

Update from Housing & Homeless Services Program



WHATCOM COUNTY
**HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES**



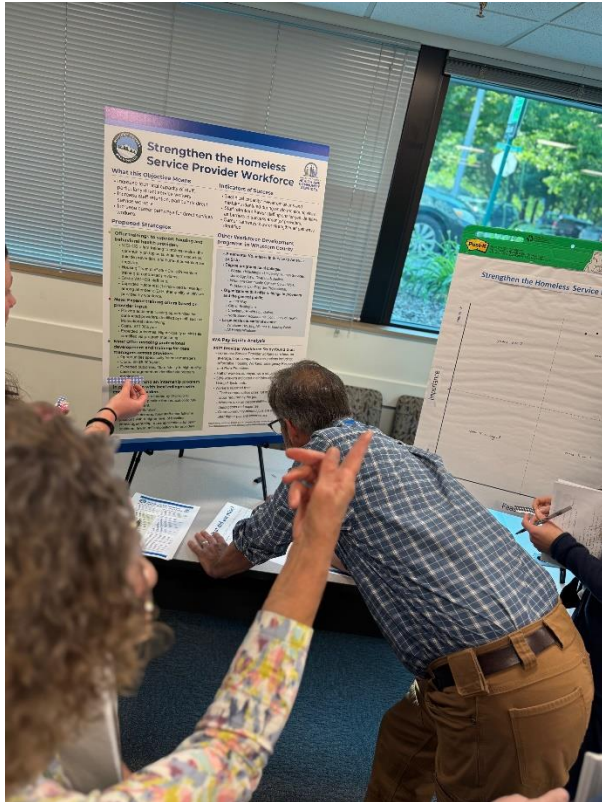
Agenda



- How does the housing program incorporate and respond to community input?
 - New Opportunities in New Five Year Plan
 - Measuring and Communicating the Program's Impact
 - Inclusion of Lived Experience

Community Input for 5 Year Plan

Bellingham



June 2nd, 60 attendees

Lynden



June 4th, 13 attendees

5 Year Plan Opportunities



- Extensive outreach to gather community voice
 - Survey engagement, public events, stakeholder interviews, tabling at shelters, and supportive housing sites
 - Visited sites in Lynden, Ferndale, Deming, and Bellingham
- Implementation to be guided by community voice
 - Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee
 - Coordinated Entry Governing Body
 - Whatcom County Council

Measuring and Reporting



- Quarterly reporting process is improving
 - Better reporting inputs and better reporting outputs
 - Focus on housing stability and equity in services
- Communication with providers happens regularly
- Annual contract monitoring and file review
- Grievance policies updated in 2025
- Commitment to provide bi-annual presentations to council, if desired

Voices of Experience



- Voice of lived experience helped shape new plan
- People with lived experience participate in several key stakeholder groups we lead or participate in
- RFP process incentivizes applicants to include input from those with experience of homelessness in the program development
- Many policies and requirements are handed down by Commerce following their engagement with lived experience focus groups and advisory boards