Regional Housing Council

Agenda: Wednesday December 8th, 2021 (4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.) (via Zoom)
Jim Cooper: Chair, Carolina Mejia: Vice-Chair

#	TIME	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD	ACTION
1	4:00 – 4:05	Welcome and Introductions • Check-in • Review Agenda/Meeting Purpose	Jim	
2	4:05 – 4:15	Public Comment For public comment, please keep your comments to 3 minutes.	Jim	Information
3	4:15 – 4:20	Approval of October minutes	Jim	Action
4	4:20 – 4:40	Presentation from Ted Kelleher, Department of Commerce	Keylee	Information
5	4:40 – 4:50	Update on Lacey Homeless Strategies Workgroup	Rick Walk Scott Spence	Information
6	4:50 – 4:55	Letter to Port of Olympia in support of Oyo Hotel	Tom	Action
7	4:55 – 5:05	HCRP Report Update	Keylee	Information
8	5:05 – 5:20	Technical Team working group updates • Permanent Supportive Housing Plan ♦ Regional MOU on Property Acquisition • Diversity, Equity and Inclusion RFP • Home Fund	Keylee and Tom	Information
9	5:20 – 5:25	HAT and RHC Retreat Update	Jim	Information
10	5:25 – 5:30	Good of the Order	Jim	Information
11	5:30	Upcoming Meetings • Next RHC Meeting Wednesday January 26th, 2022 Location: Zoom meeting		Information

REGIONAL HOUSING COUNCIL

Wednesday October 27th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lacey: Carolyn Cox, Lenny Greenstein, Rick Walk, Kelly Adams, Scott Spence
Tumwater: Michael Althauser, Joan Cathey, Brad Medrud, John Doan
Olympia: Jim Cooper, Dani Madrone, Cary Retlin, Darian Lightfoot
Thurston County: Carolina Mejia, Ramiro Chavez, Keylee Marineau, Tom Webster, Jacinda Steltjes, Schelli Slaughter
South County: JW Foster, Holly Smith
Public: Jimmy Madsen

Meeting began at 4:02 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Agenda approved

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment

Jimmy Madsen asked the RHC to support Olympia with funding for beds and storage totes at the Mitigation site.

Lisa Gilotti with Build a Bus Home and Shower Power, reported that they are focusing their services on one location, at Capital Christian Center on Saturdays. They are looking for additional volunteers.

Cary Retlin added that Olympia met with CCS to discuss additional funds for beds and cots at the mitigation site, as much as Olympia can.

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

Agenda Item 4: Hotel and Rapid Rehousing RFP Recommendation

Tom gave an update: The County will receive $1.6M from the 1277 document recording fee fund for hotel vouchers and rapid rehousing projects. The RFP was issued last month. They received 6 applications, the Review Team reviewed the applications and made recommendations to the Funding Team. The Funding Team has forwarded their recommendations to the RHC. With their approval County staff will complete the funding application to commerce for the $1.6M.

Requests included:

1. Community Action Council, Rapid Rehousing
2. Family Support Center, Hotel Vouchers
3. Love Abounds Here, Rapid Rehousing and Hotel Vouchers. Rapid Rehousing proposal was not in compliance with Low Barrier requirements from Commerce.
4. OlyMAP, Hotel Vouchers, including Scattered Site program as well as Emergency Hotel stays for times when camps are removed.
5. Pierce County Aids Foundation, Rapid Rehousing
6. Safeplace, both Rapid Rehousing and Hotel Vouchers

The Review Team prioritized Rapid Rehousing for full funding. The Funding Workgroup recommended most of the same amounts as the Review Team, with one difference to give $10,000 more to Love Abounds Here. Funding Group recommendation includes funding to all applicants, however some would not receive their full request.

Mayor Foster asked if Love Abounds Here has established a connection with the one hotel in Yelm. Their application identified the Yelm Prairie hotel.

Councilmember Althauser asked for more information on OlyMAP, are they a non-profit, do they have the structure to operate, and capacity. OlyMAP is a new organization, the County contracts with them to operate the Scattered Site program. Their fiscal sponsor Angels For Angels is the contractor with the County and they handle the billing.

Motion to approve the Hotel Voucher and Rapid Rehousing application at $1,584,399 per the Funding Group recommendation, motion and second. Commissioner Mejia commended the Technical Team for the tight turnaround. All approved.

Commerce will likely issue additional 1277 funding early in 2022.

Agenda Item 5: Martin Way and Carpenter Rd Project Update

Keylee gave an update, County staff submitted a complete application to Community Planning for temporary use at the site. Community Planning will expedite the application review, and staff will have a public meeting next Thursday. They are asking that the public pre-submit their questions so that they can have answers ready. Multiple panelists will be present including staff from the County, Olympia, Providence, OlyMAP, and Sherriff representatives.

Tom gave information on the MOU regarding Safe Parking and Martin Way site. The Martin Way site portion of the MOU refers to the 6 – 7 months of use of the Martin Way temporary use permit. The second phase of the MOU is regarding a longer term solution including property acquisition and development of the acquired property.

Councilmember Greenstein added that it is mistake to not have a public hearing, the public is frustrated. Chair Cooper added that this is a difficult time for a project, nothing is ideal in the current situation, confident that the plan is a good one to accommodate concerns. Councilmember Cox added that Lacey meetings on this subject run very long, recommend that the County meeting be allowed to run and not cut off due to time. Vice-Chair Mejia added that they hope the meeting clears up any circulating misinformation, and emphasized that they all are partners in this.

Agenda Item 6: Technical Team working group updates

Tom gave an update on the Permanent Supportive Housing framework. They made some revisions based on comments from the RHC and partner jurisdictions. Looking for comments. Councilmember Althauser added that the reference to the hotel in Tumwater is good to include.

County Manager Chavez added that one of the biggest concerns is County staffing. Ramiro is asking partner jurisdictions to commit to increase capacity of staff to complete this work. Need one full time position for about 2 years to work on these projects. Ramiro has presented a proposal to City Managers, with costs of the additional staff allocated based on the Interlocal agreement. Chair Cooper spoke to Jay

Burney about this, Olympia has set aside $2M of ARPA funds for this PSH project, their suggestion is to pool the ARPA funds into the whole proposal and take the admin and staffing costs out of that. Councilmember Althauser spoke to John Doan and Councilmember Cathey. They would like to see as much as possible go to creating beds, but understand that it takes staff time. Would like to have specific discussion about job duties. Councilmember Cox adds that they have not discussed this and holds comment until she can talk to Council.

Ramiro is looking for an acknowledgement of the need for additional staff from the RHC, and direction to work with City Managers to move this forward. All agreed.

Keylee gave an update on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion RFP, it is specific to the Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) and the RHC set aside $150,000 to address this issue. Commerce has also tasked all HCRS to address this issue with measurable outcomes. Current deadline for applications is November 12th. Currently working to develop an equitable Review Panel and to ensure the process is meaningful to the System.

The County Home Fund public hearing will happen November 23rd. Currently accepting public comment. Ramiro requests to have written response from the Cities prior to or at the public hearing.

Agenda Item 7: HAT and RHC Retreat Update

Chair Cooper has been attending the HAT subgroup meetings, very happy with the level of engagement and all the partners present at these meetings. Noted that the Senior Housing group serves a large portion of the population including a large number of unhoused seniors. The plan for a joint meeting is to hold a retreat in the spring. Manager Chavez encouraged the RHC to engage with Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council. Councilmember Cox mentioned reaching out to the Chamber as they are holding discussions/meetings on chronic homelessness.

Agenda Item 8: Good of the Order

Chair Cooper noted that the next RHC meeting is the week of Thanksgiving, would suggest combining the November and December meetings to one meeting on December 8th at 4pm. All agree.

Councilmember Althauser added that Tumwater had a work session where they discussed and supported the countywide Home Fund, he expects Tumwater will provide formal support.

Scott Spence asked if they could all identify the ARPA funds from each jurisdiction that are being committed so they know the total amount available. Could they come with those numbers to the next RHC? Lacey is willing to do full 100%, which is over $6M. If jurisdictions are comfortable putting in specific numbers into the PSH plan Tom can add that, first Manager Chavez will talk to jurisdiction managers to confirm the amounts.

Keylee added she met with the King County Regional Homeless Authority representative about their regional efforts and has invited them to attend an RHC meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:25 pm

Next Meeting: December 8th, 2021, 4:00 pm

December 8, 2021

Port Commissioners
Port of Olympia
606 Columbia St. NW, Suite 300
Olympia, WA 98501

Joe Downing, District One Commissioner,
Bill McGregor, District Two Commissioner, and
E. J. Zita, District Three Commissioner:

We, the Thurston County Regional Housing Council, are writing this letter in support of the proposal by the Thurston County Housing Authority to develop low-income senior housing at the site of the Oyo Hotel at 1600 74th Avenue SW in Tumwater. The project would convert an underused hotel to permanent low-income housing and add 58 low-income housing units for seniors to Thurston County. The project has the support of a willing hotel owner, approved funding, and cooperation from regional governments.

The Regional Housing Council has recently developed a strategic framework to create 150-200 units of permanent supportive housing by the end of 2024. One critical strategy of this framework is the acquisition of existing hotels for conversion into permanent supportive housing. Acquisition of existing hotels is both a cost-effective and time-efficient strategy for creating the additional affordable housing units that our community desperately needs to reduce the number of people living unsheltered in our community.

It has come to our attention that the Port of Olympia has made a decision to submit a formal request to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to "release" this land from FAA restrictions. We appreciate and support this decision to prepare and submit the necessary application. If the Port needs assistance or resources to complete the FAA paperwork, please let the Regional Housing Council or its member jurisdictions know so they can support your efforts.

There is an urgent need for more permanent supportive housing in Thurston County and this project can provide a tremendous benefit to low-income seniors. We encourage you to complete the formal request to the FAA as soon as possible.

Regards,

Jim Cooper
Chair, Regional Housing Council

Carolina Mejia
Vice Chair, Regional Housing Council

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services

Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention

5 Year Homeless Crisis Response Plan

Annual Update: 2020-2021

November 2021

5 Year Homeless Crisis Response Plan

The Thurston County 5 Year Homeless Crisis Response Plan: 2019-2024 (HCRP), was adopted in 2018. The community, stakeholders, jurisdictions, law enforcement, and service and housing providers all contributed to the planning process. Within the requirement to develop this plan, (RCW 43.185C.160), are specific guidelines and measures of success.

Requirements of Annual Report

The WA State Department of Commerce will add the Annual Reports to the Local Plans posted on their web page. Updated plans may be submitted at any time.

The Local Plan Annual Report requirement is in RCW 43.185C.045:

> Any local government receiving state funds for homelessness assistance or state or local homelessness document recording fees under RCW 36.22.178, 36.22.179, or 36.22.1791 must provide an annual report on the current condition of homelessness in its jurisdiction, its performance in meeting the goals in its local homeless housing plan, and any significant changes made to the plan. The annual report must be posted on the department's web site.

The length and format of the Annual Report is up to the local government, and at least, must address the following:

1. Current condition of homelessness in its jurisdiction;
2. Performance in meeting the goals in its local homeless housing plan;
3. Significant changes made to the plan.

Executive Summary

The Thurston County Homeless Crisis Response Plan (HCRP) was adopted in late November 2019 by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The creation of the HCRP included the input of homeless service providers, municipal staff, law enforcement and people with lived experience by participation in concurrent planning efforts carried out by City of Olympia. The result of this process was a plan that had broad stakeholder buy-in, and a solid core work group dedicated to implementing approved strategies over the next five years.

COVID-19 – Unprecedented funding, unprecedented response

As is true for all local continuums of care across Washington state, March 2020 upended the implementation of the approved HCRP. With the unprecedented threat of the homeless crisis response system (HCRS) being in utter turmoil, the Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention (OHHP) operating under Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) doubled down on immediate response. As most in-person services shifted to virtual, public transportation ceased, shelters decreased overall capacity, public bathrooms closed and drop-in centers shuttered, the entire HCRS shifted its focus towards prioritizing emergent needs.

With a primary focus on prevention and safety, homeless service providers and municipal staff collaborated to increase outreach efforts, fund shelters to move towards operating 24/7, expand hygiene service into encampments and ensure food, PPE and survival gear was distributed to unsheltered households. This necessary shift caused many of the strategies slated to be implemented in the latter half of the five-year period attainable due to large one-time funding infusions.

- Outreach, a primary function of an efficient homeless crisis response system, often deprioritized in funding decisions, received an enormous increase in funding in 2020-2021 due to ESG-CV and EHG funds. **(strategies 1.3, 3.10)**
- Shelters received extra funding through EHG and ESG-CV and moved to 24/7 operations **(strategy 3.22)**
- FEMA funding for Public Assistance moved to 100% reimbursable for activities housing unsheltered households in non-congregate shelter created an opportunity to implement a break-through respite program between homeless service and hospital partnerships **(strategy 1.13)**
- Funding for homeless prevention services received the largest infusion of funds through the ERAP and TRAP programs **(strategy 3.11)**
- By the end of 2022, Thurston County will have met or surpassed the goal to develop 300 new permanent supportive housing units **(strategy 3.26)**

Despite the increase of funds into the system, the annual the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data shows a significant reduction in system utilization. Households

that do enter HMIS remain in the system waiting for program placement for longer periods of time. Homelessness is more visible than ever before. Systems are stretched, providers are hitting capacity and burnout, and local governments struggle with how to both respond effectively to homelessness while keeping their constituents feeling positive. Homelessness remains unsolved, even though the HCRP has made significant changes – many of which started as only far-stretched possibilities.

Addressing Racial Disparity

Due increased and sustained public awareness around black, native, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) being disproportionally represented in poverty and homelessness, impacted by COVID resulting in higher incidents of death, and black people being killed by law enforcement, the focus on racial equity in homeless service response, housing policy and need for general training became a priority. Acknowledging that the Thurston County HCRP, while making every attempt to create meaningful, accountable, and measurable strategies to address racial disparity, did so without BIPOC feedback or vetting. Due to this oversight, the HCRP Work Group recommended setting aside HB 2163 funds in the 2021-2023 biennium to hire a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion consultant. In 2021, Thurston County BOCC approved a $150,000 set aside for these activities. Part of the work of the consultant will be to review the strategies in the HCRP, especially but not limited to those in Objective 5, and offer guidance and feedback. It is anticipated that the strategies outlined in Objective 5 will be significantly adapted following this effort.

The Future

The pandemic is far from over and the future implications are difficult to predict. There are questions that we do not have answers for:

- What new projects can be funding with HB 1277?
- What programs that were supplemented with COVID funding do once their ESG-CV funding runs dry?
- Will the county implement a Home fund?
- What shape will homeless response take in a post-pandemic world?
- What is the future of homeless service provision funding in general?
- How fast can permanent supportive housing be developed and where?
- What do truly racially equitable homeless response systems look like?

Thurston county continues to attempt to think outside of the box, stretch every dollar, ask for more dollars, remain nimble and (despite all odds) hopeful. The HCRS has made changes previously never thought possible in a very short amount of time. However, with an ever-

shifting landscape of what homelessness itself looks like and what responses it actually requires to solve it, it is anticipated that this plan will stretch and adjust to meet the ever-shifting funding, political landscapes and to continue to educate and influence the health of public opinion.

Keylee Marineau, MA
Thurston County Homeless Prevention and Affordable Housing Coordinator

This report contains successful actions taken throughout 2020 and 2021, the initial PIT numbers from January 2021, and the 1st and 2nd quarter HMIS housing report data.

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Measures of Success

In addition to the strategies and targets laid out in the Thurston County HCRP, the Department of Commerce set forth specific measures that must be used to assess progress, and address in its strategies. These include:

- Outreach Projects: Increase percentage of exits to positive outcome destinations to the level of the top performing 20 percent of homeless crisis response systems nationwide.
- Compliance with state and federal Coordinated Entry Data Collection requirements in order to build and maintain active lists of people experiencing homelessness and to track the homelessness status, engagements and housing placements for each household.
- Compliance with state and federal coordinated entry requirements for all projects receiving federal, state, and local homeless funds.
    - Consider implementation of the Coordinated Entry Core Element recommendations and the Office of Homeless Youth's "Five Recommendations for Making Coordinated Entry Work for Youth and Young Adults."
    - Successful implementation of prioritization policies for all projects receiving federal, state, and local homeless funds, resulting in prioritized people consistently housed in a timely manner.
- Increase percentage of exits to permanent housing to the level of the top performing 20 percent of homeless crisis response systems nationwide.
- Reduce returns to homelessness after exit to permanent housing to less than 10 percent.
- Reduce average length of stay in temporary housing projects to less than 90 days.

Progress Made: 2020-2021

The sources of data included in the following assessment are the annual Point in Time Count, and the Housing Management Information System (HMIS). In 2020 The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), waived their requirement to do a full unsheltered PIT count, though in Thurston County we were able to do a baseline count of the existing encampments, and the urban cores of Lacey, Tumwater, and Olympia.

There were specific objectives, and targets outlined in the HCRP, in the following categories:

- Quickly **identify and engage** all people experiencing homelessness under the state definition*, and all unaccompanied youth under any federal definition*, through outreach and coordination between every system that encounters people experiencing homelessness.
- **Prioritize people with the greatest need** for housing.
- Operate an **effective and efficient homeless crisis response system** that swiftly moves people into stable permanent housing.
- **Address racial disparities** among people experiencing homelessness.

The following sections delve into progress made in the strategies for each of these objective areas over the course of 2020.

Identify and Engage

The measures of success, to be accomplished by the following strategies in this objective are:

- Communities with Street Outreach projects: Increase percentage of exits to positive outcome destinations to the level of the top performing 20 percent of homeless crisis response systems nationwide.
- Compliance with state and federal Coordinated Entry Data Collection requirements in order to build and maintain active lists of people experiencing homelessness and to track the homelessness status, engagements and housing placements for each household.

❖ 1.1: Ensure compliance with Coordinated Entry

Thurston County continues to comply with the Coordinated Entry requirements set forth by the Department of Commerce. Our community has a high level of HMIS engagement, with few projects opting out of entering data into the system.

❖ 1.3 Strengthen Outreach Best Practices

The Greater Regional Outreach Workers League (GROWL), a coalition of county-wide outreach workers and ancillary service providers, continues to promote and implement outreach best practices. Throughout the pandemic, the homeless crisis response system relied heavily on members of our outreach community to provide essential services to those living unsheltered in lieu of drop-in centers being closed.

❖ 1.7 Increase regional Family Outreach

The homeless service provider for families has a dedicated outreach team that works collaboratively with the regional outreach system. In 2020, Family Support Center of South Sounds received a Department of Commerce grant for the Diversion Pilot Project. This pilot project significantly increased outreach county-wide and focused on marginalized families experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

❖ 1.8 Increase Youth & Young Adult Outreach

There are youth specific strategies that have been implemented, especially in the wake of COVID, such as strengthening relationships with McKinney-Vento liaisons, school counselors, and youth-oriented organizations.

❖ 1.9 Increase Single Adult Outreach

Over the last year, there has been a dedicated increase in outreach to sanctioned and unsanctioned encampments due to many services shutting down to mitigate transmission of

the COVID-19 virus. Thanks to ESG funds, funding for outreach during COVID 19 in 2020 was significantly increased to meet best practice during the first year of the pandemic. This funding has continued into 2021 contracts as well. This has included a recent scattered site pilot program, which gives direct support to multiple encampments throughout the Olympia area.

- **1.12 Increase Rural Outreach**

This strategy is ongoing, as we work to increase the capacity of our outreach contracts. Rural outreach efforts were halted since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington State Department of Transportation, and the Department of Ecology reach out to our office when they identify new camps in the greater county area. Outreach agencies are then alerted in order to engage new camps in all parts of the county.

- **1.13 Increase Hospital/Treatment Center Outreach**

Partnerships and communication with the Olympia Free Clinic, Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (TMBH-ASO), and Providence, among others has been steadily increasing as the need to coordinate around services and vaccine planning has risen. A respite bed program, a partnership between Capital Medical Center, Providence St. Peter's Hospital and Interfaith Works is currently in operation. The REST program supports homeless individuals released from the hospital that need ongoing support while they recover.

Prioritize the Highest Need

The Thurston County Homeless Response System operates from a Housing First perspective. However, the fact remains that affordable, low income and permanent supportive housing projects are scarce, so resources must be equitably prioritized for those with the highest need.

Currently, households experiencing homelessness are prioritized through Thurston County's Coordinated Entry system. Prior to entering the HCRS, households must be offered diversion, undergo a comprehensive needs assessment, a vulnerability assessment, and a dynamic prioritization process. In Thurston County CE currently utilizes the Vulnerability Index System Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT), with Families and Single Adults (Youth and Young adults have a population specific tool that better addresses their needs). However, a small team of homeless services providers have created a new tool aimed at being more equitable than the VI-SPDAT. The new tool sis currently being tested and implemented into the family and single adult CE process.

Through the CE process, individuals are ranked, and those most vulnerable are offered placement into housing as it becomes available. There are strengths and weaknesses to this system, and it is important to realize that it can result in extremely long wait times for folks to enter projects, if they are ranked relatively low in vulnerability.

- **2.2 Evaluate Vulnerability Prioritization**

The Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention puts out quarterly and annual HMIS reports to look at system utilization, and the demographics of those entering and exiting projects. This helps guide conversations with providers, as we understand and assess the effectiveness of our HCRS.

❖ **2.5 Utilize Best Youth & Young Adult Specific Strategies**

For youth and young adults, homelessness can look different than for other populations. This means utilizing the broader McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness for this population. It includes individuals "doubled up", and "couch surfing", who would otherwise not be considered homeless.

Community Youth Services manages Coordinated Entry for youth and young adults, utilizing a specific VI and questions for that population. They also maintain Rosie's Place, an emergency overnight shelter, that is low barrier once program eligibility is determined. It is available to all youth and young adults, and there are child specific options as well for housing in the community.

CYS and all funded outreach organizations are mandatory reporters.

Effective & Efficient System

Currently, the Thurston County HCRS is operating during a public health emergency. Emergency mitigation activities and emergency shelter programs are the priority need when so many individuals are unsheltered and living on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation.

Coordination among providers and OHHP is high, with meetings on coordinated entry, cold and hazardous weather, regional jurisdiction coordination via the RHC tech team and Housing Action Teams.

❖ **3.3 Standardize Terminology**

Part of the effort of the Homeless Crisis Response Plan was in gathering a shared language and implementing its adoption with the policy. Work has also been done in 2020 through the Regional Housing Council, and the Standard Definitions group, that reiterated the language and definitions in the HCRP, as well as built upon it.

❖ **3.5 Establish Data Work Group**

The Data Work Group currently meets monthly, to discuss reports and notable trends in housing projects. This includes both the quarterly and annual HMIS housing data reports published out of the Office of Housing and Homelessness Prevention (OHHP).

❖ **3.7 Develop Coordination among Funders**

There is currently a funders workgroup through the Regional Housing Council that meets regularly to discuss fund sources, RFPs, grant opportunities, leverage opportunities, and overall strategies to bring more funds into the community, and to effectively manage those that are already here.

❖ **3.8 Continue to advocate for legislation to increase and diversify funding for the HCRS**

OHHP participates as available in ongoing Associated County Human Services (ACHS) meetings and continues to solicit policy recommendations from the provider and service community.

❖ **3.10 Identify Funding for Outreach Programs**

The funding workgroup, along with each jurisdiction tracks available funding opportunities, and discusses how to best leverage what is requested, and needed to qualify.

❖ **3.18 Maintain and Expand HWTF: Hazard Weather Response Plan (HWRP)**

The HWRP contracts were moved to an annual basis, which allows for Hazardous weather response and planning to occur year-round. This is a shift which previously marked cold weather season as November through April each year.

With a lack of shelter availability, Thurston County pivoted to a more comprehensive shelter in place model, which increased cold and hazardous weather spending on folks living unsheltered in encampments.

❖ **3.21 Preserve Existing and Develop New Emergency Shelter**

The Regional Housing Council and the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners continued to fund the major shelter projects in and around Olympia. These include: Family Support Center's Pear Blossom Place family shelter, Interfaith Works First Christian and FUMCO/2828 Martin Way single adult shelters, and Community Youth Services Rosie's Place youth and young adult shelter.

Funding has gone to non-congregate sheltering in hotels, as well as hygiene support and formal scattered site management for certain encampments. This model encourages self-governance.

❖ **3.22 Develop 24/7 Emergency Shelter Strategies**

Funding is focused on supporting the existing shelter providers, and in response to COVID-19, a direct expanse in non-congregate sheltering in hotels and motels. There was also the expansion of existing overnight shelters to move to 24/7, as places to congregate closed with the pandemic.

Places to access hygiene are available around the various encampments and in downtown Olympia. The ability to wash one's hands is critical to responding and preparing for the pandemic.

❖ **3.23 Increase Rapid Re-Housing placements**

There was an increase in funding for RRH placements for all populations. An issue is existing rentals and a shortage of availability. Wait times for housing are long. The ownership process is

also intensive, and expensive in the current market – and often inaccessible for first time buyers.

- **3.29 Implement HB 1406 Affordable Housing**

The Regional Housing Council is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Thurston County, Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater, to make recommendations on local, state, and federal funding allocations. There is a widespread commitment to increase affordable housing regionally.

- **3.31 Enact and Implement Tenant Protections**

The Housing Action Team subgroups, in the Affordable Housing Team, and the Rental Housing Workgroup have done work on tenant protections. Each jurisdiction has differing protections in place and are working towards greater coordination.

Address Racial Disparities

Thurston County OHHP is committed to examining the structural and implicit biases present in the HCRP, and the potential impacts on BIPOC folks – Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Continual examination of policy, and the roots of that policy will help address inequity in system response. A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion consultant is being hired to help lead and guide regional equity work in housing and homelessness.

- **5.1 Track Racial Equity in Service Delivery**

The data workgroup along with the TRPC, and the WA State Department of Commerce, all provide different windows into racial equity data. It is a persistent trend that BIPOC folks are overrepresented in the Homeless Crisis Response System. Numbers into Permanent Housing projects are easily skewed, as so few folks enter and exit these projects every year.

- **5.2 Analyze HMIS program entry and housing exit data**

Demographics are a part of every HMIS report, to help highlight discrepancies in program utilization and access across groups as self-identified.

- **5.4 Promote Racial Equity Work Plan**

Thurston County joined the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), and has hired a countywide Diversity manager, to look at and work toward decolonizing county policies and procedures.

PIT 2021: Data Overview

To understand the current state of homelessness in our community, we look to two main sources of data. Our annual Point in Time (PIT) count, and our HMIS data – these help us to identify how many individuals are living unsheltered (in encampments, RV's, vehicles, etc.) and those living in temporary shelter.

The PIT count is a best attempt at getting to a real number but has many factors that may make the data unreliable and limited in scope. See Appendix A, for the 2020 and 2021 PIT data reports.

- In 2021 there was an increase in total count of 150 people from the previous year: 100 living unsheltered, 40 sheltered, and 10 in Transitional Housing. In 2020, total PIT count was 995, in 2021, 1145 (for 2021 the final count is waiting on confirmation from the Department of Commerce).
- The highest concentration of those living unsheltered are in Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, and Yelm.
- The majority of those counted in the 2021 PIT identified originating from Thurston or neighboring counties, which speaks to the regional issues at play in the cycle of homelessness. This need drives action in the HCRP, and highlights the real impact of the strategies included in this report.

There is room for progress, and as we have yet to see the full impacts of COVID-19, there is the potential for this population to increase significantly as rental, and other protections sunset.

HMIS Q1 2021 and Q2 2021

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is the national data hub for households experiencing homelessness who have entered the homeless crisis response system through program participation.

The Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention releases quarterly, and annual data reports which reflect system utilization, and the demographics of those entering and exiting the system. This data can give real-time information on the health of the system, and where gaps may exist. The accuracy depends largely on data quality and data timeliness, both factors that require quarterly monitoring, review, and agency technical assistance

Over the course of the 2020-2021 there were declines in both system and program enrollment and exits into housing projects (Emergency Shelter, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent and Permanent Supportive Housing, and Transitional Housing). For example.

- In 1st quarter 2020 we had over 600 households that entered a housing project, and just 179 in the 2nd quarter of 2021.
- The largest decrease we see is in single adults 25 and older.
- Between Q1 and Q2 2020 we see a significant, and perpetuating decline in those utilizing Coordinated Entry, (which is the gateway to accessing services).
- For those exiting projects, the percentage moving into permanent or permanent supportive housing has remained at around 40%.
- Around 20% of individuals exiting a housing project return to homelessness.

See Appendix B for our 2020-Q4, 2021-Q2, and 2021-Q3 reports.

Plans in the works & Next Steps

In the first few months of 2021, the HCRP work group met for three 90-minute sessions to evaluate progress and make plans for the oncoming year. Overall, the work group was surprised to find that although the pandemic interrupted initial implementation of HCRP strategies, many of the strategies were on track or nearer to completion than expected. After making adjustments, strategies were identified to either be initiated or continued in 2021. Those strategies are listed below.

However, it is important to frame the HCRP's future response during three ongoing emergencies: COVID-19 pandemic, homelessness, and continued institutional, structural, and direct racism. There are certainly many unknowns for how to continue responding to these public health crises, with the goal of ending homelessness. Impacting the progress of homeless response are various competing political pressures, and public perceptions, or opinions of homeless response. The public is as exhausted and burnt out as many homeless service providers.

Looking forward, the Thurston County HCRP will remain as nimble, creative, and adaptive as possible. Dynamic response that is effective requires it. In 2021, Thurston County joined a Built for Zero cohort with Community Solutions. Thurston county is also considering applying to become an Anchor community with A Way Home Washington in 2022. It is hopeful with dedicated technical assistance, increasing data quality, and a DEI Consultant guiding racial equity efforts, the HCRP will continue to make strides.

2021 Strategies

- 1.1 Ensure compliance with CE Data collection requirements
  - Develop and plan trainings in collaboration with the Department of Commerce for partners entering data into HMIS specific projects
  - Ongoing Evaluation through quarterly HMIS reports provided by PHSS and distributed through the Data Work Group
- 1.2 Maintain active lists of individuals experiencing homelessness for all sub-populations
  - Engage all agencies within the HCRS to encourage them to refer all individuals experiencing homelessness to CE intake
  - Ensure all CE agencies are working in tandem to ensure by-name lists per sub-populations are not duplicative
  - Track status, engagement and enrollment of all households into housing projects.
  - Increase outreach agency coordination with HMIS data entry
- 1.3 Strengthen Outreach Best Practices
  - There is ongoing coordination in among outreach providers with the Greater Regional Outreach Workers League (GROWL). It is often that folks from different organizations will do outreach together to stack services, and community build.

- 1.4 Increase Outreach to Emergency Services
  - Include services in all resource guides for outreach activities
- 1.5 Identify or Develop Best Practices for outreach to households living in vehicles or RVs.
  - Develop regional and local best promising practices for engaging with households living in vehicles or RVs. Implement as able.
- 1.6 Identify and Develop racial equity in outreach best practices
  - Identify Community Partners Partner with traditional and non-traditional sites frequented by communities of color (beauty/barber shops, ethnic grocery stores; restaurants, other businesses, Tribal partners, Faith-based communities and other resources)
  - Reexamine current practices Evaluate current best practices for outreach activities through a racial equity lens
  - Identify technical assistance for a language bank to lower barriers for agencies to have materials translated
- 1.7 Continue to increase family outreach
  - School Partnerships Continue to identify and strengthen relationships with McKenny-Vento homeless liaisons for all school districts county-wide
  - School Counselor Partnerships Continue to partner with school counselors in school districts county-wide
  - Increase regional outreach to reach families in more rural jurisdictions
- 1.8 Increase Youth & young adult outreach
  - Juvenile justice partnerships Continue to strengthen partnerships with Juvenile Justice System
  - Law Enforcement partnerships Partner with regional law enforcement
  - Parks & Rec partnerships Partner with government funded parks & rec programs
  - Other partnerships Partner with Lacey Family & Youth Resource Center
  - Youth organization partnerships continue to partner with youth organizations: CYS, Together!, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Libraries
- 1.9 Increase Single adult outreach
  - Day Center Outreach Continue providing and increase outreach to Community Care Center
- 1.10 Increase Veterans Outreach
  - Identify veterans outreach lead
  - Increase veterans outreach Increase outreach efforts to identify and refer unsheltered veterans to the Veteran's Hub for Coordinated Entry and program service referral Partner with VFW, 22TooMany, and other veterans' organizations

- 1.11 Develop Older Adult/Senior Outreach Strategies
  - Best practices Research existing best practices for engaging with unsheltered older adults/seniors in all service and day facilities as well as in unmanaged and managed encampments
  - Service linkages Identify appropriate service linkages for seniors experiencing homelessness

- 1.13 Increase Hospital/treatment center outreach
  - Convene stakeholder meeting with key stakeholders on an annual basis
- 1.14 Increase Jail outreach
  - Jail Networks Develop relationships with regional jails
- 1.15 Increase outreach to students in higher education
  - College Partnerships Develop partnerships with college counseling, student, and specialized coordinators of programs that might interact with homeless students
  - Resource Guides Provide information via written materials or info session with local colleges about the HCRS and Coordinated Entry
- 1.16 Develop coordination with law enforcement
  - Referral Materials Develop up to date referral materials for LEA to distribute to people experiencing homelessness
  - Explore and develop innovative outreach and referral partnerships with service providers, mental health outreach providers, Coordinated Entry
- 1.17 Increase Consistent Outreach to neighborhood organizations
  - Resource Guides Develop neighborhood-oriented resource guides

- 2.1 Improve Annual evaluation of the Coordinated Entry System (CES)
  - Evaluate provider bias Evaluate CES continuously for possible implicit provider bias as demonstrated through quarterly data analysis of positive program enrollments and exits for overrepresented populations
  - Evaluate Prioritization Improvements Follow up with research being done with the REC on equitable prioritization tools
  - Evaluate Data Quality Evaluate CES for data quality
  - Training Offer trainings on Implicit Bias on-going for CES staff and volunteers (See strategy 5.F.)
  - Evaluate Outreach Evaluate CES for increased number of contacts and increased assessments and enrollments into the CES
  - Share summary of the annual evaluation with stakeholders
  - Evaluate Training Evaluate CES regarding training and community engagement
- 2.2 Evaluate vulnerability prioritization
  - Quarterly HMIS Data Review Evaluate HMIS system data on quarterly basis to evaluate enrollments and exits into HCRS by demographic categories
  - Develop improved prioritization strategies and tools
- 2.4 Vulnerability based housing placements
  - Develop a unified definition of “highest need”
  - VI Team Triage maintain multi-disciplinary Dynamic Prioritization Vulnerability Team for all sub populations.
  - Commence educational trainings for the HCRS partners within and outside of the CES to ensure clear understanding of the definition of “highest need”
- 2.5 Utilize Best YYA specific strategies
  - Utilize McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness* clarify

- Maintain a ‘single point of entry’ for YYA coordinated entry, YYA specific outreach and 24/7 low-barrier YYA shelter
- Consider overrepresented YYA populations in prioritization practices LGBTQ, Youth of Color, Youth exiting institutions and systems of care

- 3.33 Address Housing Quality Standards
  - Explore models for Code Enforcement of rental conditions. Link to Tenant Protections
  - Identify funding for Housing Rehabilitation
  - Identify agency to take the lead in implementing Housing Quality activities
- 3.34 Develop Workforce development strategies
  - Align with existing workforce development programs and agencies: PacMtn, Supported Employment partners, WorkSource and others
- 3.35 Increase Implementation and Utilization of Peer Workers in the HCRS Service Delivery
  - Identify programs with capacity and interest in implementing Peer-based staffing model

- 5.6 Racial Equity - Seek Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Contractor for HCRS
  - Identify trainers and experienced professionals (recognized community based racial equity trainers) to provide trainings
  - Training calendar Create an ongoing training calendar for relevant HCRS staff
  - Seek training resources Develop or research trainings to implement quarterly by 2021

2020

Point in Time Census Data Report

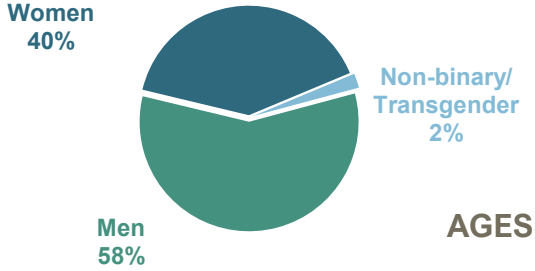
OFFICE OF HOUSING & HOMELESS PREVENTION
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

541 Unsheltered | **295 Sheltered** | **159 Transitional** | **995 PIT Total**

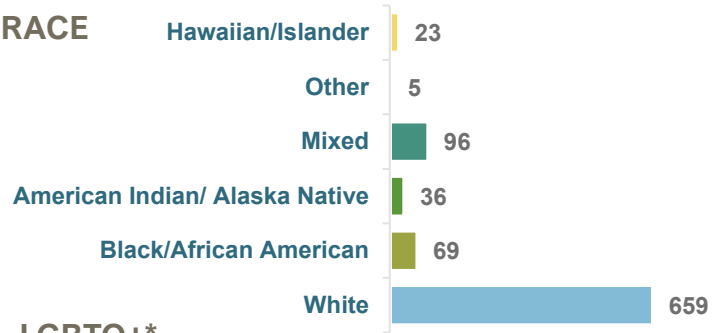
Once each year, the Point in Time Census counts how many people are experiencing homelessness in counties nationwide. On January 23rd, Thurston County volunteers surveyed households who were unsheltered (541 people), temporarily staying with friends/family, or who had stayed in a hospital or jail the night before.

Who did we survey?

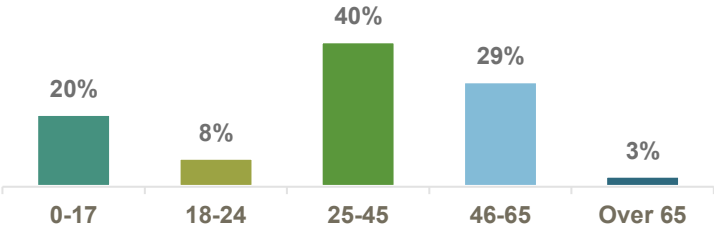
GENDER



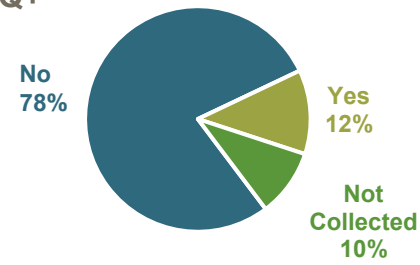
RACE



AGES



LGBTQ+*



*674 persons surveyed

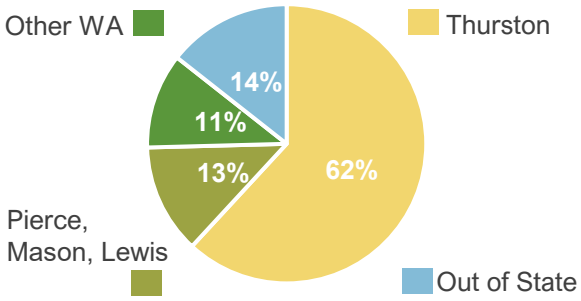
Where do people sleep at night?

What else did we learn about our neighbors experiencing homelessness?

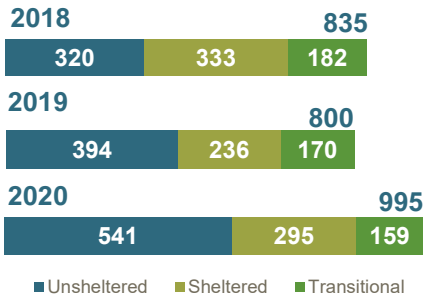
Causes of Homelessness

1. Eviction/ Loss of Home
2. Job Loss/ Unemployment
3. Family Rejection
4. Substance Dependency
5. Physical Disability

Last Permanent Address



PIT Over the Years



Contact Information
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*This data is complete. The Department of Commerce will release its final numbers and report in October 2020.

Report & Data by
Arielle Benson
Homeless Program Specialist
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2020

Point in Time Census Data Report

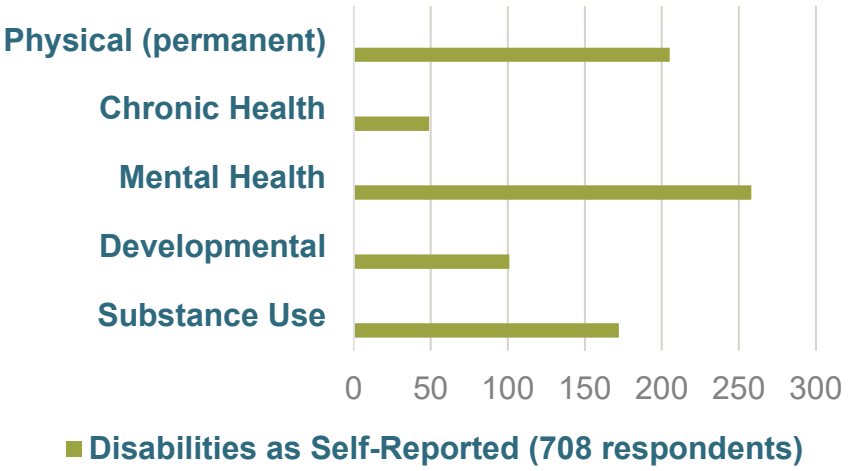
OFFICE OF HOUSING & HOMELESS PREVENTION
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Veterans
6%

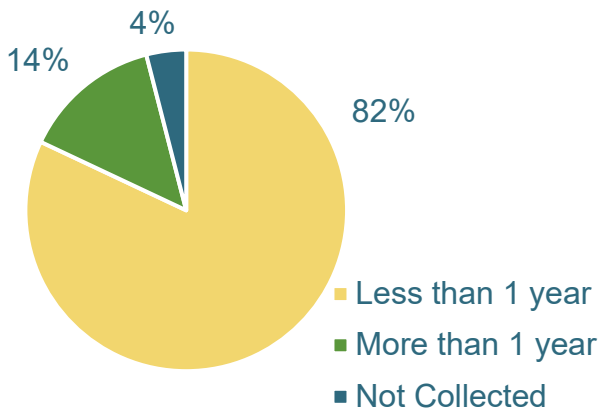
Households with children
31%

Domestic Violence
6%

Disabilities



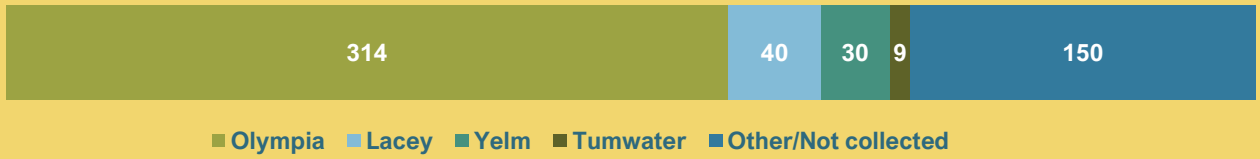
Length of Time Currently Homeless



How accurate are these data in describing homelessness?
While the PIT is an effort to count people experiencing homelessness, it is by no means perfect. Many individuals declined to participate for various reasons, and while there is excellent volunteer and community engagement, more support would continue to allow for a more accurate count. However, PIT does provide a snap-shot of who is homeless in our region and why.

How can PIT data like this help us build solutions in our community?
Used in combination with supplemental data, like the number of school children experiencing homelessness counted by OSPI, data from jails & hospitals, and the number of people using services in our county, this data can be one part of a bigger picture. This picture helps us build programs and funding that are best able to help our most vulnerable neighbors.

How many people are experiencing unsheltered homelessness in each city?



Contact Information
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Report & Data by
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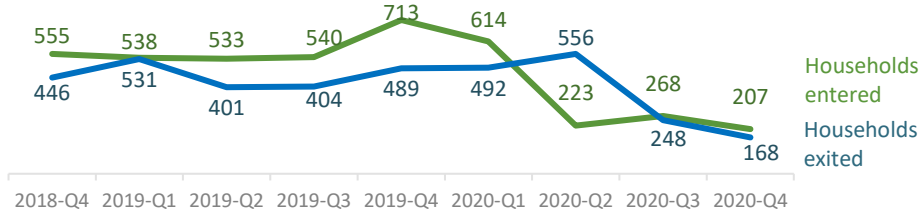
HMIS HOUSING PROJECTS DATA REPORT

Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention
Thurston County, Washington

2020-Q4
October-December

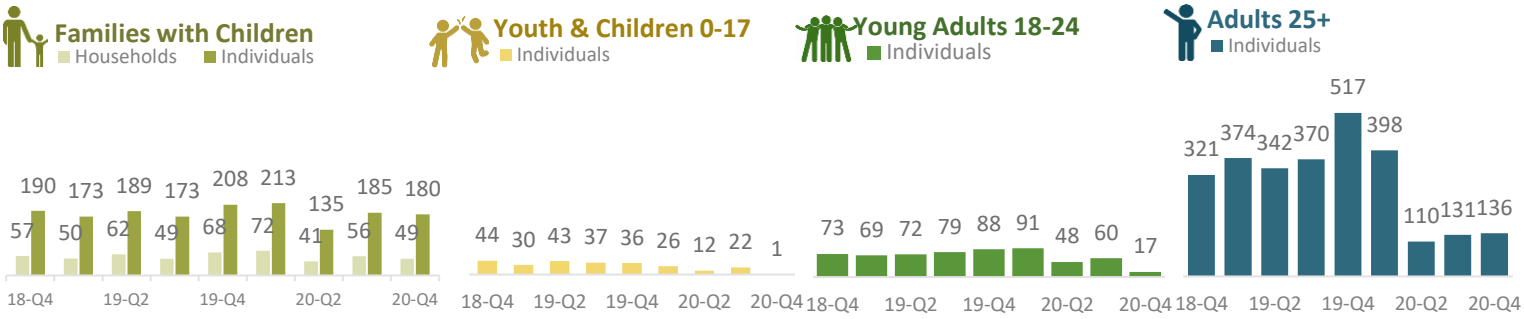
System Inflow & Outflow

Households that **entered** or **exited** an emergency shelter, homeless prevention, permanent housing*, rapid rehousing, or transitional housing project, as reported in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

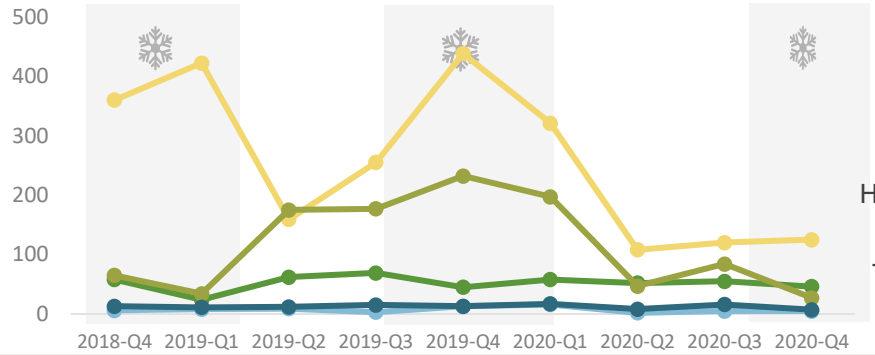


		2018	2019
84%	of Enrollments were households enrolling for the first time YTD	65%	66%
172 DAYS	Average Length of Stay in Project YTD	123	122
29%	of Households exited to Permanent Housing YTD	44%	27%

Enrollments by type of household

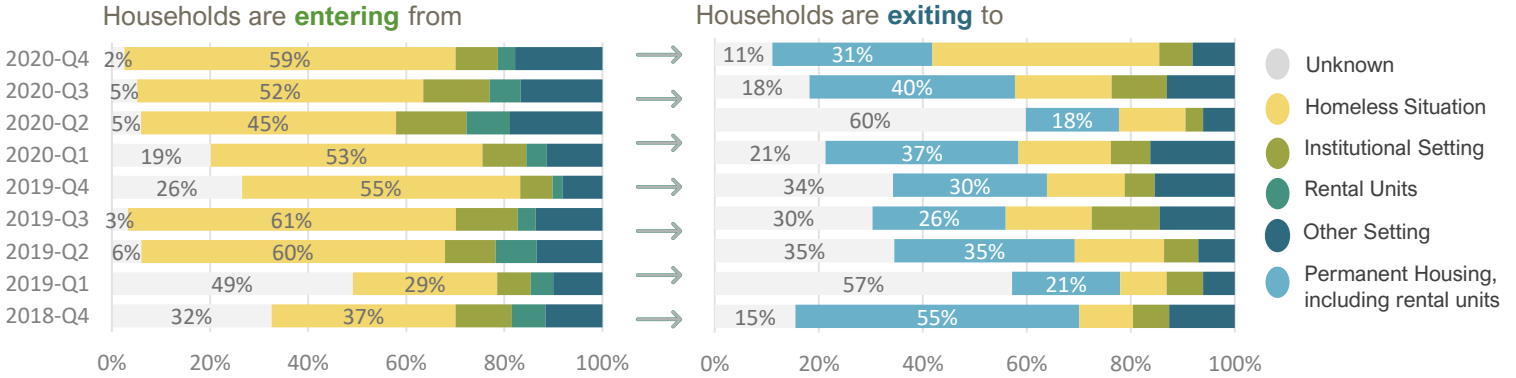


Enrollments by type of project



	# of Enrollments YTD	% of Enrollments YTD
Emergency Shelter	674	51%
Rapid Rehousing	355	27%
Homeless Prevention	211	16%
Permanent Housing	28	2%
Transitional Housing	48	4%

Previous Living Situations & Exit Destinations



* Permanent Housing includes all permanent housing and permanent supportive housing.

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WASHINGTON
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HMIS HOUSING PROJECTS DATA REPORT

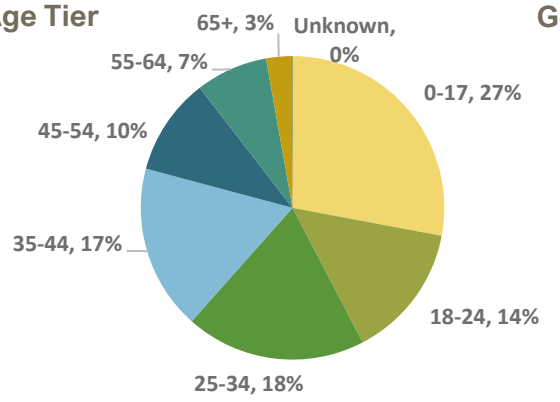
Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention
Thurston County, Washington

2020-Q4
October-December

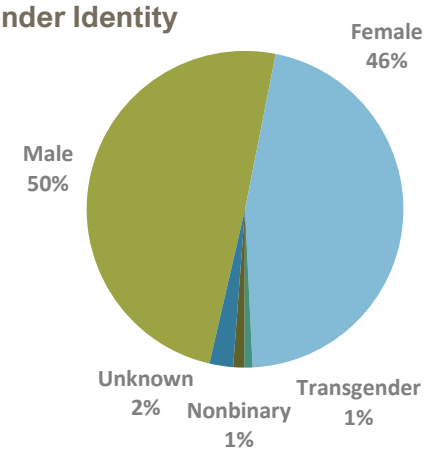
CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

All demographic information is a year-to-date percentage of distinct individuals who have enrolled in a housing project in 2020, as reported in HMIS.

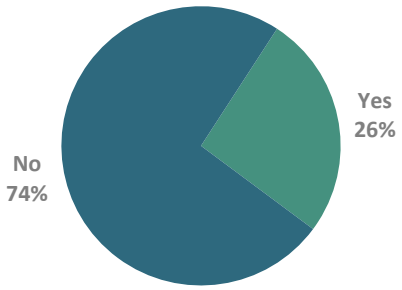
Age Tier



Gender Identity



Chronically Homeless at Project Entry



The Federal definition of "chronic homelessness" is someone who has experienced homelessness for at least a year – either 12 months or more in a row, or several shorter experiences of homelessness that add up to a year – while struggling With a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability.

4% VETERANS

9% FLEEING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

31% REPORT ANY INCOME**

- $782 / Month Average Income
- 22% Earned Income
- 21% SSI
- 20% TANF

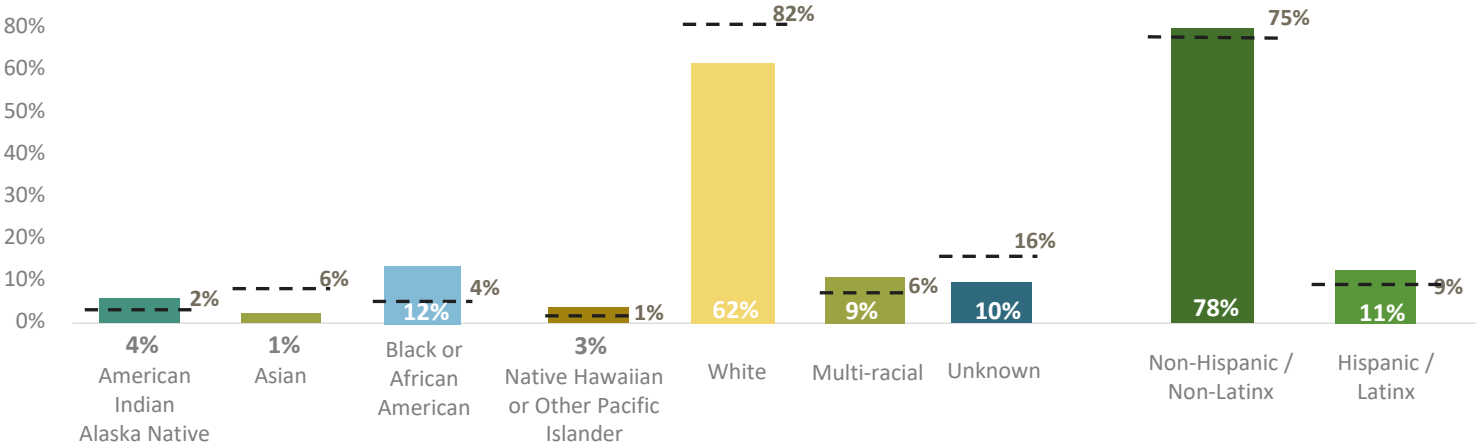
*** Adults over age 18*

32% REPORT A DISABILITY

- 24% Mental Health
- 21% Substance Use
- 12% Chronic Health
- 6% Developmental Disability
- 11% Physical Disability

Percentage of all new clients enrolled during the year.

Race & Ethnicity*



*Dashed lines represent Thurston County Census Data. The bar graph are the race/ethnicity of those entering programs. If the bar extends above the line, that population is over-represented in the HCRS.

Contact Information
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The Housing Projects Data Report uses HMIS data accessed through Looker queries. The report has been created by:

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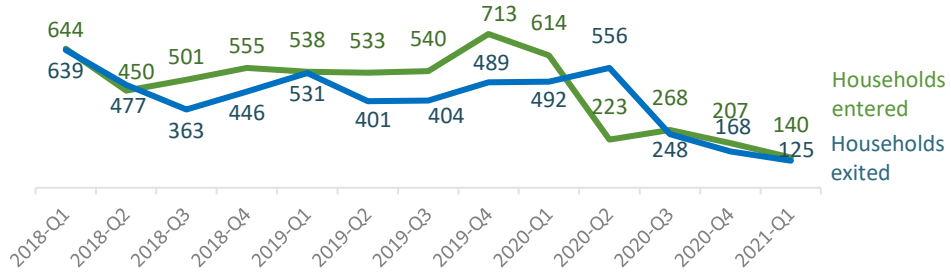
HMIS HOUSING PROJECTS DATA REPORT

Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention
Thurston County, Washington

2021-Q1
January-March

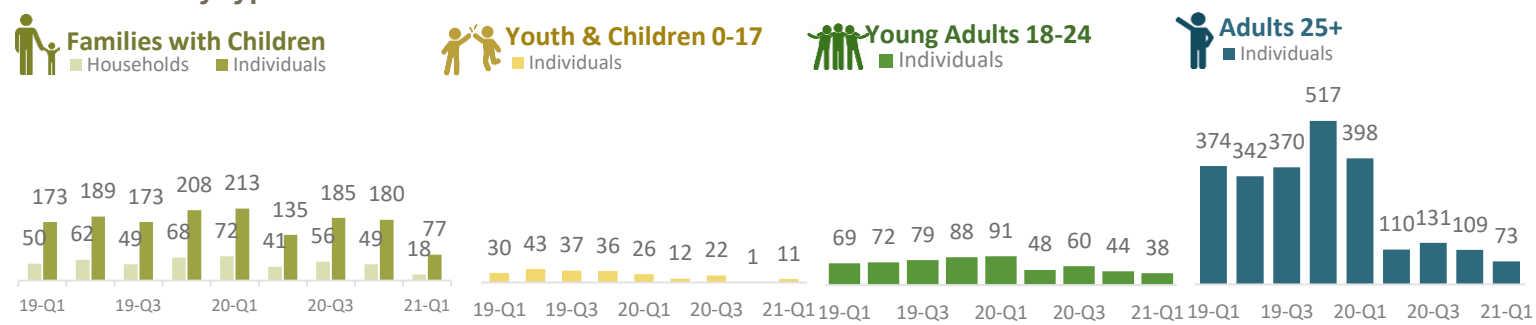
System Inflow & Outflow

Households that **entered** or **exited** an emergency shelter, permanent housing*, rapid rehousing, or transitional housing project, as reported in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

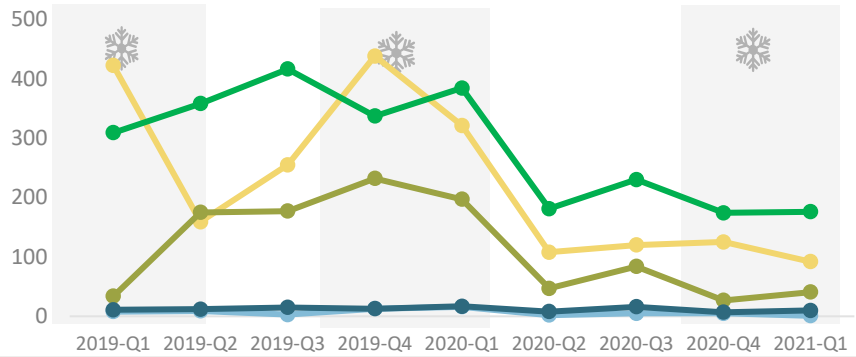


		2019	2020
98%	of Enrollments were households enrolling for the first time YTD	66%	84%
186 DAYS	Average Length of Stay in Project YTD	122	172
41%	of Households exited to Permanent Housing* YTD	27%	29%

Enrollments by type of household



Enrollments by type of project

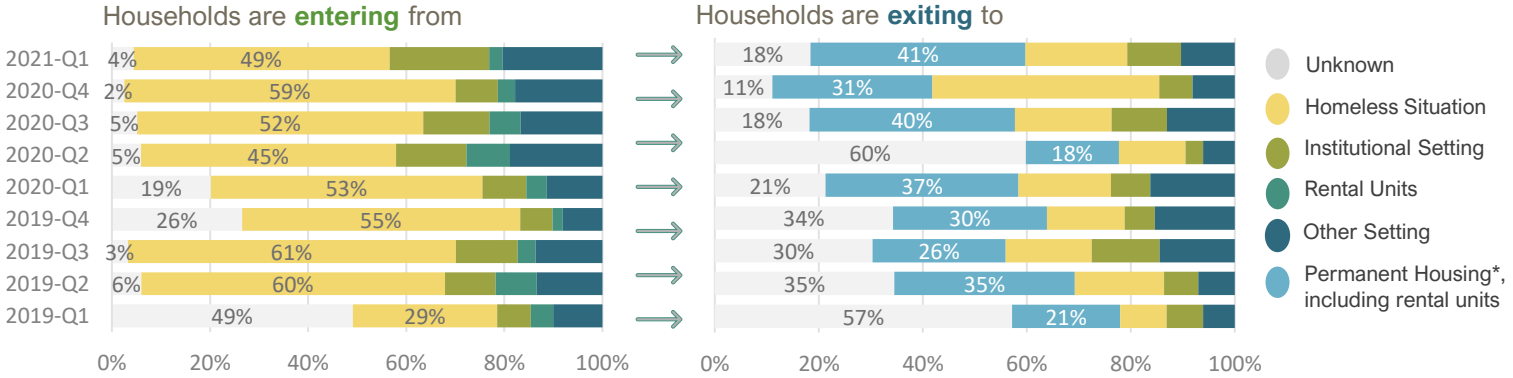


of Enrollments YTD

Emergency Shelter	92
Rapid Rehousing	41
Permanent Housing*	1
Transitional Housing	10
Coordinated Entry** Only	176

**This number reflects new enrollments in Coordinated Entry, and not enrollment in a shelter or housing project. Coordinated Entry assesses household vulnerability, and placement on the master list to await program availability.

Previous Living Situations & Exit Destinations



* Permanent Housing enrollment includes all permanent housing and permanent supportive housing projects that participate in HMIS. Exits to PH include these formal projects, as well as friends and family, and any other permanent living situation.

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HMIS HOUSING PROJECTS DATA REPORT

Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention
Thurston County, Washington

2021-Q1
January-March

12% VETERANS

19% FLEEING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

42% REPORT ANY INCOME**

$712 / Month Average Income

20% Earned Income

18% SSI 9% TANF

** Adults over age 18

59% REPORT DISABILITY

42% Substance Use 48% Mental Health

31% Chronic Health

11% Developmental Disability

22% Physical Disability

Emergency Rental Assistance Spotlight

This represents payments made under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program*.

August, 2020 - March, 2021

1,246: Number of Households that have received assistance

3,297: Number of months of rent paid

$3,762,329.53: Total Rent paid

*This does not include additional funding from local jurisdictions or the Treasury Rental Assistance Program.

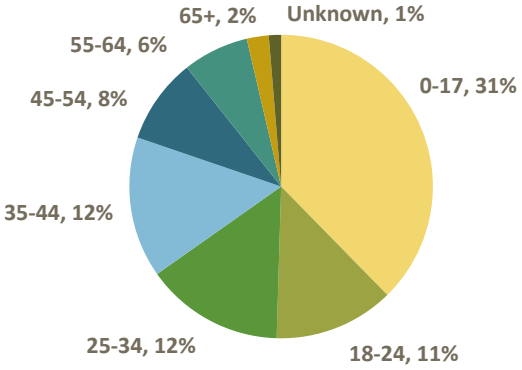
CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

All demographic information is a year-to-date percentage of distinct individuals who have enrolled in a housing project in 2021, as reported in HMIS.

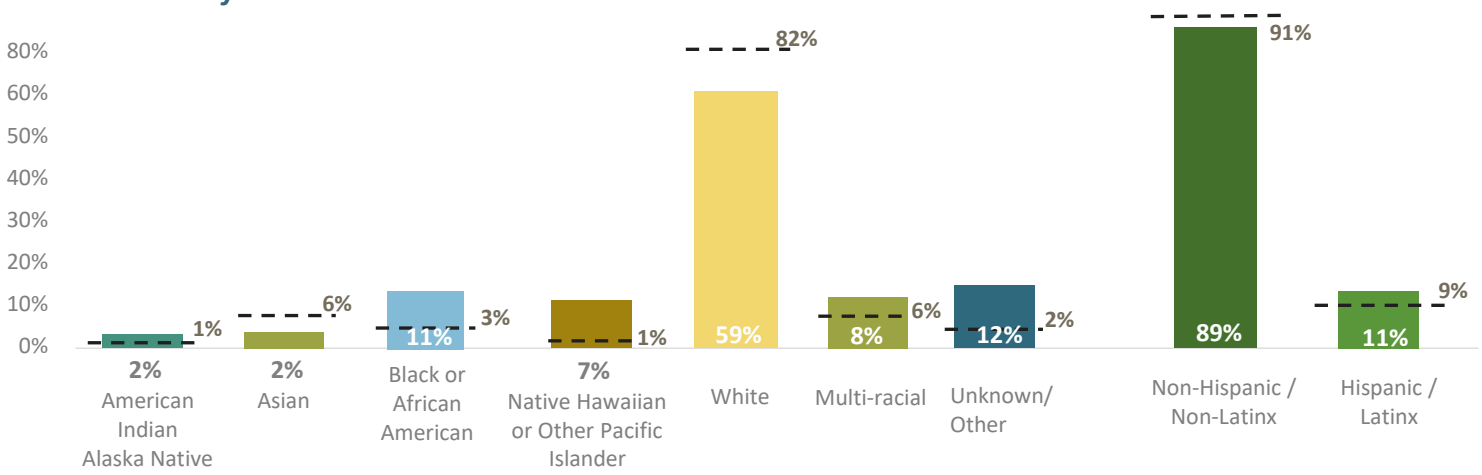
Chronically Homeless at Project Entry

The Federal definition of "chronic homelessness" is someone who has experienced homelessness for at least a year – either 12 months or more in a row, or several shorter experiences of homelessness that add up to a year – while struggling With a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability.

Age Tier



Race & Ethnicity*



*The bar graph is the aggregate data on race/ethnicity of those entering programs in HMIS. The dashed lines above represent Thurston County Census Data for each population.

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THURSTON COUNTY WASHINGTON SINCE 1852

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HMIS HOUSING PROJECTS DATA REPORT

Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention
Thurston County, Washington

2021-Q1
January-March

Highlights

- COVID-19 continues to impact emergency shelter capacity and permanent housing placements. Enrollment in both project types remain lower than previous years.
- Lack of available permanent housing units and reduced shelter capacity has increased the average length of stay for participants across all project types (shelter, permanent housing, transitional housing and rapid re-housing), from 122 days in 2019 to nearly 190 currently.
- Since early 2020, there has been a steady increase in specific populations entering the system seeking shelter and housing, including: people fleeing domestic violence, veterans, households with disabilities, and youth and young adults.

The data included below represents only the projects from each of these agencies that enter data into HMIS. It does not represent the sum of their program activities during this time period.

Agency Name	# of Program Entries (clients)	# of Program Exits (clients)	Coordinated Entry (new clients)
Catholic Community Services	20	32	NA
Community Action Council	32	12	102
Community Youth Services	49	18	45
Family Support Center	21	119	88
Housing Authority Thurston County	14	9	NA
Interfaith Works	17	16	NA
Northwest Resources II Inc – Rapid Rehousing	6	1	NA
PANZA – Quixote Village	1	1	NA
SafePlace	62	58	NA

Contact Information

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WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

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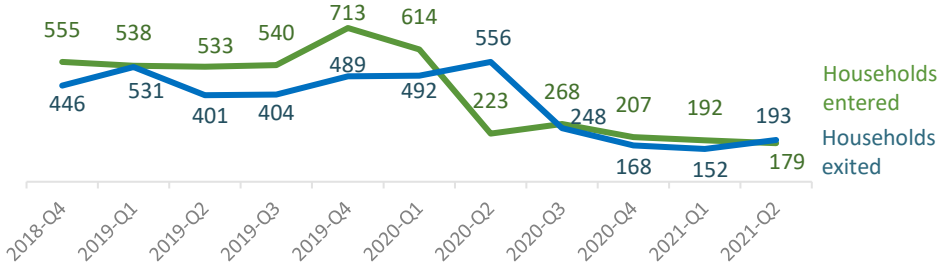
HMIS HOUSING PROJECTS DATA REPORT

Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention
Thurston County, Washington

2021-Q2
April-June

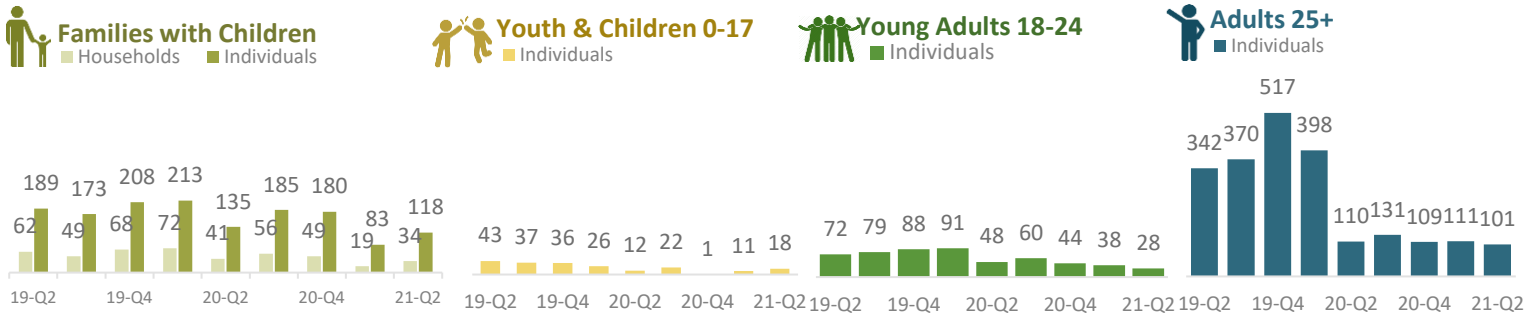
System Inflow & Outflow

Households that **entered** or **exited** an emergency shelter, permanent housing*, rapid rehousing, or transitional housing project, as reported in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

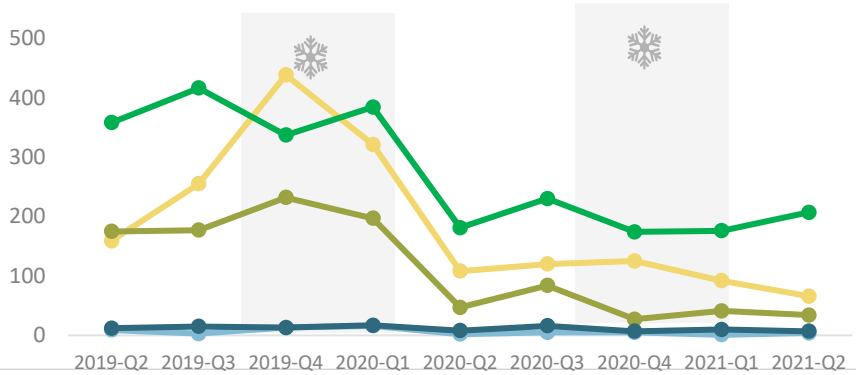


		2019	2020
85%	of Enrollments were households enrolling for the first time YTD	66%	84%
240 DAYS	Average Length of Stay in Project YTD	122	172
40%	of Households exited to Permanent Housing* YTD	27%	29%

Enrollments by type of household



Enrollments by type of project

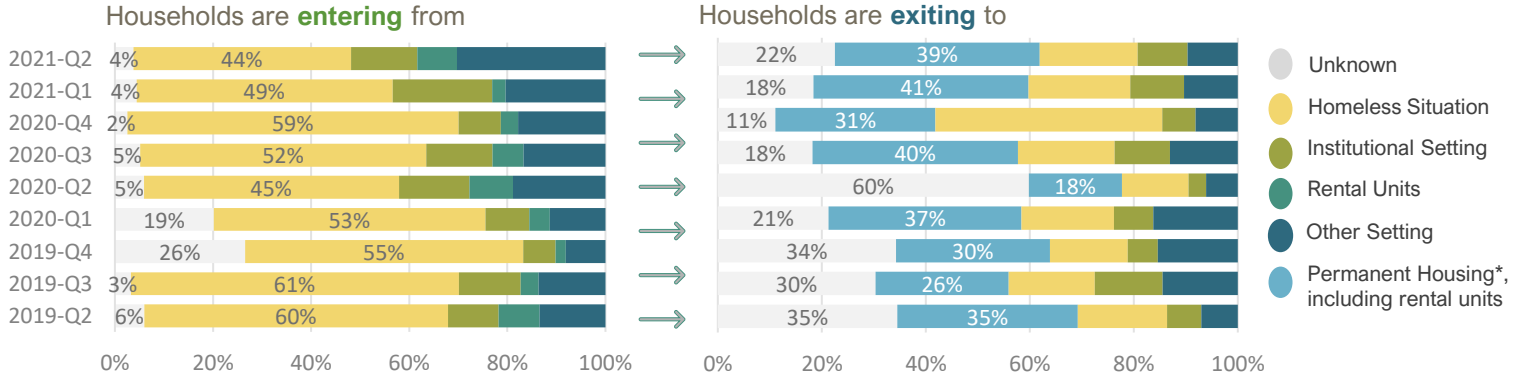


of Enrollments YTD

Emergency Shelter	158
Rapid Rehousing	75
Permanent Housing*	5
Transitional Housing	17
Coordinated Entry** Only	383

**This number reflects new enrollments in Coordinated Entry, and not enrollment in a shelter or housing project. Coordinated Entry assesses household vulnerability, and placement on the master list to await program availability.

Previous Living Situations & Exit Destinations



* Permanent Housing enrollment includes all permanent housing and permanent supportive housing projects that participate in HMIS. Exits to PH include these formal projects, as well as friends and family, and any other permanent living situation.

THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

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HMIS HOUSING PROJECTS DATA REPORT

Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention
Thurston County, Washington

2021-Q2
April-June

6% VETERANS

14% FLEEING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

43% REPORT ANY INCOME**

$765 / Month Average Income

18% Earned Income 21% SSDI

20% SSI 8% TANF

** Adults over age 18

53% REPORT DISABILITY

30% Substance Use 37% Mental Health

41% Chronic Health

18% Developmental Disability

40% Physical Disability

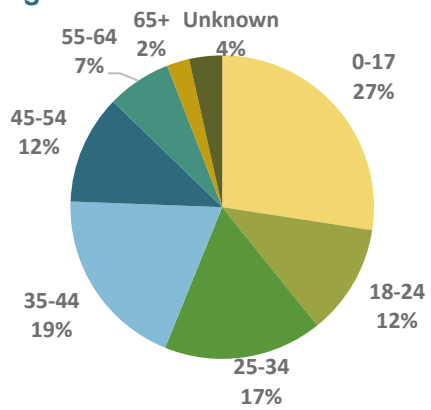
CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

All demographic information is a year-to-date percentage of distinct individuals who have enrolled in a housing project in 2021, as reported in HMIS.

Chronically Homeless at Project Entry

The Federal definition of "chronic homelessness" is someone who has experienced homelessness for at least a year – either 12 months or more in a row, or several shorter experiences of homelessness that add up to a year – while struggling with a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability.

Age Tier



Street Outreach

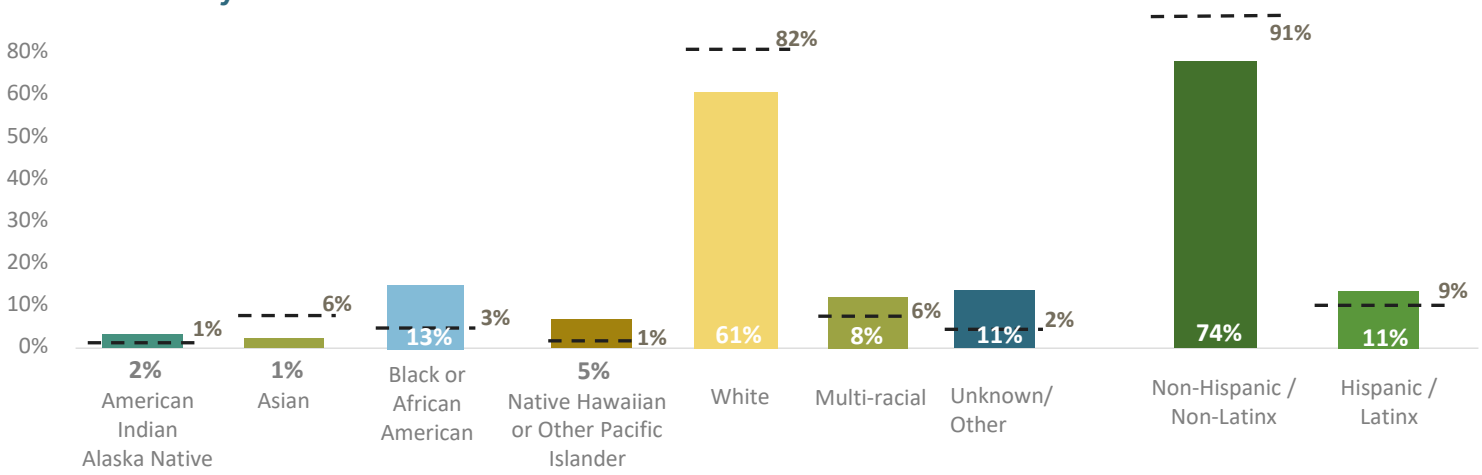
Outreach in Thurston County has many partners, not all of whom enter data into HMIS – as they do not receive state or federal funding.

Organizations engage in street outreach throughout Thurston County with those living unsheltered, in managed sites, vehicles and RVs, and those in encampments. This includes shelter in place activities with the provision of needed survival supplies such as: camping gear, water, sewing kits, clothing, food, first aid, and much more. Outreach also includes connection to vital resources and programs.

In 2021 outreach agencies that enter data into HMIS engaged with 716 individuals.

This does not represent the total number of contacts made by outreach organizations – only those reported.

Race & Ethnicity*



*The bar graph is the aggregate data on race/ethnicity of those entering programs in HMIS. The dashed lines above represent Thurston County Census Data for each population.

Contact Information

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THURSTON COUNTY WASHINGTON SINCE 1852

The Housing Projects Data Report uses HMIS data accessed through Looker queries. The report has been created by:

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HMIS HOUSING PROJECTS DATA REPORT

Office of Housing & Homeless Prevention
Thurston County, Washington

2021-Q2
April-June

Data Highlights

- There continues to be a steady and lowered trend in entry and exit from programs. There was a significant drop from Q4 2019 to Q2 2020 that persists. The largest population drop is seen in single adults.
- Length of stay in projects (time from program enrollment to exit), has continued to rise with a 120-day average increase from 2019.
- The proportion of individuals with any disability has been steadily increasing, with a new high of 53% in Q2 2021.

The data included below represents only the projects from each of these agencies that enter data into HMIS. It does not represent the sum of their program activities during this time period.

Agency Name	# of Program Entries (clients)	# of Program Exits (clients)	Coordinated Entry (new clients)
Catholic Community Services	14	19	NA
Community Action Council	30	17	131
Community Youth Services	36	45	52
Family Support Center	40	227	69
Housing Authority Thurston County	14	3	NA
Interfaith Works	10	17	NA
Northwest Resources II Inc – Rapid Rehousing	8	9	NA
PANZA – Quixote Village	1	1	NA
SafePlace	76	41	NA

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Overview of Proposed Regional Memorandum of Understanding for ARPA-Supported Affordable Housing Projects

Purpose: To formalize commitments of RHC jurisdictions to allocate a portion of American Rescue Plan Act Local Recovery Funds to carry out the RHC Permanent Supportive Housing Strategic Framework and other affordable housing activities, and to describe the intended approach for management and oversight of such funds.

Proposed Key Elements:

1) Reiterate commitment of jurisdictions to work to address affordable housing and homelessness as a region.
2) State the amount of ARPA funds that each jurisdiction intends to commit to affordable housing projects under this MOU.
3) List (without stating specific names or addresses of properties) the intended projects for the use of the funds and the jurisdictions supporting each effort
    a. Lacey and County – to support acquisition and conversion of a hotel to be used for PSH and non-congregate shelter
    b. Olympia and County – to support acquisition of land for short term RV parking and long-term PSH.
    c. Tumwater and County – to support acquisition and converstion of a hotel to be used for PSH
    d. Other projects or activities, TBD
4) State that each jurisdiction will retain administrative and financial control over its own ARPA funds
5) For each project, one jurisdiction will be identified as the lead and a separate ILA or MOU will be signed by the contributing jurisdictions regarding the specific roles, responsibilities, and financial contribution of each jurisdiction.
6) All projects funded under this MOU will be considered 'regional' projects that have the support of the RHC and the RHC will provide on-going support for each project, as needed.
7) Lead jurisdictions of each project agree to periodically update the full RHC on project status.
8) From each jurisdiction's ARPA commitment, and in allocation percentages outlined in RHC ILA, jurisdictions will provide funding to the County for 1.0 FTE through 2024 to support implementation of the PSH strategic framework and related regional affordable housing efforts.
9) MOU to expire 12/31/2024.