

Progress Report:

Whatcom County 5-year Homeless Housing Plan



WHATCOM COUNTY
**HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICES**



Agenda



- Recall: Plan framework
- Where we are in the timeline
- Strategies overview
- Budget, fund sources, and eligible uses
- Second round of community engagement
- Focus on new strategies
 - Input on timeline for implementation

Assumptions: Phenomena that exist outside of the control of our local housing system that impacts how it functions and performs.

Guiding principles: Value statements that impact the strategies we select and the way those strategies are performed and measured.



Objective: Big sub-goals that help us achieve a reduction in homelessness and the associated harms of homelessness.

Strategy: Activities that Whatcom County and its partners will complete in order to achieve the objectives.

Performance measure1

Performance measure2

Performance measure3

Strategy2

Performance measure1

Performance measure2

Performance measure3

Objective2

Strategy1

Performance measure1

Performance measure2

Performance measure3

Strategy2

Performance measure1

Performance measure2

Performance measure3

Timeline



Guiding Principles & Objectives Jan-March

- Framework development
- Public engagement

Strategies and Performance Measures April-June

- Strategies background/development
- Public engagement
- Provider input

Drafting July-Sept

- Draft shared with Housing Advisory Committee
- Draft available for public comment

Resolution Oct-Nov

- Draft approved by Housing Advisory Committee
- County Executive review
- Resolution proposed to County Council 11/18/25

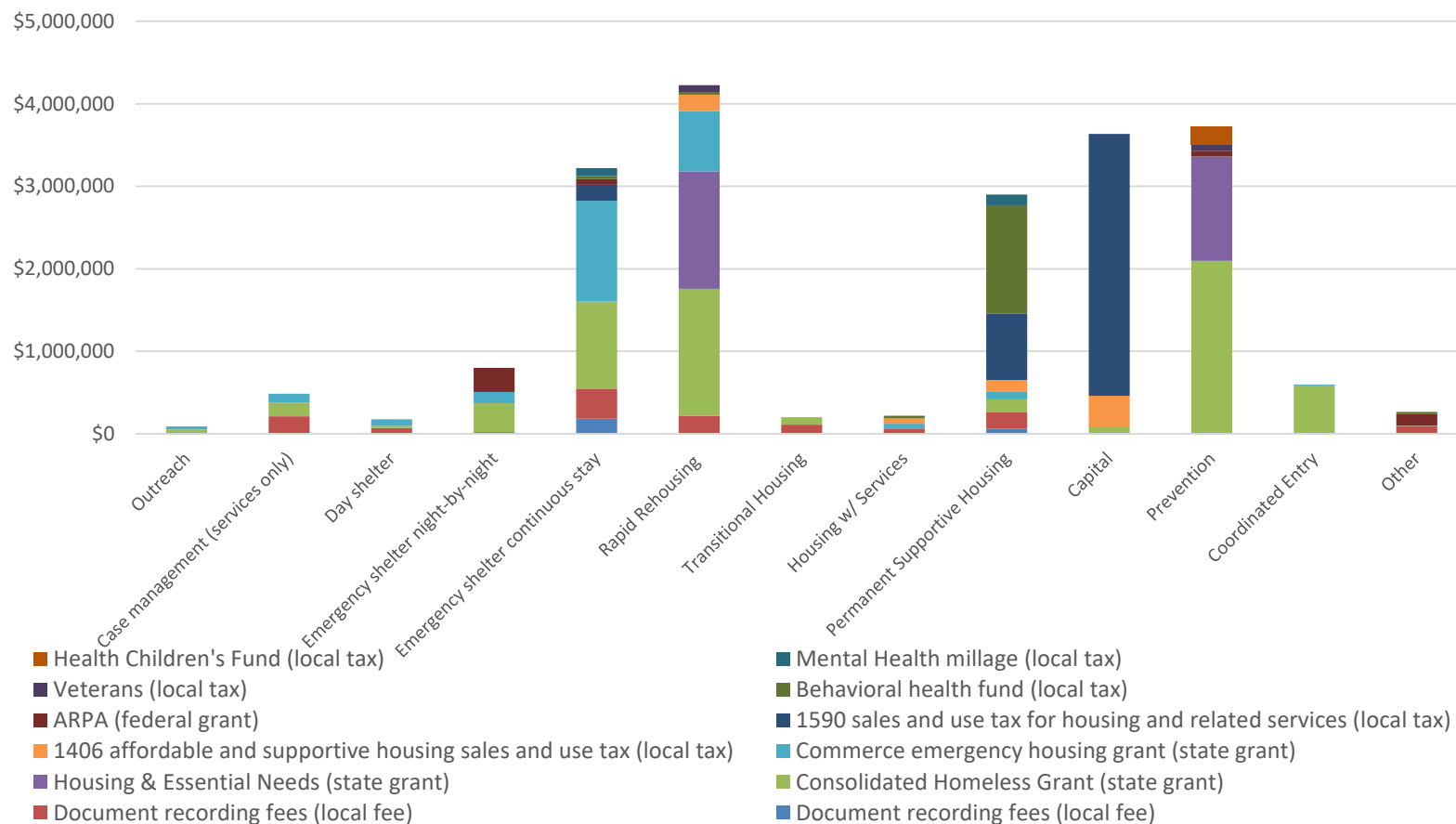
Strategies Overview

Assumptions	Guiding Principles	Prevent Episodes of Homelessness Whenever Possible	
		Create and Preserve More Affordable Housing	
		Seek to House Everyone in a Stable Setting that meets Their Needs	
		Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness by Expanding Shelter Capacity	
		Prioritize Assistance Based on the Greatest Barriers to Housing Stability and the Greatest Risk of Harm	
		Strengthen the Homeless Service Provider Workforce	
		Promote an Equitable, Accountable and Transparent Homeless Crisis Response System	

Budget, Fund Sources, and Eligible Uses



2024 Housing Fund Commitments



***Other** includes hygiene services (shower truck), Access ID program, Point in Time support, PSH Evaluation, and Housing Week event.

Budget, Fund Sources, and Eligible Uses



Funding Types Used in Housing Program

Fund Name	Funding Source	Limitations on Use	Interventions Supported
Document Recording Fees	Local fees, Used by Housing Program Only	Must work towards accomplishing goals of 5-Year plan; minimum of 15% must be spent on shelter	Overnight Shelter, Day Shelter, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rental Assistance, Case Management, Outreach, System Admin, Internal Costs
Consolidated Homeless Grant	State Grant, Used by Housing Program Only	Broad, but amounts are categorized by Commerce	Overnight Shelter, Day Shelter, PSH, Rental Assistance, Case Management, Outreach, Prevention, System Admin, Internal Costs
Housing and Essential Needs (HEN)	State Grant, Used by Housing Program Only	Temporary housing and essential need services for disabled households referred through DSHS	Rental Assistance, Case Management, Homelessness Prevention, Essential Needs Distribution
Veterans Assistance Fund	Local Property Tax, Shared Across Several Programs	Must serve qualifying low-income veterans as described by Veterans Advisory Board	Rental Assistance, Case Management
Behavioral Health Program Fund	Local Sales Tax, Shared Across Several Programs	Must serve people with behavioral health disabilities	Emergency Shelter, PSH, Access ID Program
Mental Health Millage	Local Property Tax, Shared Across Several Programs	Must serve people with mental health disabilities	Permanent Supportive Housing
1406 Funds	Local Sales Tax Rebate, Used by Housing Program Only	Allowable for rental assistance, affordable housing maintenance/development, affordable housing operations (for new units)	Rental Assistance, Affordable Housing Maintenance, Affordable Housing Operations (For New Units), Capital
1590 Funds	Local Sales Tax, Used by Housing Program Only	Up to 40% may be used for housing-related services, the remainder may be used for construction of affordable housing or behavioral health facilities	Emergency Shelter, PSH, Pre-Eviction Mediation, Access ID, Capital
Healthy Children's Fund	Local Property Tax, Shared Across Several Programs	Support vulnerable households at risk of housing loss in accordance with language in HCF Ordinance.	Homelessness Prevention

Budget, Fund Sources, and Eligible Uses



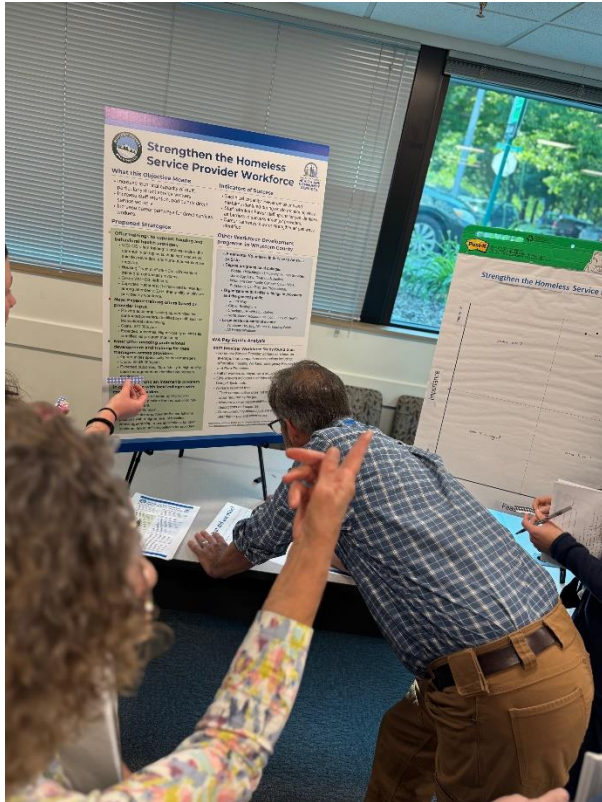
Contracted Services 2025

	Day Shelter, Support Services	Outreach and Essential Needs	Overnight Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Direct Rental Assistance and Related Financial Support	Case Management for Rent and Related Financial Services Households	PSH	System Admin and Coordinated Entry	Other	Total
Doc Rec Fees	\$587,736	\$75,000	\$437,870	Allowable	Allowable	\$46,199	\$316,048	\$184,116	\$110,008	\$1,756,977
CHG	\$85,000	\$75,000	\$2,534,643	\$25,000	\$2,304,432	\$2,843,456	\$205,299	\$404,612	Allowable	\$8,477,442
HEN	Allowable	\$71,000	Allowable	Allowable	\$1,672,684	\$922,011	Allowable	Allowable	Allowable	\$2,665,695
Veterans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$73,852	\$81,146	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$154,998
Behavioral Health	Allowable	Allowable	Allowable	Allowable	Allowable	\$35,000	\$897,254	N/A	\$30,230	\$962,484
Mental Health	Allowable	Allowable	\$178,200	Allowable	Allowable	Allowable	\$49,467	N/A	Allowable	\$227,667
1406	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,390,000	N/A	\$209,676	N/A	Allowable	\$1,599,676
1590	\$71,759	Allowable	\$173,000	Allowable	N/A	Allowable	\$1,210,795	N/A	\$31,573	\$1,487,127
Healthy Children's Fund	Allowable	Allowable	N/A	N/A	\$957,545	\$671,266	N/A	N/A	Allowable	\$1,628,811
Total	\$744,495	\$221,000	\$3,323,713	\$25,000	\$6,207,004	\$4,375,323	\$2,888,539	\$588,728	\$171,811	\$18,545,613

Note: Some contracts allow provider agencies to use funds for multiple intervention types in response to dynamic community needs. Funds listed are based on awarded contracts (not actual spending) and include approximated proportions. Pending award(s) and/or operations for winter shelter are not included. Capital projects funded with 1406 and 1590 funds are budgeted separately and to align with external funding partners.

Community Engagement Round Two

Bellingham



June 2nd, 60 attendees

Lynden



June 4th, 13 attendees



Prioritize Assistance Based on Greatest Barriers to Housing Stability and the Greatest Risk of Harm



What this Objective Means

- Whatcom County receives state funds for homeless housing and must maintain a Coordinated Entry (CE) system.
- CE promotes system-wide coordination for a more effective and strategic response to homelessness.
- A CE prioritization policy identifies which households will receive accelerated assistance to available and limited housing resources.

Coordinated Entry in Whatcom

- Coordinated Entry (CE) is operated by the Whatcom Homeless Service Center, a department of Opportunity Council.
- Shelter and housing providers that receive referrals from CE:
 - Catholic Community Services
 - Lake Whatcom Center
 - Lydia Place
 - Northwest Youth Services
 - Opportunity Council
 - Pioneer Human Services
 - Road2Home
 - Sun Community Service
 - YWCA
- Whatcom County Health and Community Services, the Whatcom Homeless Service Center, and the Coordinated Entry Governing Body are responsible for the establishment and implementation of community CE processes.

Proposed Strategies

- Maintain Current Coordinated Entry Operations**
 - CE operations are funded across multiple contracts with Opportunity Council, Northwest Youth Services, Ferndale Community Services, and Lydia Place.
- New: Reduce Data Entry Lags Into Housing Pool**
 - Add one full time employee to expedite work (Costs approx. \$68k-80k per year).
 - Use newer technology for the housing pool and/or switch to online system for immediate intake entries.
- New: Divert Households from CE System**
 - Add one full time Housing Navigator (Costs approx. \$80k per year).
- New: Update Assessment Tool**
 - Implement a more trauma-informed tool that only collects the minimum information needed to assess barriers and risks of harm (Costs current staff time).
- New: Update Prioritization Policies**
 - Update with more specific criteria for prioritizing assistance based on the greatest barriers to housing stability and the greatest risk for harm (Costs current staff time).

Indicators of Success

- A more efficient CE system.
- A more equitable and trauma-informed assessment and prioritization policies and practices.

Coordinated Entry System

Households Experiencing Homelessness



Coordinated Entry Access/Intake

- Shelters
- Resource Centers
- Outreach Teams
- Other Services

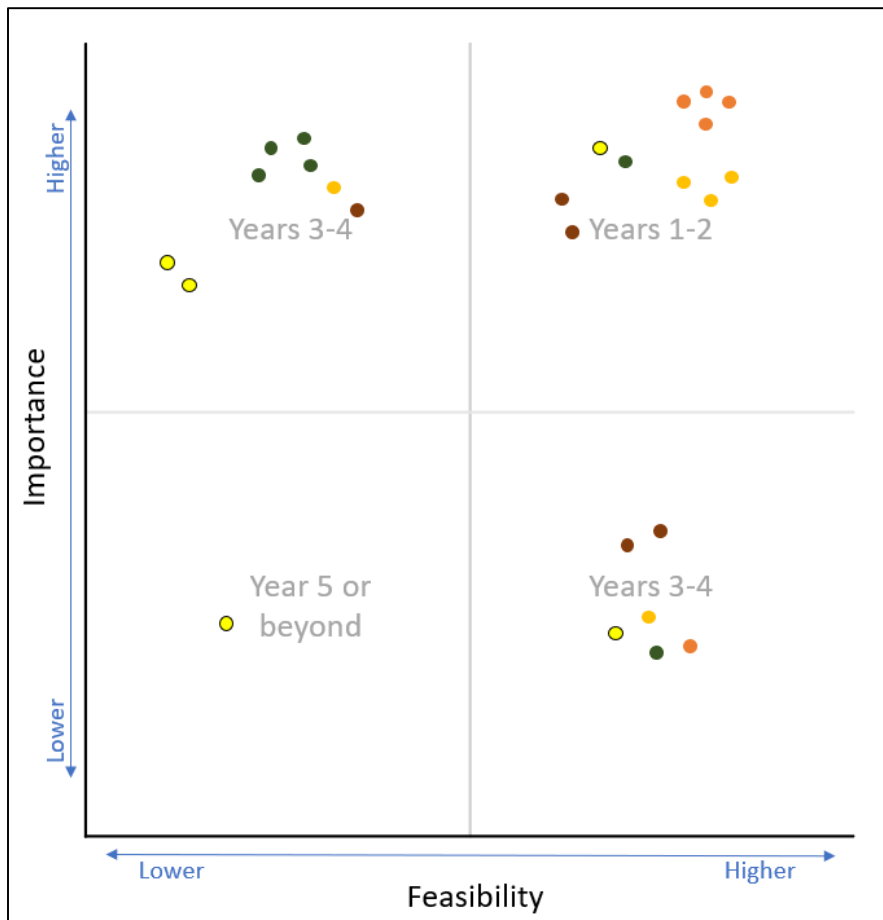
Diversion

- Case Management to resolve issues
 - Deposit Assistance
- If not diverted, rerouted to Housing Pool

Housing Pool



- Referrals to:
- Emergency Housing
 - Transitional Housing
 - Rapid Rehousing
 - Permanent Supportive Housing



Community Feedback



- Across the 41 strategies, community members identified all but 8 strategies we should consider completing in the first year of implementation, including 18 (of the 24) new strategies
 - Based on more than half voting to complete in year 1 of implementation
- Strategies where 85% or more of people asked for WCHCS to complete within 1st year:
 - Current strategies:
 - Maintain current Coordinated Entry operations
 - Maintain current shelters for specific subpopulations
 - Publish annual point in time and housing pool reports
 - Organize and lead provider meetings
 - Transitional housing
 - New strategies:
 - Increase coordination and referral sharing between housing and social service providers for prevention
 - Complete a county-wide inventory of affordable housing units, including building age, condition, and affordability period
 - Prioritize acquisition when cost to acquire is more affordable than the cost to build
 - Engage with individuals with lived experience

New strategies



Prevent episodes of homelessness whenever possible.

1. Scale up existing resources providing civil legal aid
2. Increase coordination of housing prevention with providers

Create and preserve more affordable housing.

1. Implementation of prioritization criteria for homeless housing capital projects*
2. Complete a county-wide inventory of affordable housing units
3. Support developers with training and technical assistance to create ten-year capital needs assessments and preventative maintenance schedules
4. Leverage and capital contracting processes to ensure developers create and maintain adequate maintenance reserves
5. Establish a framework for ingesting in acquisitions over new developments
6. Convene workgroups to identify barriers to affordable housing development, evaluate and make recommendations for supporting emerging trends, and identify non-traditional funds to support development

Seek to house everyone in a stable setting that meets their needs.

1. Rapid Rehousing (with repositioning to serve additional household types)
2. Establish equity in Housing Pool case management
3. Build programs' capacity to serve currently underserved households
4. Implement recommendations from PSH evaluation

*Added following public engagement events

Reduce unsheltered homelessness by expanding shelter capacity.

1. Tiny home villages
2. Congregate, low barrier, secular shelter with day shelter options

Promote an equitable, accountable and transparent homeless crisis response system

1. Consulting
2. Quarterly report to Whatcom County Council and other community/provider groups
3. Bi-annual presentation to Whatcom County Council
4. Incentivizing lived-experience engagement via RFPs

Strengthen the homeless service provider workforce.

1. Establish new trainings
2. Offer case management trainings
3. Create/fund internship programs
4. Establish RPF scoring to encourage minimum standard wage

Prioritize assistance based on the greatest barriers to housing stability and the greatest risk of harm.

1. Reduce data entry lags into Housing Pool
2. Divert households from CE system
3. Updated assessment tool
4. Update prioritization policies

Which do you have the most questions on, or feedback for timing of implementation?
Which are most relevant to what you're hearing from your constituents?

Scale up Existing Resources Providing Civil Legal aid



Expand on existing resources providing civil legal advice about tenants' rights: tenant clinics, free consultations and legal assistance to low-income renters, the provision of educational materials and tools for tenants and landlords, and/or legal representation.

- Cost: Depends on level of services offered, scalable – the provision of educational materials would be far less costly than expanding free resources for low-income renters (i.e. pop up clinics).
- Potential outputs/outcomes: Increased understanding of tenants' rights and responsibilities, decreased evictions

Increase Coordination of Housing Prevention with Providers



Promote system-wide coordination for a more effective and strategic response to homelessness, increases coordination among homelessness prevention and other social service providers, strengthen partnerships and pathways for people exiting jail, treatment, systems of care to prevent them from becoming homeless.

- Cost: WCHCS and housing/social service provider staff time.
- Potential outputs/outcomes: A centralized point of entry for prevention programs offered in Whatcom County; a more equitable approach for access, assessment, and prioritization for limited services; a better understanding of the need for prevention services in the community through consistent data about who and how many people complete a screening/intake.

Implementation of Prioritization Criteria for Homeless Housing Capital Projects*



Guiding principles for capital projects:

1. Projects should prioritize populations with the most urgent need, based on available data and community input.
2. Projects will align with the Whatcom County Comprehensive plan.
3. Dollars should be leveraged to the extent possible to make the most of Whatcom County's Investments.

*To be reviewed by the Housing Advisory Committee

Implementation of Prioritization Criteria for Homeless Housing Capital Projects



Housing Unit Growth by Income Band, 2023-2045

			Non-PSH	PSH						Emergency
	% of Total	Total	0-30%	0-30%	>30-50%	>50-80%	>80-100%	>100-120%	>120%	Housing
										Needs
Bellingham City & UGA	51.06%	18,390	4,978	1,944	4,158	1,197	989	1,400	3,725	299
Birch Bay UGA	2.92%	1,051	285	111	238	68	56	80	213	17
Blaine City & UGA	4.93%	1,774	480	188	401	115	95	135	359	29
Cherry Point UGA	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Columbia Valley UGA	1.39%	502	136	53	113	33	27	38	102	8
Everson City & UGA	1.70%	610	165	65	138	40	33	46	124	10
Ferndale City & UGA	12.94%	4,659	1,261	492	1,053	303	250	355	944	76
Lynden City & UGA	9.82%	3,535	957	374	799	230	190	269	716	58
Nooksack City & UGA	1.20%	433	117	46	98	28	23	33	88	7
Sumas City & UGA	1.79%	643	174	68	145	42	35	49	130	10
Rural & Resource Lands	12.26%	4,416	0	0	45	855	304	307	2,905	72
Total	100.00%	36,013	8,553	3,340	7,189	2,912	2,002	2,712	9,305	586

Implementation of Prioritization Criteria for Homeless Housing Capital Projects*



Prioritization of capital projects will be based upon the funding source:

- LIHTC projects will be selected based on the established pipeline.
- 1406 and 1590 projects will:
 - Prioritize either low-barrier emergency shelter developments or renovations to existing developments, or
 - Permanent housing for households, where:
 - Units will be affordable for households with incomes at or below 30% of the AML.
 - Projects outside of the City of Bellingham receive first priority.
 - And, where relevant, permanent housing investments will prioritize either expiring affordable housing or renovation of existing affordable housing when investments are required to keep the units online and affordable.
 - Further prioritization for acquisition versus new developments will be based on the framework to be developed under a separate strategy.
 - Focus on populations with the most urgent needs, as evidenced through data from the Housing Pool and community input.

*To be reviewed by the Housing Advisory Committee

Complete a County-Wide Inventory of Affordable Housing Units



Currently there is no comprehensive, centralized, and county-wide inventory of affordable housing stock. A comprehensive inventory, once complete, will support long term planning efforts in several important ways including (1) identification of at-risk units, (2) better data to support for policy and planning efforts, (3) ability to forecast capital needs and prioritize expenditures over time.

- Costs: WCHCS staff time
- Potential outputs/outcomes: Identification of at-risk units, better data to support policy and planning efforts, and ability to forecast needs and prioritize expenditures over time.

Support developers with training and technical assistance to create ten-year capital needs assessments and preventative maintenance schedules



The aim of a Capital Needs Assessment (CAN) is to evaluate the current physical condition of a property and estimate the cost and timing of major near-term and long-term capital repair and replacement needs. Completing CNAs does require significant technical knowledge including,

- (1) knowledge of construction materials systems, and codes,
- (2) familiarity with architectural and structure components, and
- (3) knowledge of cost estimation and projections.

The aim of a Preventative Maintenance Schedule (PMS) is to proactively maintain assets to prevent or delay the need for major repairs, extend the usable lifespans of the asset, and ensure the asset remains safe for users. As with CNAs, PMSs require some technical skills that may be beyond the expertise of small developers.

- Costs: WCHCS staff time
- Potential outputs/outcomes: establish a comprehensive strategy for asset management, support long-term capital planning and improve day-to-day operations, and maximize the value, safety, and usability of properties.

Leverage and capital contracting processes to ensure developers create and maintain adequate maintenance reserves



WCHCS will establish clear reserve requirements and provide training and technical assistance to help developers build their reserves. Activities may include: (1) defining minimum reserve standards, benchmarked to best practices; (2) ensuring alignment with Capital Needs Assessments; and (3) requiring developers to submit annual reserve account statements.

- Costs: WCHCS staff time
- Expected outputs/outcomes: Improved maintenance of affordable housing developments and other homeless housing projects.

Establish a framework for investing in acquisitions over new developments



The aim of this strategy is to increase the efficiency of developing new units of affordable housing. Often, though not always, it is less expensive overall to purchase and renovate an existing building than to build new units. Additionally, when existing housing stock is used, new units are available for occupancy more quickly. Thus, when it's more efficient to acquire and rehabilitation an existing property rather than build a new property, WCHCS should prioritize the more cost-effective solution. In addition, the WCHCS will select or create a tool for rapid assessment including preliminary property inspection, rehabilitation scope needs, capital stack scenarios, and risk assessment.

- Costs: WCHCS staff time
- Expected outcomes/outputs: The most cost-effective projects are prioritized for investment.

Convene workgroups to identify barriers to affordable housing development, evaluate and make recommendations for supporting emerging trends, and identify non-traditional fuds to support development



The ongoing affordable housing crisis requires coordinated and innovative solutions. Convening focused workgroups will bring together developers and policymakers to:

- (1) identify real-world barriers stalling affordable housing development;
- (2) explore emerging trends in policy, financing, and design; and
- (3) identify and evaluate non-traditional funding sources that can help close persistent gaps.

- Costs: WCHCS staff time
- Expected outputs/outcomes: increased awareness of barriers, stronger ability to advocate for policy shifts, and development of new funding streams.

Rapid Rehousing (with Repositioning to Serve Additional Household Types)



Rapid rehousing is a rent subsidy program combined with case management support, typically up to 24 months, where a household will find a unit to rent on the private rental market and receive rent support from a non-profit. The household is in a unit protected by a lease. Similar to transitional housing, people who qualify for rapid rehousing are typically expected to be able to afford a market-rate unit on their own after the 24-month period is up.

- Current populations served:
 - Families with Children
 - Young adults
 - Veterans
 - HEN-eligible adults
- WCHCS Costs: Approximately \$16,000 per program slot per year
- Outcomes:
 - Target: At least 80% of households will exit into permanent housing
 - Actual in 2024: 74% of households exited into permanent housing

Establish equity in Housing Pool Case Management



Establish equity in Housing Pool management across different populations such that people with more barriers to housing get more support and/or reasonable accommodations to maintain themselves in the pool.

- Costs: Depends on level of services offered to highest acuity households.
- Potential outputs/outcomes: People with higher needs can better-maintain themselves on the pool; fewer intakes are needed to add people back into the pool; referrals for higher-acuity households can happen more quickly.

Build programs' Capacity to Serve Currently Underserved Households



Across different program types, people who identify as American Indian, Alaska Native or Indigenous are underrepresented in programs compared to the need shown in the Housing Pool. Key informants suggest that medically fragile adults, registered sex offenders, and people who've been convicted of arson find it difficult to access housing programs.

- Costs: Undetermined
- Expected outcomes: Access to housing programs will not be different for minority and non-minority households; more vulnerable people will receive appropriate services; people with certain criminal histories will not systematically be refused services.

Tiny Home Villages



Tiny home shelters work well for specific populations, particularly people with substance use disorder and significant behavioral health challenges. They offer more privacy and independence compared to congregate shelters, while stilling maintaining oversight and safety.

- Cost: Goal ~\$20,000/year per bed or \$500,000 for 25 units
- Expected outcomes: At least 80% of households will exit into permanent housing

Congregate, Low-Barrier, Secular Shelter with day Shelter Options



Whatcom County is experiencing a lack of a night-by-night, secular, emergency sheltering options for residents as well as daytime shelter options that reduce criminal charges related to homelessness. Over 240 individuals were counted as experiencing unsheltered homelessness during the 2024 Point in Time count. While existing programs tend to focus on specific subpopulations in continuous stay settings, a night-by-night shelter would provide broader services to a wider range of individuals experiencing homelessness. With low barriers to entry, such a shelter can quickly serve those in need.

- Cost: Goal ~\$2,000,000 for 100-bed shelter*
- Expected outcomes: At least 80% of households will exit into permanent housing

*This cost estimate does not include daytime operations

Shelter Funding Gaps



Emergency sheltering annual operations costs ~\$2,500,000

- \$500,000 tiny homes
- \$2,000,000 100-person congregate shelter*

Pulling from other severe weather shelters: ~ \$735,500

Additional annual funding required: \$1,765,000

In 2024-2025, WCHCS hired an independent evaluator to survey the PSH programs in Whatcom County and their fidelity to PSH standard operating procedures. The evaluation included a final report shared with the public as well as recommendations for improving Whatcom County's PSH programs, which are being included as a strategy in the "Seek to House Everyone" strategy. In general, there is value in setting aside resources to be able to seek independent consults aimed at strengthening the service models available in our community.

- Cost: ~\$100,000/year
- Outcomes: Improved performance outcomes and efficiency of homeless housing system

Quarterly Report to Whatcom County Council and Other Community/Provider Groups



Beginning in 2025, WCHCS began to provide Whatcom County Council with quarterly reports offering an overview of contracted agencies' performance, including numbers served and program outcomes as well as spenddown of funds

- Costs: WCHCS staff time
- Outcomes: Improved accountability and transparency of contracted providers performance and homeless housing system performance.

Bi-annual Presentation to Whatcom County Council



This would be an effort to keep elected officials regularly engaged in receiving information and offering feedback on the performance of Whatcom County's homeless housing system.

- Cost: WCHCS staff time
- Potential outputs/outcomes: Twice yearly presentation; additional transparency and accountability for the homeless housing system.

Incentivizing Lived-Experience Engagement via RFPs



Activities could include: hiring policies that enable or encourage people with lived experience to apply for positions, established Community Advisory Boards that offer input and feedback to the program or organization, and offering additional points to by-and-for organizations that apply for funding.

- Cost: WCHCS staff time
- Potential outputs and outcomes: Program policies and procedures that include meaningful input from people with lived experience, overall enabling those programs to offer more robust services and achieve better outcomes. Create additional pathways for people with lived experience to join the workforce and gain living-wage employment.

Establish New Provider Trainings



Seek input from providers on training needs for staff and fund and develop a training series for local providers. This would be potentially similar to the strategies already used under this objective, but better tailored to the needs identified by community partners

- Cost: \$10,000/year
- Potential outputs/outcomes: Number of trainings held; number of people attending training; increased knowledge among attendees, higher quality of services provided by workforce.

Offer Case Management Trainings



Offering ongoing professional development/training opportunities for case managers across providers

- Cost: \$0-\$5,000/year depending on if trainers are internal or external.
- Potential outputs/outcomes: Number of trainings held; number of people attending training; increased knowledge among attendees, higher quality of services provided by workforce.

Create/fund Internship Programs



Internship program for people in school or just joining the workforce as a means to increase career pathways for direct services workers.

- Cost: ~\$4,500/intern (assuming a \$25 composite billing rate, 15 hours per week for 12 weeks)
- Potential outputs/outcomes: New staff enter full-time positions with a higher level of baseline knowledge/training, more applications for open positions, fewer unfilled positions for providers.

Establish RFP Scoring to Encourage Minimum Standard Wage



Establishing RFP scoring criteria such that proposals receive more points when the organization meets a minimum wage standard.

- Cost: Difficult to quantify, but expected to be minimal
- Potential outputs/outcomes: Better staff retention; reports of higher job satisfaction; more seasoned, higher quality staff offering higher quality services provided by workforce.

Reduce Data Entry Lags into Housing Pool



In order to maintain the Housing Pool in a timely manner in order to prioritize households for assistance based on the greatest need and risk for harm, we may want to consider funding an additional FTE for the WHSC so they can complete this work effectively and efficiently. Alternatively, we could seek other data entry methods to reduce lag times in people signing up for the Housing Pool and their data actually getting entered into the Housing Pool.

- Costs: \$68,000-80,000
- Potential outputs/outcomes: A quicker and more accurate prioritization and referral process resulting in increased referral acceptance by client and partner agency that requested referral.

Divert Households from CE System



Add an additional Housing Navigator to reduce the number of households awaiting longer-term services in the Housing Pool. The expectation here would be that people exit homelessness more quickly and efficiently compared to awaiting a longer-term placement or housing subsidy.

- Costs: \$68,000-80,000
- Potential outputs/outcomes: People self-resolve or exit homelessness more efficiently

Update CE Assessment Tool



In collaboration with the Whatcom Homeless Service Center, the Coordinated Entry Governing Body, and people with lived experience of homelessness and system involvement, identify or create a new assessment tool that assesses barriers to housing stability and risk of harm. The assessment should only gather the information necessary to determine need and best match for housing services.

- Cost: Staff time
- Potential outputs/outcomes: A more trauma-informed tool that only collects the minimum information necessary to assess household needs, housing preferences, barriers to housing stability, and factors that might indicate vulnerability while homeless; increased acceptance of referrals from partner agencies; better matches between participants' actual needs and the services they become eligible for and receive.

Update CE Prioritization Policies



In collaboration with the Whatcom Homeless Service Center, and the Coordinated Entry Governing Body, create a more specific criteria for prioritizing assistance based on the greatest barriers to housing stability and the greatest risk for harm.

- Cost: Staff time
- Potential outputs/outcomes: Households that experience the greatest barriers to housing stability and greatest risk of harm are prioritized for housing program openings through CE.