

5-Year Plan: New Strategies to be Implemented Starting in 2026

Strategy	Performance Measures
1.6 Assess whether increased coordination of Housing Prevention (HP) referrals is needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeless Prevention coordination assessment completed. Pathways for accessing prevention services for people exiting institutions identified and published.
2.3 Complete a county-wide inventory of affordable housing units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of, and periodic update to, affordable housing inventory.
2.6 Implementation of prioritization criteria for low-income housing or emergency shelter capital projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All low-income housing or emergency shelter capital projects will be prioritized based on the established policy.
2.7 Establishment of a framework to assess and guide the acquisition of existing properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a framework to assess and guide the acquisition of existing properties.
3.3 Rapid Rehousing*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 218 program slots will be available. At least 80% of exiting households will exit into permanent housing.
3.8 Build programs' capacity to serve currently underserved households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The disparity in the proportion of people who identify as Alaskan Native, American Indian or Indigenous in the homeless population and those receiving services will go down. Strengthen pathways for medically fragile adults to exit homelessness and receive adequate care. Fewer people in the Housing Pool will be ineligible for programs because of their criminal history.
3.9 Implement recommendations from PSH evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase onsite behavioral health providers at a minimum of one PSH facility. Improvement in retention or exits to permanent housing for PSH households.
5.4 Update Prioritization Policy and Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritization policies will transparently reflect community values and availability of services. A determination is made about whether it is feasible to invest in a technology system for Coordinated Entry.
5.5 Update Intake and Assessment Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The updated Coordinated Entry assessment tool will only collect the information needed to better measure vulnerability and make a referral. Other information collected will be limited.
6.2 Establish new trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 trainings will be offered each year. Increased knowledge among training attendees.
7.3 Consulting†	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCHCS will receive a final report with recommendations for implementation.
7.5 Point in Time Count + annual plan update report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A PIT infographic will be made available to the public by the end of the second quarter of the year. An annual report update on the Homeless Housing Plan will be made available to the public during the first quarter of each year.
7.6 Bi-annual presentation to Whatcom County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCHCS will provide presentations to Whatcom County Council each year in quarters one and three.

*Rapid Rehousing is not a new strategy, however, the strategy describes a new implementation approach where households are prioritized for the intervention based on vulnerability rather than household type.

† Consulting is not a new strategy, but a new consulting project would be considered for 2026.

See the full implementation plan [here](#).