Working to develop how the groups will relate and work together.

Eviction Team, Cary: Goal is to improve collaboration and coordination on residential evictions. They will meet once a month. They are reviewing the status of the ERAP program. As of end of September, CAC has spent around \$700K, served about 230 households, most people are getting 3 months of rent assistance. CYS has spent around \$20K. Question for RHC, ERAP has to be spent by the end of December, does RHC want the team to bring options for other resources to RHC to extend program past Dec 30 date. They can bring options to next meeting.

Funding and RFP team, Tom: They have met and discussed the HHSC process, and how they may want to change this process. Questions for RHC: 1) what role does RHC want to play in priorities and funding decisions? 2) Should workgroup bring priority ideas to RHC, or does RHC want to develop priorities? 3) Where does 1406 fit in RHC? 4) HHSC emergency fund, request for \$60K from Olympia for micro-shelters, what is their process for emergency funds? Discussion follows regarding past HHSC process for Emergency Fund Request, timing of RFP priority development, RFP deadline, process to develop priorities. Important to emphasize and utilize the knowledge of existing staff and members on the RFP and priorities.

Keith was invited to give information on Emergency request, to construct microhomes, budget, object is to replace tents at mitigation site. This proposal is not a replacement for shelter, but an improvement over tents. Motion to direct the funding group to make recommendation to BoCC to fund this request. Moved and second. All approved.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Interfaith Works project proposal**

Tom gives background on project: Interfaith is operating a shelter at 2828 Martin Way to add shelter beds in response to Covid. They need to move the location in early November to allow construction to start on new building. Interfaith has been looking for an alternate location to acquire to relocate. Meg Martin adds additional information: property to accommodate short term emergency needs 1)relocate the people at 2828 temporary shelter and 2) add 15 shelter beds under new Commerce grant, as well as provide long term shelter solution. Have a private donor helping to provide some funding for acquisition. Viable location has been identified. Looking to install a somewhat temporary structure that is warrantied for 15 – 20 years. Can be fully ADA accessible with windows, doors, floor, HVAC system. Will be over 5,000 sq ft to accommodate 38 beds. Intention is to move the shelter bed guests into the 2828 PSH when that is completed in December 2021. After that, the structure would be used as a day

center to fill that gap. They have CARES act funds from United Way/Thurston County, plus the Shelter Program Grant. Have a gap of roughly \$1M.

Tom adds other potential funding sources: Emergency Solutions Grant- Covid from Commerce. County is receiving \$3.9M intended to support shelter and rapid rehousing activities. Commerce indicates that this is an eligible use, however HUD feedback said they would consider it new construction so not eligible for ESG CV. Other sources: Shelter Grant Program allows \$10K for capital, could be offset using ESG for operations of facility. 2163 funding could potentially be used, or the 2163 Emergency Fund. Ramiro adds that he believes they need to make an effort to find a way to make this work it is a good project at relatively low cost. Discussion follows regarding timeline and funding options, crucial deadlines for project, needs of Interfaith to proceed. Carolyn discloses that she serves on the Interfaith works board. Motion: RHC recommends to staff and BoCC to fund this project as quickly as possible and report back to RHC on progress. Added to motion, jurisdictions will attempt to help with gaps in funding. Motion seconded, all approved.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Public Comment Continued**

None

#### **Agenda Item 8: Good of the Order**

Carolyn adds that campers along I5 are being notified they can stay but there will be clean-ups happening, and agreement that no new campers can be added to these sites. Lacey has worked with DOT to develop this approach.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Upcoming Meetings**

Can members meet at 4:30 going forward? All are able, meeting time moved to 4:30.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:40 pm

Next Meeting: November 19, 4:30 pm

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR  
USE OF SHB 1406 TAX REVENUE BY THE REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL**

THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is entered into pursuant to the authority of Chapter 39.34 RCW in duplicate originals between the City of Olympia, Washington, a Washington municipal corporation; the City of Lacey, Washington, a Washington municipal corporation; the City of Tumwater, Washington, a Washington municipal corporation; the City of Yelm, Washington, a Washington municipal corporation; and Thurston County, Washington, a Washington municipal corporation; collectively referred to as "Jurisdictions" and individually as "Jurisdiction."

In consideration of the terms, conditions, covenants, and performances contained herein, it is mutually agreed by the Jurisdictions as follows:

**WHEREAS**, there is a homeless crisis in Thurston County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jurisdictions agree that it is mutually beneficial to share decision making responsibilities related to homelessness and affordable housing in Thurston County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jurisdictions agree that it is mutually beneficial to collaborate to expand affordable housing options and share the planning for, identification of, and resource allocation to activities and programs intended to support individuals experiencing homelessness in Thurston County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jurisdictions recognize there is a general shortage of housing compared to demand and that there is a need to build up the capacity of affordable housing units in the Thurston Region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jurisdictions agree that by collaborating, these activities and programs will be delivered more efficiently and effectively and the costs and impacts of managing them will be shared equitably by the Jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jurisdictions agreed to an Interlocal Agreement ("RHC ILA") establishing the Regional Housing Council ("RHC") in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Substitute House Bill 1406 (Chapter 338, Laws of 2019) ("SHB 1406") added a new section to RCW 82.14 that authorizes the Jurisdictions to retain a portion of sales tax revenue to be used for development of affordable housing, funding the operations of new affordable or supportive housing, or to provide rental assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, to retain SHB 1406 tax revenue, the Jurisdictions were required to pass authorizing legislation by July 27, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jurisdictions agree that using the RHC to pool SHB 1406 tax

revenue and determine the use of SHB 1406 tax revenue will aid in efficient and effective decision-making related to responding to the homeless and housing affordability crisis.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is hereby agreed as follows:

**1. The RHC is the Recommendatory Body for SHB 1406 Tax Revenue.**

The signatories of this Agreement hereby agree that the RHC will make recommendations on the use of SHB 1406 tax revenue. The Jurisdictions will submit SHB 1406 tax revenue to the RHC, which will serve as the lead and contracting agency for the pooled SHB 1406 tax revenue.

**2. Purpose of the RHC as Recommendatory Body for SHB 1406 Tax Revenue.**

- A. Pursuant to Section 2 of the RHC ILA, the primary purpose of the RHC is to leverage resources and partnerships through policies and projects that promote equitable access to safe and affordable housing. The RHC will consider issues specifically related to funding a regional response to homelessness and affordable housing and how to better coordinate existing funding programs, which includes SHB 1406 tax revenue, to help implement the five-year Homeless Crisis Response Plan ("HCRP") and increase affordable housing options.
- B. To achieve this purpose, the RHC may assist in monitoring the implementation of the County's five-year HCRP by setting priorities and making funding decisions on projects and programs that implement the HCRP using SHB 1406 tax revenue.

**3. Term.**

The term of this Agreement shall be effective upon the approval of the last Jurisdiction's governing body, and shall be effective for five years, unless amended pursuant to Section 10 of this Agreement. Prior to commencement, this Agreement shall be filed or posted in accordance with RCW 39.34.040. This Agreement may be extended upon the mutual written approval of the Jurisdictions on an annual basis thereafter.

**4. Governance.**

Governance of the RHC is established pursuant to Section 4 of the RHC ILA.

**5. Scope of Work.**

The responsibilities of the RHC for SHB 1406 tax revenue shall include, but are not limited to:

- A. Making recommendations to regional elected and appointed leaders on funding decisions related to using SHB 1406 tax revenue to implement the

- five-year HCRP and expanding shelter and affordable housing.
- B. Developing funding priority and desired use of SHB 1406 tax revenue as part of the annual RHC work plan pursuant to Section 5 of the RHC ILA, specifying the activities planned for the coming fiscal year, to accompany the recommended annual budget.
  - C. Determining whether to bond SHB 1406 tax revenue. If bonding extends past the five years, the RHC ILA would need to be extended beyond five years.
  - D. Implementing processes to identify and select projects using SHB 1406 tax revenue.
  - E. Submitting an annual report to the governing body of each Jurisdiction as part of the RHC reporting process pursuant to Section 5 of the RHC ILA, apprising that Jurisdiction of the tasks undertaken and accomplishments of the RHC using SHB 1406 tax revenue in the previous fiscal year.

**6. Funding.**

- A. The Jurisdictions agree to pool SHB 1406 tax revenue.
- B. The Jurisdictions will submit SHB 1406 tax revenue on a quarterly basis to the RHC Lead Agency, as established pursuant to Section 8 of the RHC ILA, which will serve as the contracting agency for pooled SHB 1406 tax revenue.
- C. The RHC Lead Agency shall deposit all SHB 1406 tax revenue in a single account in the treasury of the Lead Agency, pursuant to Section 8 of the RHC ILA, for the period in which the funds are to be expended.
- D. Pursuant to Section 6 of the RHC ILA, unspent SHB 1406 tax revenue may be carried over and used in subsequent years to the extent allowed by federal and state law for projects, programs, and activities consistent with this Agreement and the RHC ILA.
- E. Pursuant to Section 6 of the RHC ILA, the RHC will make recommendations for the SHB 1406 tax revenue and will serve in an advisory capacity to the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), which have final approval of awards and distribution of grant funding. The BoCC shall give substantial weight and consideration to the recommendations of the RHC.
- F. Pursuant to Section 6 of the RHC ILA, in the event the BoCC deviates from the SHB 1406 tax revenue recommendations provided by the RHC, the BoCC will provide revised recommendations to the RHC for consideration.

After the RHC reviews the BoCC revised recommendations, the RHC will submit a final recommendation to the BoCC. The BoCC will assess the final recommendations by the RHC and make a final decision.

- G. Once a project is identified and approved, the RHC Lead Agency will issue a contract and will pay approved invoices from the pooled SHB 1406 tax revenue account.
- H. The RHC Lead Agency will abide by SHB 1406 requirements in not taking an administrative fee for managing SHB 1406 tax revenue. Currently, the 1406 legislation does not provide for administrative costs.
- I. The Jurisdictions may not utilize its own SHB 1406 tax revenue prior to adding the funds to the pooled account.
- J. If more than one year of SHB 1406 tax revenue is collected without a project being identified, the Jurisdictions may request to have a portion of their contribution returned for use by the Jurisdiction. The RHC must vote to approve returning funds to a Jurisdiction.

**7. Contribution**

Contribution for the RHC is established pursuant to Section 7 of the RHC ILA.

**8. Lead Agency**

Lead Agency for the RHC is established pursuant to Section 8 of the RHC ILA.

**9. Working Teams.**

The RHC will use staff Working Teams identified pursuant to Section 9 of the RHC ILA to inform and support work related to the SHB 1406 tax revenue.

**10. Relationship of the Jurisdictions.**

This Agreement is for the benefit of the Jurisdictions. No separate legal entity is created by this Agreement. No administrator or joint board is created by this Agreement, although a Fiscal Agent and Lead Agency are established pursuant to Section 8 of the RHC ILA. No personal or real property is to be jointly acquired or held. Each Jurisdiction is responsible for directing the work of its staff. RHC members may not direct or supervise the work of staff from another Jurisdiction. An RHC chair or vice-chair may coordinate and work with staff from another Jurisdiction to fulfill the responsibilities of the RHC.

**9. Indemnification and Hold Harmless.**



- A. To the extent permitted by law, each Jurisdiction agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the other Jurisdiction, their officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers from and against any and all claims, demands, damages, losses, actions, liabilities, expenses, and judgments of any nature whatsoever, including without limitation, court and appeal costs and attorneys' fees, to or by any and all persons or entities, including without limitation, their respective agents, licensees, or representatives, caused by or arising out of any negligent act, errors, or omissions, of that Jurisdiction, its employees, agents, or volunteers or arising out of, in connection with, or incident to that Jurisdiction's performance or failure to perform any aspect of this Agreement.
- B. The Jurisdictions waive their immunity under the Washington State Industrial Insurance Act, Title 51 RCW, to the extent required by this indemnification and hold harmless provision. Provided, however, the foregoing waiver shall not in any way preclude a Jurisdiction from raising such immunity as a defense against any claim brought against a Jurisdiction by any of the Jurisdiction's respective employees. This waiver has been mutually negotiated by the Jurisdictions.
- C. The provisions of this section shall survive the completion or expiration of this Agreement or termination whether termination is by all Jurisdictions, or by one or more Jurisdictions.
- D. The Jurisdictions agree to support each other in pursuing these purposes and responsibilities and operate in good faith and partnership in carrying them out. Risk and accountability shall be shared to the extent possible by the Jurisdictions.

**10. Amendments.**

This Agreement may be amended as needed by mutual written agreement of all Jurisdictions as executed by each Jurisdiction's authorized governing authority as provided in Chapter 39.34 RCW.

**11. Termination.**

This Agreement may be terminated as to any single Jurisdiction when the terminating Jurisdiction provides written notice to all other Jurisdictions, as set out in Section 12 of this Agreement, at least 60 days prior to its intended withdrawal from this Agreement. The withdrawing Jurisdiction agrees to be responsible for its share of any costs incurred or encumbered pursuant to this Agreement through the remainder of the year of such withdrawal.

**12. Jurisdiction Representative.**

The following are designated as representatives of the respective Jurisdictions. Notice provided for in this Agreement shall be sent to the designated representatives by certified mail to the addresses set forth below. Notice will be deemed received three business days following posting by the U.S. Postmaster.

**City of Lacey**, c/o City Manager, 420 College Street SE, Lacey, WA 98503

**City of Olympia**, c/o City Manager, P.O. Box 1967, Olympia, WA 98507

**City of Tumwater**, c/o City Administrator, 555 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, WA 98501

**City of Yelm**, c/o Mayor, 105 Yelm Ave W., Yelm, WA 98597

**Thurston County**, c/o County Manager, 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98502

**13. Governing Law and Venue.**

This Agreement has been and shall be construed as having been made and delivered within the State of Washington, and it is agreed by each Jurisdiction hereto that this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Washington as both to its interpretation and its performance. Any action of lawsuit in equity, or judicial proceeding arising out of this Agreement shall be instituted and maintained only in a court of competent jurisdiction in Thurston County, Washington.

**14. Severability.**

If a court of competent jurisdiction holds any part, term, or provision of this Agreement to be illegal, or invalid in whole or in part, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected, and the Jurisdictions' rights and obligations shall be construed and enforced as if this Agreement did not contain the particular provision held to be invalid. If any provision of this Agreement is in direct conflict with any statutory provision of the state of Washington, that provision which may conflict shall be deemed inoperative and null and void insofar as it may conflict and shall be deemed modified to conform to such statutory provision.

**15. Entire Agreement.**

The Jurisdictions agree that this Agreement is the complete expression of its terms and conditions. Any oral or written representations or understandings not incorporated in this Agreement are specifically excluded.

**16. Non-Waiver of Rights.**

The Jurisdictions agree that the forgiveness of the nonperformance of any provision of this Agreement does not constitute a waiver of the provisions of this Agreement.

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**17. Equal Opportunity to Draft.**

The Jurisdictions have participated and had an equal opportunity to participate in the drafting of this Agreement. No ambiguity shall be construed against any Jurisdiction upon a claim that that Jurisdiction drafted the ambiguous language.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this Interlocal Agreement to be executed by the dates and signature herein under affixed. The persons signing this Interlocal Agreement on behalf of the Parties represent that each has authority to execute this Interlocal Agreement on behalf of the Party entering into this Interlocal Agreement.

**Thurston County**

**City of Lacey**

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Hutchings, Chair of the Board of  
County Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Spence, City Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved as to form:  
JON TUNHEIM  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Approved as to form:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

**City of Olympia**

**City of Tumwater**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven J. Burney, City Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Kmet, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved as to form:

Approved as to form:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

**City of Yelm**

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J. W. Foster, Mayor

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Date

Approved as to form:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

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Date	RHC Funding Committee – Action Items	General Tasks and Staff Duties
November 9, 2020	<b>RHC Funding Workgroup</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set Calendar</li> <li>• Identify process for input on priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Feedback wanted from HAT</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
November 19, 2020	<b>RHC Full membership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present Calendar and recommendation on priority process</li> </ul>	
December 14, 2020	<b>RHC Funding Workgroup</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1406 Planning</li> <li>• Preliminary priority discussion</li> <li>• Determine review team and process</li> </ul>	Staff to provide update on 5 Year Plan tasks for Year 2 of Plan.
December 17, 2020	<b>RHC Full membership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update</li> </ul>	
January 15, 2021	<b>RHC Funding Workgroup</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary review of available funding</li> <li>• Receive HAT Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pipeline</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continue priority discussions</li> </ul>	-County and Cities appoint members to the RHC - Staff provides orientation for new RHC members
January 21, 2021	<b>RHC Full membership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present priority discussions. Get feedback from full RHC membership</li> <li>• Approval to go before BoCC to issue RFP</li> </ul>	Staff seek BoCC approval to issue RFP in late January/early February
February 8, 2021	<b>RHC Funding Workgroup</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize priority recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Homeless services (2163, CHG, HEN)</li> <li>○ Human Services Fund</li> <li>○ 1406</li> <li>○ Capital Pipeline</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Finalize scoring and criteria</li> <li>• Finalize funding amounts</li> </ul>	-Staff will complete RFP - Staff will complete ZoomGrants application
February 18, 2021	<b>RHC Full membership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve final priorities, scoring, criteria and funding amounts</li> </ul>	
February 26, 2021		<b>RFP Released</b>
March 3, 2021		<b>Bidder's Conference</b>
March 8, 2021	<b>RHC Funding Workgroup</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize review process, as needed</li> </ul>	Staff tracks and supports applicants, as necessary
March 18, 2021	<b>RHC Full membership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update</li> </ul>	
April 2, 2021		<b>Applications are due in ZoomGrants</b>
April 6, 2021		<b>ZoomGrants training for reviewers- Access to applications</b>

April 12, 2021	<b>RHC Funding Workgroup</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for receipt of reviewer scores</li> </ul>	
April 15, 2021	<b>RHC Full membership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update</li> </ul>	
May 4, 2020		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final Reviewer scores due in ZoomGrants</b></li> <li>• <b>Staff compile scores and materials</b></li> </ul>
May 10, 2021 9:00-3:00	<b>RHC Funding Workgroup</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review scores and make funding recommendations to full membership</li> </ul>	Staff prepares materials and presents applications to CIP
May 20, 2021	<b>RHC Full membership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review, finalize and approve final recommendations for funding awards</li> </ul>	
<b>June 2021</b>	<b>BoCC approves or authorizes funding awards</b>	Staff prepares contracts

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# Common Understanding

## Glossary

### **Accessibility**

The extent to which a facility is readily approachable and usable by individuals with physical disabilities, such as self-opening doors, elevators for upper levels, or raised lettering on signs. The term also refers to being admitted to programs and activities and having the right to enter institutions, such as colleges and universities.

[https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity\\_glossary.pdf.pdf](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity_glossary.pdf.pdf)

### **Affordable Housing**

Office of Financial Management – RCW 84.14.020

"Affordable housing" means residential housing that is rented by a person or household whose monthly housing costs, including utilities other than telephone, do not exceed thirty percent of the household's monthly income. For the purposes of housing intended for owner occupancy, "affordable housing" means residential housing that is within the means of low or moderate-income households.

[https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=84.14.010#:~:text=\(1\)%20%22Affordable%20housing%22,of%20the%20household's%20monthly%20income](https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=84.14.010#:~:text=(1)%20%22Affordable%20housing%22,of%20the%20household's%20monthly%20income)

### **ALICE**

ALICE is a United Way acronym that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

"ALICE is a hardworking member of the community who is employed yet does not earn enough to afford the basic necessities of life.

ALICE earns above the federal poverty level, but does not earn enough to afford a bare-bones household budget of housing, child care, food, transportation, and health care. The United Way ALICE Reports use new measures to provide a more accurate picture of financial insecurity at the state, county, and municipal level."

<https://www.unitedway-thurston.org/ALICE>

<https://www.unitedforalice.org/>

### **"At-risk"**

"At-risk" is a housing status indicated by imminent risk of a household or individual to experience homelessness. Below is a link to the HUD definition.

[https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/AtRiskofHomelessnessDefinition\\_Criteria.pdf](https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/AtRiskofHomelessnessDefinition_Criteria.pdf)

### **Bias**

Prejudice: an inclination or preference, especially one that interferes with impartial judgment.

[https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity\\_glossary.pdf.pdf](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity_glossary.pdf.pdf)

### **Camp Clean-up**

Organized and sponsored removal of a camp that includes adequate prior notice, care for the people being removed, their belongings treated with respect, referrals to other services and housing options offered.

### **Camp Sweep**

A camp removal that is done without notice and without care for the impact on those being removed, their belongings and with no referrals to services or housing options.

## **Continuous Stay Shelter**

Continuous stay shelter is a category of shelter that can either be low or higher barrier in terms of shelter entry. Individuals enter the Coordinated Entry system and then are prioritized into shelters within the HCRS and are assigned a bed. Most continuous stay shelters are not time limited in Thurston County and most are low-barrier.

## **Cold Weather Shelter**

In Thurston county, shelter that operates from Nov 1st – April 30th each year. Expanding shelter during this time frame.

## **Coordinated Entry**

Coordinated Entry paves the way for more efficient homeless assistance systems by: (1) Helping people move through the system faster (by reducing the amount of time people spend moving from program to program before finding the right match); (2) Maximizing impact of existing resources by preventing “creaming” and by prioritizing higher needs households for more intensive (and expensive) programs; (3) Reducing new entries into homelessness by consistently offering diversion resources upfront, reducing the number of people entering the system unnecessarily; and (4) Improving data collection and quality and providing accurate information on what kind of assistance consumers need.

Coordinated entry is a standardized process for intake, assessment, prioritization, and referral of households entering the system to providers working in the system. Coordinated entry in Thurston County is provided by three agencies (Family Support Center, SideWalk, and Community Youth Services) serving three distinct subpopulations (families with children, childless adults, and youth / young adults, respectively).

## **Cultural Humility**

Cultural humility is a humble and respectful attitude toward individuals of other cultures that pushes one to challenge their own cultural biases, realize they cannot possibly know everything about other cultures, and approach learning about other cultures as a lifelong goal and process.

Cultural humility was established due to the limitations of cultural competence. Some professionals, like social workers, medical professionals, or educators, believed themselves to be culturally competent after learning some generalizations of a particular culture. Cultural humility encourages an active participation in order to learn about a patient's or client's personal, cultural experiences.

*<https://study.com/academy/lesson/cultural-humility-definition-example.html>*

## **Discrimination**

Actions stemming from conscious or unconscious prejudice, which favor and empower one group over others based on differences of race, gender, economic class, sexual orientation, physical ability, religion, language, age, national identity, religion and other categories.

*[https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity\\_glossary.pdf.pdf](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity_glossary.pdf.pdf)*

## **Diversion**

Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. Diversion programs can reduce the number of families becoming homeless, the demand for shelter beds, and the size of program wait lists. Diversion programs can also help communities achieve better outcomes and be more competitive when applying for federal funding. This paper will describe how communities can begin diverting families from entering their homeless assistance systems. Diversion is very similar to rapid rehousing but is typically faster, lower cost, and targeted to the point of system entry.

## **Diversity**

Diversity includes all the ways in which people differ, and it encompasses all the different characteristics that make one individual or group different from another. It is all-inclusive and recognizes everyone and every group as part of the diversity that should be valued. A broad definition includes not only race, ethnicity, and gender — the groups that most often come to mind when the term "diversity" is used — but also age, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, education, marital status, language, and physical appearance. It also involves different ideas, perspectives, and values.

*UC Berkeley Center for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity, Glossary of Terms*

### **Emergency Mitigation Project**

Temporary emergency response due to unprecedented numbers of unsheltered individuals and families in Thurston County. These projects may include but are not limited to: Managed Encampments, Safe Parking Programs, Tiny Home Villages, Faith Based Tiny Home Sponsorship and Shelter-in-Place efforts.

### **Emergency Shelter**

Temporary, emergency intervention for people experiencing homelessness best when utilized only for a short time. In an ideal world we would have adequate housing and services for everyone that needs them thus eliminating the need for emergency shelters--a historically expensive and temporary intervention for homelessness. However, emergency shelters continue to play a vital role in our community safety net for highly vulnerable residents of Thurston County. Emergency shelters should be designed for maximum efficiency, minimum barriers and be tailored to serve the most vulnerable and at-risk homeless population. To ensure evidence-based practices, shelters should be based in the principles of housing first, low-barrier and trauma informed care.

*[http://100khomes.org/sites/default/files/Common%20Eligibility%20Criteria%20for%20Emergency%20Shelters%20FINAL\\_0.pdf](http://100khomes.org/sites/default/files/Common%20Eligibility%20Criteria%20for%20Emergency%20Shelters%20FINAL_0.pdf)*

### **Equality / Equity**

- Equality is the measure of sameness; being treated in the same way.
- Equity is a measure of fair treatment, opportunities and outcomes across race, gender, class and other dynamics.

This distinction is important. We are told that to be fair we must treat everyone the same (equal), however, when we recognize the legacy of institutionalized and structural racism we understand that differing people and communities need different resources (equity). In order to be equitable we provide specific, unique resources that will support people and communities getting their basic needs met and reaching their full potential. Sameness is not always fairness if the oppressed group remains disadvantaged.

*[http://depts.washington.edu/lend/pdfs/3\\_Racial\\_Equity\\_Glossary.pdf](http://depts.washington.edu/lend/pdfs/3_Racial_Equity_Glossary.pdf)*

### **Family**

HUD defines a family as a 'single person or a group of persons,' including a household with or without children. A family may include unrelated individuals. HUD would also consider a single person without children as a family.

*<https://affordablehousingonline.com/glossary/Family-Section-8-Definition>*

### **Functional Zero**

"Functional zero" is a measurement for ending homelessness. We will have reached functional zero when the number of people experiencing homelessness at a point in time is less than the monthly housing placement rate. Effectively this means that the resources available fully meet or exceed the need and homelessness has ended as a mass-scale problem.

### **Gender**

The socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and characteristics that a given society categorizes as 'masculine' and 'feminine'; not defined by one's biological sex.

[https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity\\_glossary.pdf.pdf](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity_glossary.pdf.pdf)

### **Gender Identity**

A person's individual and subjective sense of their own gender; gender identities exist in a spectrum, and are not just masculine and feminine.

[https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity\\_glossary.pdf](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity_glossary.pdf)

### **Harm Reduction**

A philosophy that focuses on the risks and consequences of a particular behavior, rather than on the behavior itself. In terms of substance use, it means focusing on strategies to reduce harm from high-risk use, rather than insisting on abstinence. Abstinence from alcohol or drugs is not appropriate or possible for everyone. Abstinence is neither condoned nor condemned in harm reduction services. Instead it is considered one strategy among many others. Harm reduction interventions incorporate a spectrum of strategies from safer substance use, to managed use to abstinence to meet drug users "where they're at," addressing conditions of use along with the use itself. Because harm reduction demands that interventions and policies designed to serve drug users reflect specific individual and community needs, there is no universal definition of or formula for implementing harm reduction.

With regard to housing, harm reduction means that tenants have access to services to help them address their substance use, mental health, personal care, nutritional or other challenging issues. It is based on the understanding that recovery is a long process, and that users need a stable living arrangement in order to address their addictions. Focus is on being healthier rather than on the unrealistic goal of being perfectly healthy right away. Harm reduction programs often provide stronger results than abstinence-only programs.

Principles of Harm Reduction are the basis for all successful Housing First programs and are applicable not only to active drug use or housing programs, but also to mental health challenges, conflict mediation, hygiene and general physical health. People make decisions within the context of their environment. Service providers coming from a harm reduction lens must always aim to "zoom out" to find the context for behavior rather than blaming the individual for their behavior. Every one of our clients has experienced trauma/is currently experiencing systemic trauma that has drastically affected their ability to manage their lives.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nW46y8KEoKFDjkdAFxJG5Dje3sEABTyWjA3\\_oM9pSsc/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nW46y8KEoKFDjkdAFxJG5Dje3sEABTyWjA3_oM9pSsc/edit)

### **High Barrier**

Requirements for program entry

- An individual could come in with high barriers
- Shelters can have more restrictions
- Housing programs

### **Household (See Family)**

#### **Housing First**

The Housing First Model offers housing without precondition or "housing readiness" requirements. Participants are not required to be sober or to "work a program". Housing is viewed as a support for - rather than a reward of - recovery. Rules and requirements in housing first programs are no stricter than a typical lease. Research shows that the best recovery outcomes are achieved through Housing First services (as compared to transitional systems and street homelessness).

#### **HUD Homeless Definition**

Office of Housing and Urban Development defines homelessness as existing in four distinct categories. These definitions determine distribution of federal funds for homelessness and affordable housing grants. The four categories are available in the link provided below.

[https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition\\_RecordkeepingRequirementandCriteria.pdf](https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementandCriteria.pdf)

### **Implicit Bias**

Also known as unconscious or hidden bias, implicit biases are negative associations that people unknowingly hold. They are expressed automatically, without conscious awareness. Many studies have indicated that implicit biases affect individuals' attitudes and actions, thus creating real-world implications, even though individuals may not even be aware that those biases exist within themselves. Notably, implicit biases have been shown to trump individuals' stated commitments to equality and fairness, thereby producing behavior that diverges from the explicit attitudes that many people profess. The Implicit Association Test (IAT) is often used to measure implicit biases with regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, and other topics.

*State of the Science Implicit Bias Review 2013, Cheryl Staats, Kirwan Institute, The Ohio State University.*

### **Income levels**

The **Area Median Income (AMI)** is the midpoint of a region's income distribution – half of families in a region earn more than the median and half earn less than the median. ... Translating incomes into affordable housing costs These income levels are also a way to assess housing affordability.

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html>

### **Institutional Racism**

Institutional racism refers specifically to the ways in which institutional policies and practices create different outcomes for different racial groups. The institutional policies may never mention any racial group, but their effect is to create advantages for whites and oppression and disadvantage for people from groups classified as people of color.

*Flipping the Script: White Privilege and Community Building. Maggie Potapchuk, Sally Leiderman, Donna Bivens and Barbara Major. 2005.*

Examples:

- Government policies that explicitly restricted the ability of people to get loans to buy or improve their homes in neighborhoods with high concentrations of African Americans (also known as "red-lining").
- City sanitation department policies that concentrate trash transfer stations and other environmental hazards disproportionately in communities of color.

### **LGBTQ**

The umbrella community of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, two-spirited, queer, questioning, intersex, and/or asexual. There are other identities under the LGBTQ+ heading. This definition is not definitive as new identities are added ongoing.

### **Low Barrier**

Housing (or shelter) where a minimum number of expectations are placed on people who wish to live there. The aim is to have as few barriers as possible to allow more people access to services. In housing this often means that tenants are not expected to abstain from using alcohol or other drugs and are not required to engage in supportive services in order to maintain housing. Low-barrier facilities follow a harm reduction philosophy. "Low barrier" is fundamentally focused on going the extra mile to accommodate severe disabilities, including behavioral disabilities, and to support people based on the realities of the lives they are living rather than expecting them to conform to unrealistic program expectations.

Low barrier programs eliminate entry screening requirements to the greatest extent possible. Applicants are not turned away for criminal record, eviction history, refusal to engage in supportive services, credit problems, expulsion from other programs, or not being a “good fit”. More than this, “low barrier” is a philosophy that actively seeks to eliminate obstacles, challenges, and sources of discomfort for consumers. Excessive paperwork, appointment-based services, excessive rules governing behaviors, regulating personal autonomy, and inaccessible locations all create obstacles to services for vulnerable people.

*<http://lookoutsociety.ca/solutions/minimal-barriers> <http://www.thepeopleshouseoly.org/blog/why-low-barrier-shelter>*

In practice, this means:

- Individuals are welcome to participate in available programs but not required.
- No length of stay requirements.
- Sobriety is not required.
- No one is denied service for not having valid ID.
- Criminal history generally does not exclude people from services.
- Couples stay together whenever possible.
- There will be secure storage space for personal items.
- Service animals and companion pets will be accommodated.
- People are not denied service for mental illness or related behaviors, or for not being “a good fit” with a program.

### **Marginalized**

Excluded, ignored, or relegated to the outer edge of a group/society/community.

*[https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity\\_glossary.pdf.pdf](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity_glossary.pdf.pdf)*

### **Outreach v. Advocacy**

The goal of street outreach is to make connections to stable housing with tailored services and supports of their choice, such as health and behavioral health care, transportation, access to benefits, and more. ... Some housing options in the homelessness system may not be available due to specific eligibility criteria.

*[https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Core-Components-of-Outreach-2019.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Core-Components-of-Outreach-2019.pdf)*

Advocacy is critical to creating the systemic changes needed to end homelessness. Advocacy means working with people experiencing homelessness to bring about positive changes in policies and programs on the local, state, and federal levels. It means working with various sectors of the community (e.g. city/county officials, members of Congress, direct service providers, and the business community) to develop workable strategies for responding to homelessness. It also means changing your language and behaviors in small ways that may contribute to larger changes in the way people experiencing homelessness are seen and treated in our society.

*<https://nationalhomeless.org/taking-action/get-involved>*

### **People of Color**

An umbrella term for any person or peoples that is considered by the society in which they live to be non-white.

*[https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity\\_glossary.pdf.pdf](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity_glossary.pdf.pdf)*

### **Permanent Supportive Housing**

Vulnerability based, non-coercive, non-judgmental, low-barrier, permanent housing for chronically homeless and permanently disabled individuals and families. Supportive services including but not limited to holistic health and medical, mental health, substance use, enrichment programs and case management are available on site for people who wish to engage in services or coordinated closely to reduce all possible barriers to residents accessing services once they are ready. As a costly intervention, PSH must be targeted to the people who are most likely to die if they are left on the streets using an objective, standardized assessment tool and placed through a coordinated entry system. An ideal candidate for PSH is a household or individual experiencing chronic homelessness, permanent physical, mental health or substance use related disability, chronic illness and high rates of interaction with law enforcement and emergency rooms.

### **McKinney-Vento Homelessness Definition**

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (per Title IX, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act) has a distinct definition of homelessness. This definition encompasses a much broader definition of what situations constitute homelessness. This is particularly important when working with homeless youth, young adults and families with children. The definition is linked below.

*<https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento-definition/> "Mitigation Site" (Stability Site)*

### **Mitigation site**

Not a formal term in the homeless service lexicon. In Olympia, this is a temporary safe camping site that includes basic hygiene services (portable toilets, potable water, garbage collection), on-site host(s), orderly set-up and a code of conduct and safety protocols.

*<http://olympiawa.gov/~media/Files/Executive/Homelessness/One-Community-Plan-Web.pdf?la=en>*

### **Prevention**

Prevention is the practice of providing short to medium-term supportive services and rent assistance to households at-risk or at imminent risk of homelessness. Prevention connects people with the care and support needed to maintain their housing and achieve a better quality of life. All prevention programs will provide targeted prevention, an approach where households are strategically prioritized to receive homeless prevention assistance based on a standardized, evidence-based assessment that identifies households who are at highest risk of becoming homeless. Successful targeted prevention reduces the number of households who actually become homeless. The length of assistance 4-6 months on average but can extend to 24 months.

*HUD Performance Training*

### **Progressive Engagement**

Flexible, individualized service provision aimed at providing the minimal amount of resources necessary to help someone non-coercively stabilize in housing and support services. In tandem with a standardized assessment process, progressive engagement helps to ensure that maximum access to resources is preserved for the most vulnerable community members who truly need maximum support. Progressive engagement is rooted in principles of motivational interviewing and harm reduction to create person-centered, client-led individualized service plans based on the stated needs of the client in their own voice. Progressive engagement is considered a best practice and required by all grantees of the Consolidated Homeless Grant.

### **Racial Equity**

Racial equity is the condition that would be achieved if one's racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares. When we use the term, we are thinking about racial equity as one part of racial justice, and thus we also include work to address root causes of inequities not just their manifestation. This includes elimination of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race or fail to eliminate them.

Racial Justice [is defined] as the proactive reinforcement of policies, practices, attitudes and actions that produce equitable power, access, opportunities, treatment, impacts and outcomes for all.

*Center for Assessment and Policy Development; Catalytic Change: Lessons Learned from the Racial Justice Grantmaking Assessment Report, Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity and Applied Research Center, 2009.*

### **Racial Disparity**

Differences in measurable societal outcomes based on race. These disparities are rooted in unfairness and injustice and are perpetuated by policies and practices with racial bias (either implicit or explicit)

[http://depts.washington.edu/lend/pdfs/3\\_Racial\\_Equity\\_Glossary.pdf](http://depts.washington.edu/lend/pdfs/3_Racial_Equity_Glossary.pdf)

### **Racism**

Individual, cultural, institutional and systemic ways by which differential consequences are created for groups historically or currently defined as being advantaged, and groups historically or currently defined as disadvantaged or non-White (African, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, etc.). Racism may also be said to be prejudice plus power. The relationship and behavior of these interdependent elements has allowed racism to recreate itself generation after generation, such that systems that perpetuate racial inequity no longer need racist actors or to explicitly promote racial differences in opportunities, outcomes and consequences to maintain those differences.

[https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity\\_glossary.pdf.pdf](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity_glossary.pdf.pdf)

### **Rapid Rehousing**

Rapid Re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent, stable housing. Households served meet the HUD definition of literally homeless. Rapid rehousing assistance is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety) and the resources and services provided tailor to the unique needs of the household. Services to support rapid re-housing include housing search and landlord negotiation, short to medium-term financial and rental assistance, and the delivery of home and agency-based housing stabilization services, as needed. The length of assistance 4-6 months on average but can extend to 24 months.

*USICH*

### **Recovery Housing**

HUD defines Recovery Housing as housing in an abstinence-focused and peer-supported community for people recovering from substance use issues. Typically, residents choose to actively participate together in community activities focused on supporting recovery. In its December 2015 policy brief, HUD recognized the value to communities that have adopted a system-wide Housing First orientation of adding a Recovery Housing option for chronically homeless people with mental and physical health problems who are recovering from substance abuse issues. The key to this approach is that it provides the participant with the option of choosing a program that supports their personal commitment to sobriety and holistic recovery.

### **Safe Parking**

Safe parking programs allow individuals living in vehicles to park in off-street parking lots.

“Not a formal term in the homeless service lexicon. In Olympia, this is a temporary safe camping site that includes basic hygiene services (portable toilets, potable water, garbage collection), on-site host(s), orderly set-up and a code of conduct and safety protocols.”

<http://mrsc.org/Home/Stay-Informed/MRSC-Insight/March-2018/Safe-Parking-Programs.aspx>

<http://olympiawa.gov/~media/Files/Executive/Homelessness/One-Community-Plan-Web.pdf?la=en>



**Sexual Orientation**

An individual's natural preference in sexual partners; predilection for homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality.

*[https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity\\_glossary.pdf.pdf](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity_glossary.pdf.pdf)*

**Shelter-in-Place**

Outreach activities that center on supporting unsheltered households to remain where they are due to lack of shelter space and affordable and supportive housing. Activities could include providing survival supplies, referrals to housing and other services, sanitation, laundering, and garbage removal.

**“Survival Goods”**

Subjective, depended on population, housing situation, cultural, etc.

**Transgender**

Appearing as, wishing to be considered as, or having undergone surgery to become a member of the opposite sex. Transgendered people can include transsexuals, cross-dressers, drag kings/queens, masculine women, feminine men, and those who defy what society tells them is appropriate for their gender.

*[https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity\\_glossary.pdf.pdf](https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/Diversity/diversity_glossary.pdf.pdf)*

**Transitional Housing**

Transitional Housing is a program that is designed to provide housing and appropriate supportive services to people who are literally homeless to facilitate movement to permanent housing. The housing is medium-term, typically less than, but up to 24 months and best practices dictate the focus should be on people exiting systems of care and youth. In addition to providing safe housing for those in need, other services are available to help participants become self-sufficient. The focus of Transitional Housing is to move people as quickly as possible into permanent housing, while providing the support they need to remain stably housed.

*Source: HUD Definitions*

**Transitional Housing (Youth)**

Transitional Living Programs or Independent Living Programs provide longer term residential services to homeless youth (both minors and transition aged youth) who are unable to live with family either due to a lack of safety or a lack of family. The housing services offered are designed to help young people successfully transition to self-sufficient living.

Transitional Living programs should incorporate the Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach in the provision of stable, stable living accommodations for young people. PYD helps youth develop the skills necessary to become independent.

**Trauma Informed Care**

Trauma informed care is directed by a thorough understanding of the effects of trauma and the prevalence of these experiences in persons who seek services and the organizations that provide the service. Becoming Trauma Informed as an organization is a holistic and complete process that includes analyzation of all aspects of the organization from top to bottom with a fundamental understanding that the service delivery cannot be truly trauma informed if the organizational structure is not as well. It considers knowledge about trauma — its impact, interpersonal dynamic, and paths to recovery — and incorporates this knowledge into all aspects of service delivery.

Trauma informed care also recognizes that traditional service approaches can re-traumatize consumers and family members. Trauma informed providers are sensitive to the ways in which coercion and control (program rules, disciplinary actions, etc.) re-traumatize consumers and they actively support client choice and self-direction.

*<https://alamedacountytraumainformedcare.org/trauma-informed-care/trauma-informed-care-vs-trauma-specific-treatment-2/>*

### **Vulnerability Index**

The Vulnerability Index (VI) is a tool for identifying and prioritizing people in the homeless and street dependent communities for housing according to the fragility of their health. The VI is administered in a form of a survey, which utilizes a ranking system to assess the individual's health, risk factors and the duration of homelessness. This ranking allows those with the most severe health risks to be identified and prioritized for housing and other support.

Resource limitations reduce access to vulnerable people who are currently hospitalized or incarcerated who have not been assessed for vulnerability. Additionally, the lack of outreach into Lacey, Tumwater, and rural Thurston County greatly limits VI assessments among the homeless in those areas.

### **Vulnerability-Based Prioritization**

Prioritizing the people most likely to die on the streets and who have higher interactions with costly public services due to their unsheltered status is a more effective and cost-effective approach to referrals from coordinated entry to providers. Thurston County coordinated entry providers adopted the use of an objective, standardized assessment tool.

*VI-SPDAT <http://www.orgcode.com/product/spd>*