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CTED | Community, Trade and
Economic Development

DRAFT Homeless Plan and 2007 Annual Report

December 2008
Report to the Legislature

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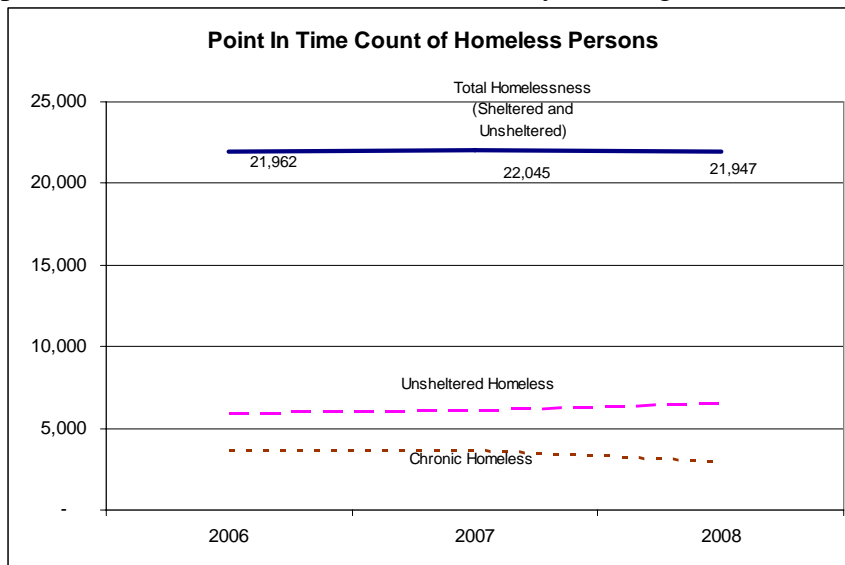
Executive Summary

This updated Washington State Homeless Plan and annual report is part of a systematic effort to understand the problem of homelessness and implement strategies to end it, as required by the Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act, Chapter 43.185C RCW.

The Act required the state in 2006 to develop a plan with the goal of reducing homelessness by 50 percent by 2015, and annually report on progress toward that goal.

Primary Outcome Measures

The primary outcome measure of the plan is the number of homeless persons counted at a point in time, which has remained basically unchanged since the initial 2006 count.



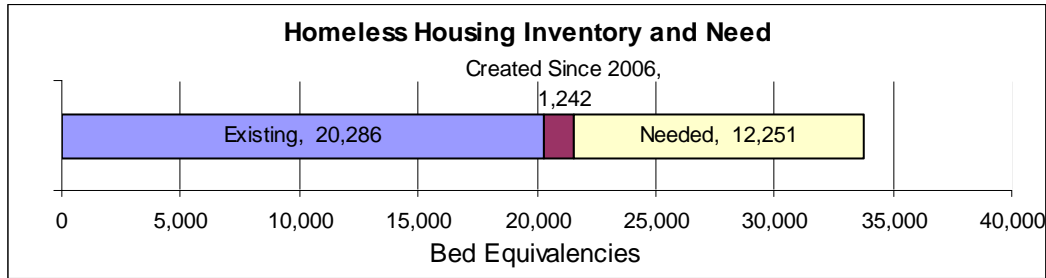
The state and local governments are making significant investments in a statewide Homeless Management Information System that will provide the additional following primary outcomes once implemented in 2009:

- Number and percentage of homeless people provided services that are homeless one-year after being served. Target: 5 percent.
- Number and percentage of homeless people who attain a self-sufficient income after being provided services. Target: 75 percent.

Primary Output Measures

Contributing to success in reaching the desired outcomes are the following primary outputs:

Number of new homeless annual bed equivalencies developed since 2006: 1,242/ 11 percent of the unmet need.



Number of people provided homeless housing and/or services in 2007: 68,642

Primary Strategies to Attain Goal

The following high-level strategies guide the implementation of the plan. For more detailed descriptions of the strategies see chapters 1 and 2.

Assess people facing homelessness to determine what type of housing and/or services they need to avoid homelessness and reach their highest level of self-sufficiency.

Create the equivalent of 12,000 new beds to house homeless persons. Use private-market housing to provide at least 35 percent of the unit equivalences. Provide the majority of new “beds” through short-term rent assistance to prevent homelessness or quickly re-house people facing homelessness in permanent housing.

Improve effectiveness existing and future investments (as measured by income increases and homeless recidivism) by implementing best practices; coordinating housing with education, treatment, benefits, and institutional discharge; and augmenting deficient services as needed.

Collect client data to measure outcomes at the project, program, county, and state levels to verify plan assumptions and measure success.

Significant 2008 Accomplishments

Below are some of the significant accomplishments for 2008 (see chapter 2 for a more detailed accounting).

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New Transitional Housing for High Need Offenders

CTED in cooperation with the Department of Corrections funded three re-entry housing pilot projects that will serve up to 165 high risk, high need offenders.

New Method to Develop Housing and Capacity in Rural Communities

Over 200 units of are forecast to come out of a permanent supportive housing institute jointly funded by CTED, Department of Social and Health Services Mental Health Division, and the Washington Families Fund. Eight communities were provided ten days of training over an eight month period to assist them with developing viable new projects. The goals of the institute included 1) developing fundable projects in high-need/low-capacity communities; 2) developing capacity in those communities to develop additional projects in the future. Teams from Clallam, Pacific, Lewis, Skagit, Okanogan, Benton-Franklin, Walla Walla, and Spokane participated in the Institute. DSHS and CTED are investigating expanding the Institute model to develop additional research-proven housing and services in low capacity communities.

New Transitional Housing for Youth Aging out of Foster Care

CTED in cooperation with DSHS implemented XXX beds of new.....

New HMIS System Development is Complete and is Being Deployed

CTED procured a replacement HMIS to serve rural counties and integrate data from existing HMIS systems supported by other vendors into a single database. Although deployment is not yet complete, CTED has finished acceptance testing of the new user interface, data integration, and reporting tools. CTED has also signed data sharing agreements with X counties and DSHS to allow the sharing and merging of data necessary to produce the aggregate outcome reports.

New HGAP Projects

CTED funded an additional X bed equivalencies of short-term and transitional housing in innovative projects in X counties using state HGAP funds in 2008. These pilot initiatives are testing the effectiveness of a variety of approaches to stably housing people facing homelessness and help them attain self-sufficient incomes.

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1 - Overview of Strategies to Address Homelessness in Washington State

In Washington State an estimated 87,000 people fall into homelessness each year.

Most people fall into homelessness because they temporarily do not have enough money to buy housing and do not have family or friends who will house them.

A smaller group is additionally facing problems that require time-limited case management, treatment and education before they will be able to afford and maintain housing.

A small minority has severe and persistent mental health illnesses or other disabilities that will require a lifetime of supportive services and subsidized housing to keep them housed.

Broad strategies to address homelessness

1. Increasing earned household income.
 - A. Education
 - B. Job placement assistance
 - C. Substance abuse and mental health treatment so people can obtain and keep jobs using existing skills and education
 - D. Adding wage earners to a household (i.e. family reunification)
 - E. Adding self-sufficient income jobs to the economy (economic development, minimum wage increases, etc.)
2. Subsidizing housing.
 - A. Subsidized housing projects
 - B. Vouchers to purchase housing in the private market
 - C. Landlord incentives
 - D. Homeownership assistance
 - E. Housing rehabilitation and weatherization
3. Giving money or services.
 - A. Based on income or children (i.e. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, child support, Medicaid)
 - B. Based on age (i.e. Social Security)
 - C. Based on disability (i.e. Social Security Disability)
 - D. Based on working (Earned Income Tax Credit)
4. Reducing the market cost of housing.
 - A. Increase density
 - B. Reduce regulatory requirements

- C. Require the construction of low-cost housing in private-market developments (inclusionary zoning)
- 5. Connecting people to family or friends that can house them and manage problems they are having.
- 6. Providing help with daily care needs (eating, hygiene, cleaning, etc.) and conflicts (with neighbors or landlords) caused by mental health illness, substance abuse problems, or physical disabilities.

Strategies to address homelessness by needs for housing and services

The following strategies describe the type and volume of housing and services necessary to house everyone that is now homeless, and ensure that they achieve their maximum level of self-sufficiency. Most of this system already exists, although it was created in disparate pieces starting in the 1980s in response to the rise of homelessness. See Chapter 2 for additional housing and services strategy details.

Short-Term Housing Assistance with Minimal Services

32 percent/28,000 people per year

People who due to a short-term problem (family break-up, job loss, illness/injury) need up to six months of housing assistance to remain housed or enter new housing. They do not have serious and persistent income, illness, or mental health issues.

Short-Term Assistance, Services and Assessment

48 percent/42,000 people per year

People who need up to six-months of subsidized housing connected to case management and assessment to address family break-up, mental health, education, and substance abuse problems amenable to short-term interventions. Ongoing assessment may identify more significant problems that require referral to longer-term housing and services.

Transitional Subsidized Housing and Services

12 percent/10,000 people per year

People with significant treatment, education, and life skills needs that need up to four years of subsidized housing and case management to achieve self-sufficiency.

Permanent Subsidized Housing with Minimal Services

3 percent/2,000 more people than are being served today per year

People who need subsidized housing for the foreseeable future because persistent physical, mental health or other problems prevent them from earning enough income to buy market-rate housing. They may require short-term treatment, respite care, and brief case-management to stay stably housed. Education and treatment may help some earn additional income to reduce their dependency on housing subsidies.

Permanent Subsidized Housing with Ongoing Services

6 percent/5,000 more people than are being served today per year

People with severe and persistent mental health illnesses or other disabilities that require subsidized housing and ongoing case management for the foreseeable future to stay housed. Education and treatment may help some earn additional income to reduce their dependency on housing subsidies. Often needs to be connected to outreach staff that over time can build the trust required to bring them into housing.

Strategies to improve the effectiveness of homeless housing and services

Homeless housing and services must be effective to attain the goal of reducing homelessness by 50 percent. The following broad strategies can make existing and future investments go farther. See Chapter 2 for additional details on strategies to improve effectiveness.

Immediate Placement in Permanent Housing

The original model of homeless services assumed clients would move from emergency shelter to transitional housing, and finally permanent housing.

The new model assumes that most homeless people should immediately be placed in permanent housing, where they can receive transitional services and temporary housing subsidies as needed. Preferably before becoming homeless people are provided rent or mortgage assistance, which is less disruptive and more cost effective than finding them new housing.

Under this model there is still some role for emergency shelters and traditional transitional housing buildings in circumscribed circumstances. More than 90 percent of people facing homelessness should be quickly placed or maintained in permanent housing (i.e., a private market rental or subsidized housing project) and provided services as needed.

Rigorous Assessment of People Facing Homelessness

Research tested assessments can help identify the type and intensity of services and housing subsidies necessary to effectively house people facing homelessness.

Inappropriately placing homeless persons can lead to wasted resources and unnecessary returns to homelessness. Poor assessment can lead to people with low-needs being placed in intensive transitional services, or conversely people with intensive long-term needs being given two weeks of rent assistance and no services.

Assessment must be ongoing to identify new needs as they arise or emerge. Investing in rigorous assessment provides the best returns when there are services and housing available to meet the needs identified.

System Integration

Washington State's families, economy/jobs, housing market and social safety net successfully houses 99.7 percent of the people. Improving the linkages between systems can build on that success.

Landlord incentives to rent to higher-risk people can leverage existing private market housing to reduce homelessness. Incentives can include rent and damage mitigation funds, above market rents, responsive supportive services a landlord can call when problems arise, and tenant certification.

Discharge planning and agreements between jails, prisons, and hospitals and housing providers can ensure that clear communication and procedures connect people being discharged to appropriate housing and services. Planning ideally begins well in advance of discharge.

Prompt access to income and non-cash benefits such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Medicaid, and Social Security Disability can ensure that eligible people facing homelessness have the resources and services needed to secure and maintain housing.

Data Collection and Performance Measurement

The state homeless plan depends on knowing the number and characteristics of homeless people in Washington State. The success of individual projects, programs and strategies is measured by tracking where clients served exit to, their income level, and whether they return to homelessness. See Chapter 2 for additional data collection strategy details.

The annual *Point in Time Count of Homeless People* is the primary measure of the overall success of the homeless plan. Although the count data has many limitations, it provides important insights on the size and characterizes of the unsheltered and sheltered homeless population.

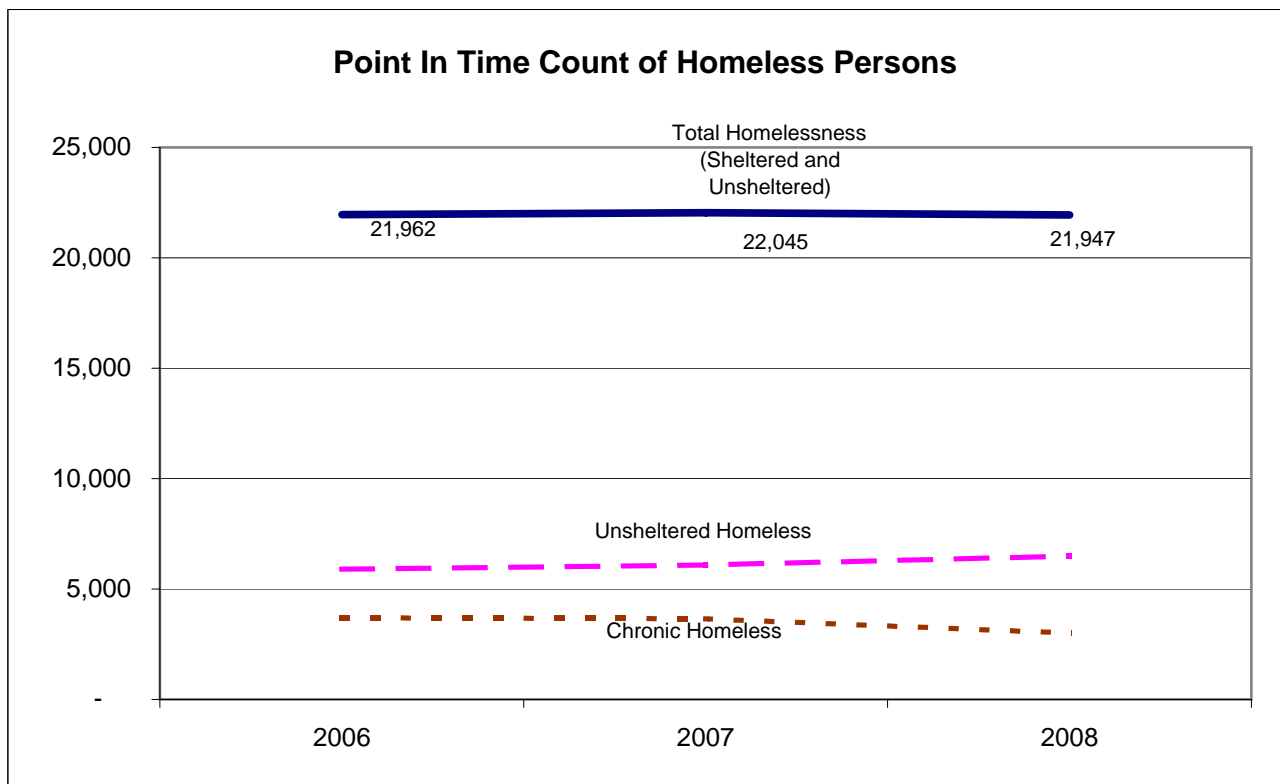
Homeless Management Information Systems are playing an increasingly central role in measuring the success of individual projects and programs ability to effectively serve people facing homelessness. HMISs collect individual client data from people served in shelters, with rent assistance, and in transitional housing programs. Client data will be matched with other state data sources to determine what services people were provided, how their income changed, and whether they remained housed once exiting.

Although more than half the beds in the state are reporting client data into an HMIS, data is not yet available at the state level. CTED is intensively working with local governments, local non-profits, other state agencies, and HMIS vendors to link now dispersed homeless data into a central data warehouse to complete the "n/a" output and outcome measures of this homeless plan.

2 - Strategies, Performance Measures, Specific Actions and Accomplishments

Primary Homeless Plan Goal: Reduce Homelessness by 50 percent by 2015

| Primary Goal Performance Measure - Point in Time Count of Homeless Persons | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|-------------|
| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2015 Target |
| Total Homelessness (Sheltered and Unsheltered) | 21,962 | 22,045 | 21,947 | 10,981 |
| Change from Baseline | n/a | 0.38% | -0.44% | -50% |
| Target total homelessness | | 20,864 | 19,766 | 10,981 |
| Unsheltered Homeless | 5,904 | 6,094 | 6,498 | 2,952 |
| Sheltered Homeless | 16,058 | 15,951 | 15,449 | 8,029 |
| Chronic Homeless | 3,695 | 3,656 | 3,000 | 1,848 |
| Unsheltered Chronic Homeless | 1,456 | 950 | 842 | 728 |
| Percentage of Population who are Homeless | 0.34% | 0.34% | 0.33% | 0.17% |
| Percentage of People in Poverty who are Homeless | 2.72% | 2.96% | 2.92% | 1.36% |

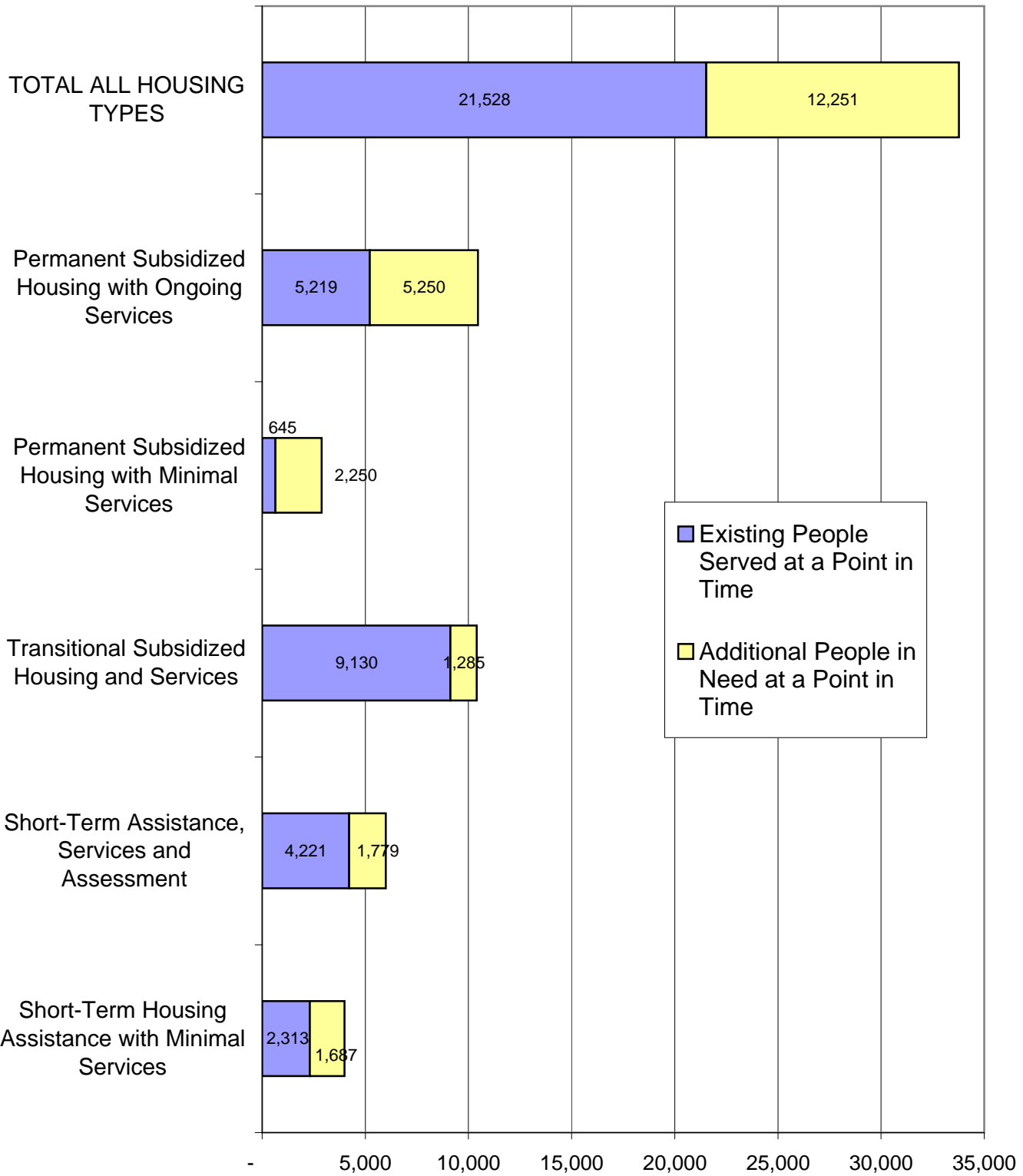


Comparison with Other States - Percentage of Population Homelessness 2007

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| Washington | 0.36% ¹ |
| Oregon | 0.47% |
| California | 0.44% |
| Idaho | 0.12% |
| Nevada | 0.49% |

1 - Using Census population which differs from the Office of Financial Management April 1 population estimate used above.

Homeless Housing Inventory and Need



Short-Term Housing with Minimal Services

Up to six months of rent or mortgage assistance to prevent eviction.

OR

Up to six months of rent to pay deposit costs associated with moving into a new unit.

Low or no services provided.

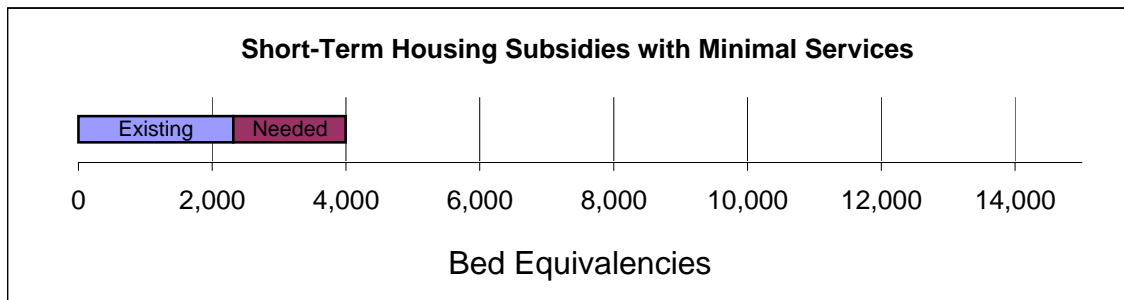
| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Existing bed equivalencies by type | | Existing annual costs |
| Individual beds | 918 | \$ 13,403,676 |
| Family beds | 1,395 | \$ 10,182,770 |
| Family units | 558 | |
| TOTAL EXISTING BEDS | 2,313 | \$ 23,586,446 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Additional bed equivalencies needed | | Annual costs to address unmet need |
| Individual beds | 682 | \$ 9,956,324 |
| Family beds | 1,005 | \$ 7,337,230 |
| Family units | 402 | |
| TOTAL NEW BEDS NEEDED | 1,687 | \$ 17,293,554 |

Created in 2006

Percent of TOTAL need completed

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | Number | % Need Addressed | | |
| Individual beds | 75 | 10% | Individual beds | 57% |
| Family beds | 75 | 7% | Family beds | 58% |
| Family units | 25 | 6% | Family units | 58% |
| | | | TOTAL NEED ADDRESSED | 58% |



| | Unsubsidized Permanent Housing | Transitional Housing | Permanent Supportive Housing | Subsidized Housing | Homeless | Above Self-Sufficiency Income |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Target exiting outcomes | | | | | | |
| Single individuals | 70% | 5% | 5% | 10% | 5% | 70% |
| Individuals in families | 60% | 5% | 5% | 20% | 5% | 60% |
| Actual exiting outcomes | | | | | | |
| Single individuals | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Individuals in families | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| | Number | Percentage |
|--|--------|------------|
| Individuals served 2008 | 3,461 | 59% |
| People in families with children served 2008 | 2,440 | 41% |
| Returning to homelessness one-year after exiting | n/a | n/a |

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Short-Term Housing with Minimal Services

New specific actions

None

Ongoing initiatives

| | | | Annual Funding | | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------|
| | | Equivalenci es | Federal | State | Local | Lead Agency |
| ESAP Prevention | | 584 | | \$2.5 | \$3.0 | CTED |
| AREN | | 441 | | \$5.3 | | DSHS |

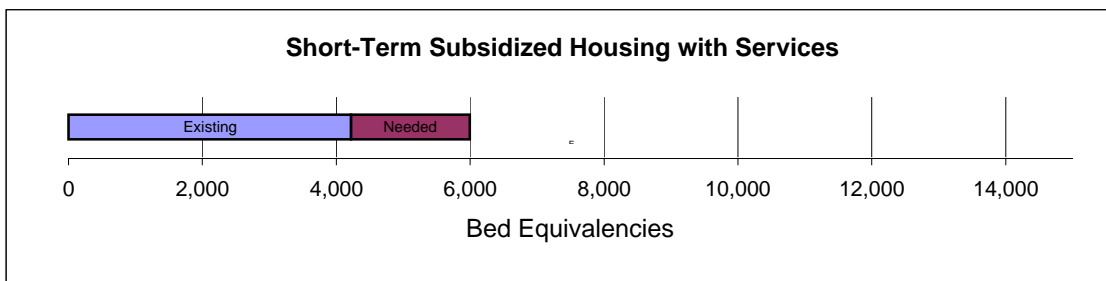
Short Term Subsidized Housing with Services and Assessment

Programs offering from 1 to 180 days of subsidized housing. Includes case management, food, and other services. Accomodations include mattrreeses on floors of church basements, rooms filled with bunk beds, individual rooms, scattered site apartments, and vouchers for motel rooms.

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Existing beds by type | | Existing annual costs |
| Individual beds | 3,255 | \$ 59,402,655 |
| Family beds | 966 | \$ 10,574,415 |
| Family units | 386 | |
| TOTAL EXISTING BEDS | 4,221 | \$ 69,977,070 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Additional beds needed | | Annual costs to address unmet need |
| Individual beds | 945 | \$ 17,247,345 |
| Family beds | 834 | \$ 9,135,585 |
| Family units | 334 | |
| TOTAL NEW BEDS NEEDED | 1,779 | \$ 26,382,930 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--|------------|
| Created in 2006 | | | Percent of TOTAL need completed | |
| | Number | % Need Addressed | | |
| Individual beds | 122 | 11% | Individual beds | 77% |
| Family beds | 108 | 11% | Family beds | 54% |
| Family units | 35 | 9% | Family units | 54% |
| TOTAL NEED ADDRESSED | | | TOTAL NEED ADDRESSED | 70% |



Actual exiting outcomes

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| | Unsubsidized Permanent Housing | Transitional Housing | Permanent Housing | Supportive Housing | Subsidized Housing | Homeless | Above Self-Sufficiency Income |
| Single individuals | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Individuals in families | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

Target exiting outcomes

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| Single individuals | 75% | 5% | 5% | 10% | 5% | 70% |
| Individuals in families | 65% | 5% | 5% | 20% | 5% | 60% |

| | | |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| | Number | Percentage |
| Individuals served 2008 | 28,007 | 59% |
| People in families with children served 2008 | 19,740 | 41% |
| Returning to homelessness one-year after exiting | n/a | n/a |

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Short Term Subsidized Housing with Services and Assessment

New specific actions

None

Ongoing initiatives

| | | Annual Funding | | | | |
|------|--|--------------------------|---------|---------|--------|----------------|
| | | Bed Equivalenci es | Federal | State | Local | Lead Agency |
| ESAP | | 882 | | \$ 2.5 | \$ 3.0 | CTED |
| ESG | | 441 | \$ 2.6 | \$ 0.52 | | CTED |

Accomplishments 2008

2008 Strategy
Reference #

- 1.3 CTED removed the restrictions on funding prevention services with state Emergency Shelter Assistance Program.
- 1.4 ESD provides case mgmt. services to veterans through the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOP), partnering with Veterans Reintegration and homeless programs in King Co, WDVA Homeless Veteran Reintegration Programs

- 8.2 CTED funded a pilot effort in Clark County to close down and clean up illegal

Transitional Subsidized Housing and Services

Programs offering up to four years of subsidized housing tied to case management and services including skills building, education, substance abuse treatment, and mental health treatment. Accommodations include dedicated buildings, scattered site leased apartments, and tenant based vouchers allowing participants to stay in their unit after supportive services and housing subsidies have ended ("transition in place").

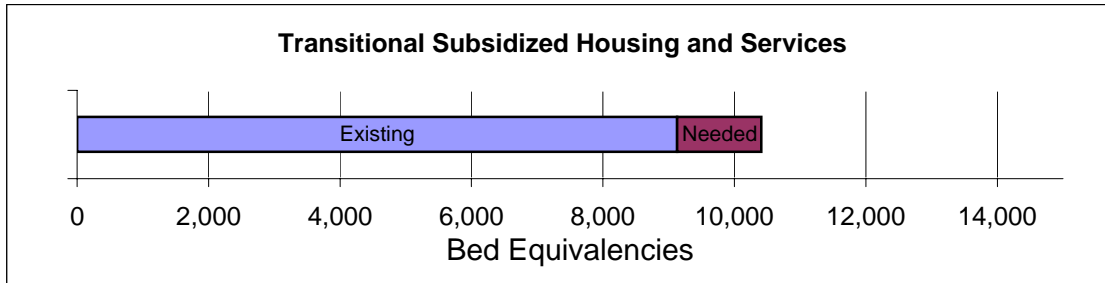
| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Existing beds by type | | Existing annual costs |
| Individual beds | 2,651 | \$ 29,028,000 |
| Family beds | 6,479 | \$ 47,296,000 |
| Family units | 2,592 | |
| TOTAL EXISTING BEDS | 9,130 | \$ 76,324,000 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Additional beds needed | | Annual costs to address unmet need |
| Individual beds | 994 | \$ 10,887,038 |
| Family beds | 291 | \$ 2,122,475 |
| Family units | 116 | |
| TOTAL NEW BEDS NEEDED | 1,285 | \$ 13,009,513 |

Created in 2007

Percent of TOTAL need completed

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | Number | % Need Addressed | | |
| Individual beds | 131 | 12% | Individual beds | 73% |
| Family beds | 539 | 65% | Family beds | 96% |
| Family units | 161 | 58% | Family units | 96% |
| | | | TOTAL NEED ADDRESSED | 88% |



| | Unsubsidized Permanent Housing | Transitional Housing | Permanent Supportive Housing | Subsidized Housing | Homeless | Above Self-Sufficiency Income |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Target exiting outcomes | | | | | | |
| Single individuals | 75% | 5% | 5% | 10% | 5% | 70% |
| Individuals in families | 65% | 5% | 5% | 20% | 5% | 60% |
| Actual exiting outcomes | | | | | | |
| Single individuals | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Individuals in families | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| | Number | Percentage |
|--|--------|------------|
| Individuals served 2008 | 2,651 | 29% |
| People in families with children served 2008 | 6,479 | 71% |
| Returning to homelessness one-year after exiting | n/a | n/a |

Transitional Subsidized Housing and Services

New specific actions

- 4.1 DSHS will evaluate the existing “aging out extension” pilot to determine if extending foster care and services to 18-21 year olds, who are successfully participating in academic or vocational education programs, will improve their stability.
- 4.2 CTED will implement a youth aging out of foster care housing assistance program in coordination with DSHS that will provide housing, case management, and other services.
- 4.4 CTED in cooperaton with DOC will expand RHPP from 100 to 800 bed equivalencies

Ongoing initiatives

| | Bed Equivalencies | Annual Funding | | | Lead Agency |
|----------|-------------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | | Federal | State | Local | |
| THOR | 100 | | \$2.5 | \$2.5 | CTED |
| RHPP | 200 | \$2.5 | | | CTED |
| YHP | | | | | CTED |
| McKinney | | \$34.7 | | | CTED, Lo |

Accomplishments 2008

2008 Strategy
Reference #

- 2.1 CTED funded three re-entry housing pilot projects that will serve up to 165 high risk, high need offenders.
- 10.1 11.2 CTED funded projects in Spokane, King, Snohomish, Thurston, Pierce and Clark counties **servng XX people at a point in time** with HGAP funds that include intensive services, education, and housing with the goal of participants obtaining living wage jobs.
- 10.2 DVA opened the new 40 new bed Retsil Transitional Housing Project.
- 11.1 CTED provided technical assistance to McKinney-Vento homeless projects to increase the percentage of participants with jobs at exit of transitional housing by expanding and focusing service efforts.

Permanent Subsidized Housing with Minimal Services

Permanent subsidized housing for people who need subsidized housing for the foreseeable future because persistent physical, mental health or other problems prevent them from earning enough income to buy market-rate housing. They may require short-term treatment, respite care, and brief case-management to stay stably housed.

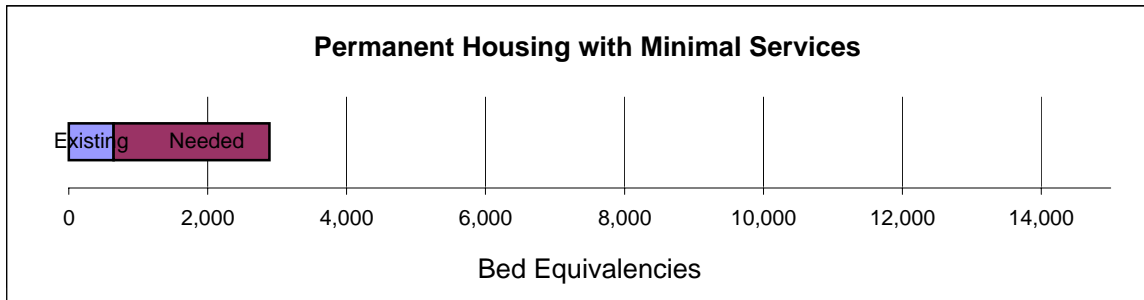
| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Existing beds by type | | Existing annual costs | |
| Individual beds | 455 | \$ | 3,319,602 |
| Family beds | 190 | \$ | 1,041,893 |
| Family units | 76 | | |
| TOTAL EXISTING BEDS | 645 | \$ | 4,361,495 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Additional beds needed | | Annual costs to address unmet need | |
| Individual beds | 1,575 | \$ | 61,320,000 |
| Family beds | 675 | \$ | 7,665,000 |
| Family units | 270 | | |
| TOTAL NEW BEDS NEEDED | 2,250 | \$ | 68,985,000 |

Created in 2006

Percent of TOTAL need completed

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | Number | % Need Addressed | | |
| Individual beds | 120 | 7% | Individual beds | 22% |
| Family beds | 22 | 3% | Family beds | 22% |
| Family units | 9 | 3% | Family units | 22% |
| | | | TOTAL NEED ADDRESSED | 22% |



| | Unsubsidized Permanent Housing | Transitional Housing | Permanent Supportive Housing | Subsidized Housing | Homeless | Above Self-Sufficiency Income |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Target exiting outcomes | | | | | | |
| Single individuals | 75% | 5% | 5% | 10% | 5% | 70% |
| Individuals in families | 65% | 5% | 5% | 20% | 5% | 60% |
| Actual exiting outcomes | | | | | | |
| Single individuals | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Individuals in families | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| | Number | Percentage |
|--|--------|------------|
| Individuals served 2008 | 455 | 70% |
| People in families with children served 2008 | 190 | 30% |
| Returning to homelessness one-year after exiting | n/a | n/a |

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Permanent Supportive Housing with Minimal Services

New specific actions

N/A

Ongoing initiatives

| | | | Annual Funding | | | |
|----------|--|----------------------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------------------------|
| | | Bed Equivalencies | Federal | State | Local | Lead Agency |
| McKinney | | 200 | \$10.0 | | | CTED, Local Continuu ms |

Permanent Subsidized Housing with Ongoing Services

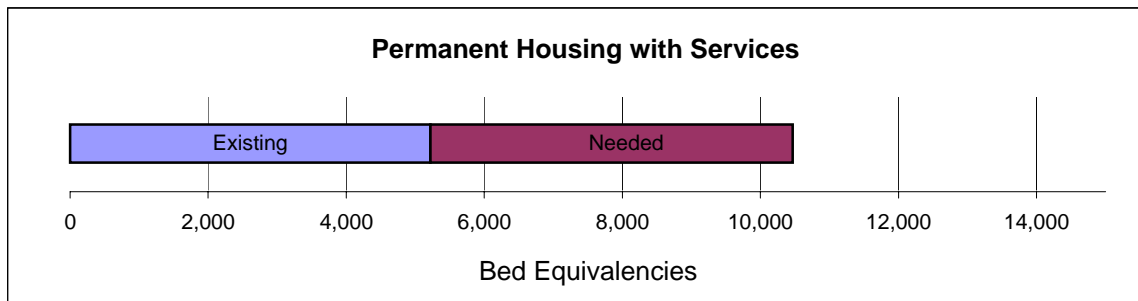
Subsidized housing tied to intensive professional services available 24 hours a day to help maintain housing stability. Housing not tied to participation in services. Can be either in a project or scattered site.

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Existing beds by type | | Existing annual costs |
| Individual beds | 3,679 | \$ 53,717,196 |
| Family beds | 1,540 | \$ 11,239,810 |
| Family units | 462 | |
| TOTAL EXISTING BEDS | 5,219 | \$ 64,957,006 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Additional beds needed | | Annual costs to address unmet need |
| Individual beds | 4,200 | \$ 61,320,000 |
| Family beds | 1,050 | \$ 7,665,000 |
| Family units | 420 | |
| TOTAL NEW BEDS NEEDED | 5,250 | \$ 68,985,000 |

Created in 2007

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|--|------------|
| | Number | Percentage | Percent of TOTAL need completed | |
| Individual beds | 303 | 7% | Individual beds | 47% |
| Family beds | 93 | 8% | Family beds | 59% |
| Family units | 38 | 8% | Family units | 52% |
| | | | TOTAL NEED ADDRESSED | 50% |



| | Unsubsidized Permanent Housing | Transitional Housing | Permanent Supportive Housing | Subsidized Housing | Homeless | Above Self-Sufficiency Income |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Target exiting outcomes | | | | | | |
| Single individuals | 75% | 5% | 5% | 10% | 5% | 70% |
| Individuals in families | 65% | 5% | 5% | 20% | 5% | 60% |
| Actual exiting outcomes | | | | | | |
| Single individuals | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Individuals in families | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

| | Number | Percentage |
|--|--------|------------|
| Individuals served 2008 | 3,679 | 70% |
| People in families with children served 2008 | 1,540 | 30% |
| Returning to homelessness one-year after exiting | n/a | n/a |

Permanent Subsidized Housing with Ongoing Services

New specific actions

- 5.1 CTED in cooperation with DSHS will dedicate \$1.6 million per year in state recording fee funds to provide housing to 400 people with severe and persistent mental illness enrolled in the DSHS Program for Assertive Community Treatment.
- 5.2 CTED and DSHS will fund an intensive Supportive Housing Institute in eight additional high-need/low capacity communities to create new projects totaling 200 permanent supportive housing units.
- 5.3 CTED will pilot effort in Clark County to close down and clean up illegal encampments of homeless people, and offer all of them low-barrier housing, including those with criminal, substance abuse, and mental health problems in order to remain stably housed.

Ongoing initiatives

| | | Annual Funding | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------|-------|-------------|
| | Bed Equivalencies | Federal | State | Local | Lead Agency |
| Federal McKinney Act | 200 | \$10.0 | | | CTED |
| PATH | 1,000 | \$1.5 | \$ 0.5 | | DSHS |

Accomplishments 2008

2008 Strategy
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- 9.3 Over 200 new units are forecast to be developed as a result of an intensive permanent supportive housing institute jointly funded by CTED, DSHS Mental Health, and the Washington Families Fund. Eight communities were provided ten days of training over an eight month period to assist them with developing viable new projects. The goals of the institute include 1) developing fundable projects in high-need/low-capacity communities; 2) developing capacity in those communities to develop additional projects in the future. Teams from Clallam, Pacific, Lewis, Skagit, Okanogan, Benton-Franklin, Walla Walla, and Spokane participated in the Institute. All eight teams plan on applying for state funding by the spring of 2009.

Improve the effectiveness of homeless housing and services

Coordination and integration of public, private and non-profit systems necessary to prevent homelessness and maximize efficient use of resources. Ensure that all existing available resources are accessible and used to reduce homelessness.

People homeless within one week of release from:

| | TARGET | 2007 |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------|
| Local Jail | 3% | n/a |
| State Prison | 2% | n/a |
| State Psychiatric Hospital | 1% | n/a |
| Community Psychiatric Hospital | 1% | n/a |
| Inpatient Substance Abuse Treatment | 3% | n/a |
| Foster Care | 2% | n/a |
| Hospitals | | |

People homeless while enrolled in:

| | TARGET | 2007 |
|---|--------|------|
| Temporary Assistance for Needy Families | 1% | n/a |
| Regional Support Network Services | 2% | n/a |
| General Assistance Unemployable | 2% | n/a |
| Social Security Disability Income | 1% | n/a |

| | TARGET | 2007 |
|---|--------|------|
| Persons identified as homeless placed in housing within 30 days | 95% | n/a |

| | TARGET | 2007 |
|---|--------|------|
| Clients placed in permanent housing within 15 days of program enrollement | 90% | n/a |
| Clients assessed using research-proven assessment tools | 90% | n/a |
| Homeless housing unit equivalences owned by private-market landlords | 35% | n/a |

Improve the effectiveness of homeless housing and services

New specific actions

- 6.1 CTED and DOC are investigating creating manufactured housing with Correctional Industries to supply affordable housing.
- 6.2 CTED will contract with King and Snohomish County to develop and pilot research-proven client assessment forms
- 6.3 Expand Reentry partnership with DSHS, CTED, DOC, ESD, and DVA
- 6.4 Work to expand the Building 9 Transitional Housing Program by developing a proposal to expand to 60-bed capacity by June 30, 2009.
- 6.5 DOC will add 146 new drug treatment beds in communities as part of re-entry initiative over the next two years.
- 6.6 DOC will double the current 670 work release beds over the next 10 years, with the goal of adding 60 beds over the next two years.
- 6.7 DOC will add two new Community Justice Centers in Benton-Franklin and Thurston counties in 2009.
- 6.8 DSHS will provide technical assistance to the DSHS Mental Health Division and Regional Support Networks on implementing housing initiatives related to the Mental Health Housing Study, including the use of new funds for community based housing.
- 6.81 CTED will publish available technical assistance on website about implementing diversion courts that include elements that maintain or provide housing.
- 6.82 CTED solidify cooperation with local housing authorities by contracting with them to manage the new \$1.6 million per year in state recording fee funds to provide housing to 400 people with severe and persistent mental illness enrolled in the DSHS Program for Assertive Community Treatment
- 6.83 DVA will expand to include CSO's within the ESA Division. Pilot project beginning August 1, 2008 and running through February, 2009 in 3 CSO's (Vancouver, Centralia, and Olympia). February, 2009 through July, 2009 – expand to Region 6 [clarify language]
- 6.84 Apply for open competitive HVRP Rural grant in Spring, 2009
- 6.85 Apply for continuation of current HVRP Urban grant in Spring, 2009

Ongoing initiatives

DSHS and DVA will continue the effort to identify DSHS clients who are also eligible for veteran's benefits.

DSHS will continue to provide training to housing and other community case managers on expediting access to SSI, SSDI, GAU, GAX.

Ongoing coordination with SSA for DSHS staff to assist clients with SSI/SSDI applications and DSHS services. Expanded training by DSHS staff to expedite eligibility for federal and state benefits

The ICH will review and respond to formal county requests for state policy changes communicated via local plans and annual reports.

ESD Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOP) work with local County Veterans Coalitions, WDVA, Snohomish WDC (HRVP program), Retsil Transitioning Housing Project, local Veteran Service Org. to identify homeless veterans.

DVA will expand Veterans Reintegration Services (VRS) to jails in Kitsap and Snohomish counties.

DVA will **continue** marketing of Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project in King, Pierce, Kitsap, and Thurston counties.

DOC will implement the children of incarcerated parents legislation.

ESD will work with the state association of Workforce Development Council Directors to identify service delivery opportunities to more effectively serve the homeless population through partnering with the developmental disabilities and mental health communities at the state and local levels.

ESD provides case mgmt. services to veterans through the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOP), partnering with Veterans Reintegration and homeless programs in King Co, WDVA Homeless Veteran Reintegration Programs.

| | | | Annual Funding | | | |
|------|--------|-------------|----------------|------------|-------------|--|
| | Served | Federal | State | Local | Lead Agency | |
| PATH | 1,000 | \$1,500,000 | | \$ 500,000 | DSHS | |

Accomplishments

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- 1.2 DSHS funded the creation of Housing Connections, a web-based guide serving Clark County that provides rental matching and resource information for renters, landlords and property managers and housing agency staff.
- 2.1 CTED funded three re-entry housing pilot projects that will serve up to 165 high risk, high need offenders.
- 2.2 DOC and CTED are investigating how to utilize Correctional Industries services to increase the supply of affordable housing, including manufactured housing.
- 2.3 CTED funded HGAP contracts in Island, Clark, Thurston, Clallam, Whatcom and Spokane counties that integrate correctional, social service, and health systems to serve people released from state and local correctional institutions.
- 2.4 DSHS began implementation of a five year "Roads to Community Living" demonstration grant that will assist 660 people moving from nursing homes, hospital and intermediate care facilities for people with mental retardation into the greater community.
- 2.10 DOC expanded two new Community Justice Centers in Seattle and Spokane.
- 2.12 DSHS completed a Mental Health Housing Study and Plan and has begun
- 2.13 Provide technical assistance to the DSHS Mental Health Division and RSNs on

4.1 CTED funded HGAP projects in Clark, Jefferson, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Walla Walla and Whatcom counties that provide a variety of landlord incentives including lease renewal incentives, mediation services, risk mitigation funds and flat rate rent subsidies.

4.2 CTED organized two workshops/peer group meetings for HGAP program contractors focusing on best practices and strategies for working with landlords, leases and landlord-tenant relationships, and published workshop materials on agency website.

6.1 CTED funded projects in King, Clark and Yakima counties with HGAP funds that model outreach, engagement, or access through multiple entry points into coordinated systems of housing, medical and social services, and document process and results for replication.

8.1 CTED integrated the HGAP funding process with the Housing Trust Fund process to provide complementary funding for services, operating, and capital expenses.

8.2 CTED funded a pilot effort in Clark County to close down and clean up illegal encampments of homeless people and offer all of them low-barrier housing and supportive services as needed to keep them stably housed.

Data and Performance Measurement Systems

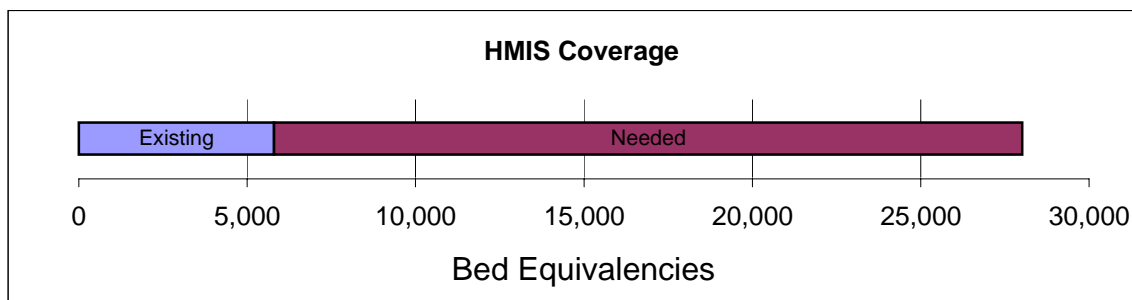
Collection of necessary output and outcome data needed to measure implementation of homeless plan.

Existing bed equivalencies covered by the Homeless Management Information System

| | Beds | Covered Beds | Coverage Rate | Complete Client Records |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Short-Term Housing Assistance with Minimal Services | 2,313 | 100 | 4% | n/a |
| Short-Term Assistance, Services and Assessment | 4,221 | 500 | 12% | n/a |
| Transitional Subsidized Housing and Services | 9,130 | 4000 | 44% | n/a |
| Permanent Subsidized Housing with Minimal Services | 645 | 200 | 31% | n/a |
| Permanent Subsidized Housing with Ongoing Services | 5,219 | 1000 | 19% | n/a |
| Unsheltered | 6,498 | 1000 | 15% | n/a |
| TOTAL | 28,026 | 5,800 | 21% | n/a |

Covered in 2007

| | Number | Percentage of Uncovered Addressed in 2007 |
|---|--------------|---|
| Short-Term Housing Assistance with Minimal Services | 100 | 5% |
| Short-Term Assistance, Services and Assessment | 200 | 5% |
| Transitional Subsidized Housing and Services | 300 | 6% |
| Permanent Subsidized Housing with Minimal Services | 400 | 90% |
| Permanent Subsidized Housing with Ongoing Services | 500 | 12% |
| Unsheltered | 200 | 4% |
| TOTAL | 1,700 | 8% |



Data and Performance Measurement Systems

New specific actions

- 7.1 CTED will work with DSHS researchers to refine homeless plan performance measures.
- 7.2 CTED will offer formula grant funding to every county to assist with the costs of implementing and maintaining HMIS systems by January 2008.
- 7.3 CTED will require counties to quarterly submit client-level HMIS data, and will use that data to quarterly produce county level reports on State Plan measures by the spring of 2009.
- 7.4 CTED and DSHS will enter into a formal agreement to match homeless client data with DSHS, DVA, and DOC data to document the housing status of people served by state programs. Quarterly produce county-level aggregate reports documenting systems crossover.
- 7.5 CTED will migrate existing state supported HMIS systems to a commercial vendor system by 2008 and will offer the system at no cost to non-urban counties.
- 7.6 CTED will work with all eight continuums of care HMIS system coordinators to ensure that the independent systems in the state are sufficiently compatible to provide statewide data.
- 7.7 CTED will transition its homeless programs reporting to directly utilize the HMIS data submitted by counties, eliminating the need for submission of reports by contractors in 2009.
- 7.8 CTED will research links between existing systems such as HMIS and 211 systems to integrate information sources for homeless people.
- 7.9 DOH will explore adding housing status to direct service programs.
- 7.91 CTED will identify methods to measure stakeholder satisfaction with homeless programs at the state and local levels.
- 7.92 CTED will explore providing technical assistance and funding to counties and local non-profits interested in applying for a Washington State Quality Award.
- 7.93 CTED will analyze county homeless plans to assess how well they conform to the state guidelines for local plans, and publish the results.
- 7.94 CTED will provide technical assistance and materials to support local community education efforts.

Ongoing initiatives

| | | Annual Funding | | | Lead Agency |
|------|--|----------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | | Federal | State | Local | |
| HMIS | | \$0.6 | \$1.1 | \$1.5 | CTED |
| | | | | | |

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Accomplishments

2008

Strategy

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- 5.3 CTED and OSPI consolidated data on the extent of youth homelessness. [See Appendix XX for details.](#)
- 12.5 CTED procured a replacement HMIS to serve rural counties and integrate data from existing HMIS systems supported by other vendors into a single database. Although deployment is not yet complete, CTED has finished acceptance testing of the new user interface, data integration, and reporting tools. CTED has also signed data sharing agreements with **X** counties and DSHS to allow the sharing and merging of data necessary to produce the aggregate outcome reports.

Homeless Housing Inventory and Need Details

| | Target Placement of Current Homeless at a Point in Time | | | | | Target Served Per Year | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| | Individual 0 People | Families with Children | People in Families with Children | TOTAL People | % of TOTAL | Individual People | Families with Children | People in Families with Children | TOTAL People Served | % of TOTAL |
| Short-Term Housing Assistance with Minimal Services | 1,600 | 960 | 2,400 | 4,000 | 14% | 11,072 | 6,643 | 16,608 | 27,680 | 32% |
| Short-Term Assistance, Services and Assessment | 4,200 | 720 | 1,800 | 6,000 | 21% | 29,064 | 4,982 | 12,456 | 41,520 | 48% |
| Transitional Subsidized Housing and Services | 3,645 | 2,708 | 6,770 | 10,415 | 37% | 3,645 | 2,708 | 6,770 | 10,415 | 12% |
| Permanent Subsidized Housing with Minimal Services | 1,575 | 270 | 675 | 2,250 | 8% | 1,575 | 270 | 675 | 2,250 | 3% |
| Permanent Subsidized Housing with Ongoing Services | 4,200 | 420 | 1,050 | 5,250 | 19% | 4,200 | 420 | 1,050 | 5,250 | 6% |
| TOTAL | 15,220 | 5,078 | 12,695 | 27,915 | 100% | 49,556 | 15,024 | 37,559 | 87,115 | 100% |

| | Existing Placements at a Point In Time | | | | | Existing Placement Per Year | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|
| | Individual Units | Families with Children | Beds for Families with Children | TOTAL Existing Placements | % of TOTAL | Individuals | Families with Households | Individuals in Families with Children | TOTAL People | % of TOTAL |
| Short-Term Housing Assistance with Minimal Services | 918 | 558 | 1,395 | 2,313 | 8% | 3,461 | 976 | 2,440 | 5,901 | 7% |
| Short-Term Assistance, Services and Assessment | 3,255 | 386 | 966 | 4,221 | 15% | 28,007 | 7,896 | 19,740 | 47,747 | 57% |
| Transitional Subsidized Housing and Services | 2,651 | 2,592 | 6,479 | 9,130 | 33% | 2,651 | 2,592 | 6,479 | 9,130 | 11% |
| Permanent Subsidized Housing with Minimal Services | 455 | 76 | 190 | 645 | 2% | 455 | 76 | 190 | 645 | 1% |
| Permanent Subsidized Housing with Ongoing Services | 3,679 | 616 | 1,540 | 5,219 | 19% | 3,679 | 616 | 1,540 | 5,219 | 6% |
| Unsheltered | 5,183 | 462 | 1,315 | 6,498 | 23% | 12,439 | 1,262 | 3,156 | 15,595 | 19% |
| TOTAL | 16,141 | 4,690 | 11,885 | 28,026 | 100% | 50,692 | 13,418 | 33,545 | 84,237 | 100% |

| | Unmet Enrollment Slot Need | | | | | Annual Cost of Unmet Need Slots | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| | Individual Units | Families with Children | Beds for Families with Children | TOTAL New Enrollm ent Slots | % of TOTAL | Individual Units | Families with Children Units | TOTAL Unmet Needs Cost | % of TOTAL |
| Short-Term Housing Assistance with Minimal Services | 682 | 402 | 1,005 | 1,687 | 14% | \$ 9,956,324 | \$ 7,337,230 | \$ 17,293,554 | 12% |
| Short-Term Assistance, Services and Assessment | 945 | 334 | 834 | 1,779 | 15% | \$ 17,247,345 | \$ 9,135,585 | \$ 26,382,930 | 19% |
| Transitional Subsidized Housing and Services | 994 | 116 | 291 | 1,285 | 10% | \$ 10,887,038 | \$ 2,122,475 | \$ 13,009,513 | 9% |
| Permanent Subsidized Housing with Minimal Services | 1,575 | 270 | 675 | 2,250 | 18% | \$ 11,497,500 | \$ 3,695,625 | \$ 15,193,125 | 11% |
| Permanent Subsidized Housing with Ongoing Services | 4,200 | 420 | 1,050 | 5,250 | 43% | \$ 61,320,000 | \$ 7,665,000 | \$ 68,985,000 | 49% |
| TOTAL | 8,396 | 1,542 | 3,855 | 12,251 | 100% | \$ 110,908,207 | \$ 29,955,915 | \$ 140,864,122 | 100% |

| | Existing Costs | | | | Target System Costs | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| | Individual Units | Families with Children Units | TOTAL Unmet Needs Cost | % of TOTAL | Individual Units | Families with Children Units | TOTAL Unmet Needs Cost | % of TOTAL |
| Short-Term Housing Assistance with Minimal Services | \$ 13,403,676 | \$ 10,182,770 | \$ 23,586,446 | 10% | \$ 23,360,000 | \$ 17,520,000 | \$ 40,880,000 | 11% |
| Short-Term Assistance, Services and Assessment | \$ 59,402,655 | \$ 10,574,415 | \$ 69,977,070 | 29% | \$ 76,650,000 | \$ 19,710,000 | \$ 96,360,000 | 25% |
| Transitional Subsidized Housing and Services | \$ 29,028,450 | \$ 47,296,700 | \$ 76,325,150 | 32% | \$ 39,915,488 | \$ 49,419,175 | \$ 89,334,663 | 24% |
| Permanent Subsidized Housing with Minimal Services | \$ 3,319,602 | \$ 1,041,893 | \$ 4,361,495 | 2% | \$ 14,817,102 | \$ 4,737,518 | \$ 19,554,620 | 5% |
| Permanent Subsidized Housing with Ongoing Services | \$ 53,717,196 | \$ 11,239,810 | \$ 64,957,006 | 27% | \$ 115,037,196 | \$ 18,904,810 | \$ 133,942,006 | 35% |
| TOTAL | \$ 158,871,579 | \$ 80,335,588 | \$ 239,207,167 | 100% | \$ 269,779,786 | \$ 110,291,503 | \$ 380,071,288 | 100% |

3 - Causes of Homelessness

People generally become homeless when they cannot afford suitable housing, and they do not have family or friends able to assist them. Most homeless people primarily need enough income and/or housing subsidies to afford housing. In addition, many homeless people need short-term supporting services to assist them to stabilize their lives and maintain their housing. A smaller number of homeless people, including those with disabilities, also need long-term supportive services to maintain their housing. Low incomes, a shortage of affordable housing, stagnant housing subsidies, and limited support systems for people with special needs have pushed many people into homelessness.

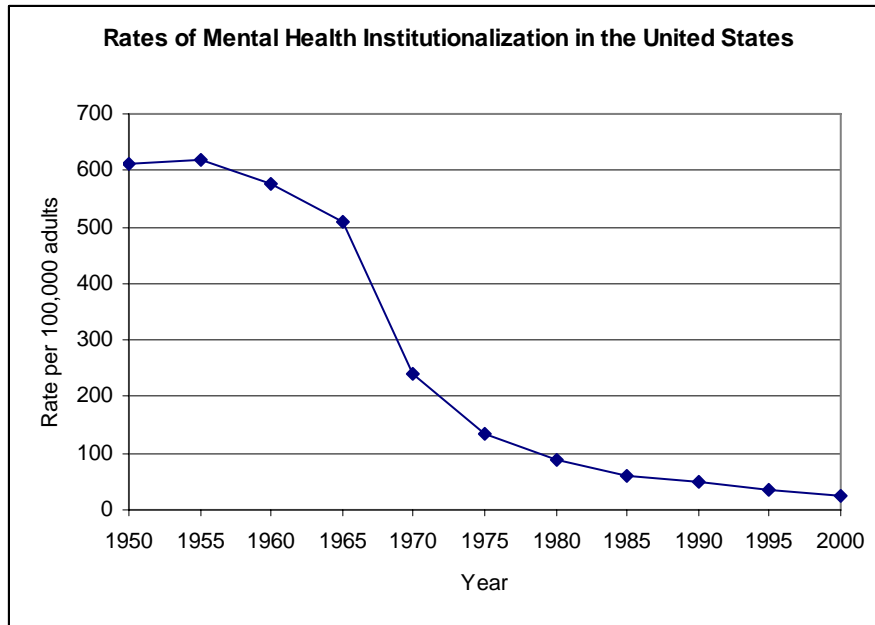
Although there have always been homeless people in Washington State, the nature and size of homelessness was changed in the late 20th century by the following factors.

Low Cost Housing Disappearing

Most very low cost housing (such as single room occupancy rentals) was eliminated due to improvements in building codes and enforcement and market-driven gentrification in urban areas.

A Reduction in the Rate of Mental Health Institutionalization

There was a federally driven 96 percent reduction in the per-capita rate of people institutionalized for mental health problems between 1950 and the year 2000, without a matching increase in the level of community-based supportive mental health housing.¹ While many people with mental illnesses benefited from a reduction in the use of psychiatric hospitals and the emphasis on community-based care and improved treatments, some of those with the most severe disorders were not successful in the community and subsequently experienced chronic homelessness as well as incarceration. Dramatic reductions in inappropriate involuntary institutionalization of people with mental health illnesses has not yet been fully-offset by community based supportive housing.



Rising Housing Prices

As housing prices increase faster than overall inflation and wages, housing becomes less affordable. Since 1998 median monthly mortgage payments in Washington State have increased 62 percent (\$851 vs. \$1,328), although rent inflation adjusted rental costs have not significantly grown.²

Stagnant and Declining Incomes

While housing prices have been increasing, median inflation adjusted income for a fully employed male has dropped 2 percent (\$800/year) since 1970.³

Programs that provide income assistance, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), pay on average \$603/month in Washington State, while a modest efficiency apartment averages \$529/month. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provides about \$440/month to a family.

Homelessness Precipitated by Other Issues

Inadequate incomes and an inadequate supply of affordable housing and rent subsidies leave many people vulnerable to losing their housing. Over 99,000 Washington households earning less than 30 percent of median income pay more than 50 percent of their income for rental housing according to the 2000 census. These households are at risk of becoming homeless. A sudden illness, loss of a job, or a sharp increase in expenses such as the price of gasoline can, in the present market, result in a family losing their home.

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People may be able to overcome one stressor such as a job loss, but if that factor is coupled with others, such as mental illness or domestic violence, they may not be able to avoid homelessness.

The support systems that people rely on such as family, friends, and social service systems are often not able to respond quickly or adequately enough to prevent homelessness. Therefore, people who experience one or more of these factors are at the highest risk of becoming homeless, including:

- People faced with unexpected emergencies, such as loss of a job, loss of housing, or loss of public assistance.
- People who have substance abuse issues.
- People with mental health issues, particularly those who are ineligible for government-sponsored services.
- People who experience domestic problems, including violent relationships.
- People who have just been released from an institution, especially jails and state correctional facilities.
- Youth aging out of foster care.
- People who have been affected by natural disasters.
- People with limited educations.
- People who are living in overcrowded or inadequate housing.
- Those experiencing problems with landlords or other tenants.

4 - Size and Characteristics of Homelessness in Washington State [PLACEHOLDER CHAPTER – NOT YET UPDATED FROM 2007]

We cannot create effective strategies to address homelessness without first knowing the size and scope of the problem. We have just begun to collect data on the size and characteristics of homelessness in the State as a whole. Although there are significant shortcomings to the data we have now, we know approximately how many people experience homelessness. New homeless management information systems (HMIS) will give us real-time client level information on those served in emergency shelters, transitional shelters, and to a limited extent unsheltered persons in contact with outreach programs.

Ongoing improvements in the quality of the data we collect on homelessness will be critical to creating appropriately sized and targeted strategies.

| Washington State Point-in-time Count of Homeless Persons | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| January 2007 | | | | |
| Part 1: Homeless Population | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | TOTAL |
| | Emergency | Transitional | | |
| 1. Homeless Individuals | 3,778 | 3,346 | 4,835 | 11,959 |
| 2. Homeless Families with Children | 759 | 2,477 | 462 | 3,698 |
| 2a. Persons in Homeless Families with Children | 2,143 | 6,684 | 1,259 | 10,086 |
| Total (lines 1 + 2a) | 5,921 | 10,030 | 6,094 | 22,045 |
| | | | | |
| Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations | Sheltered | | Unsheltered | TOTAL |
| | Emergency | Transitional | | |
| 1. Chronically Homeless | | 2,706 | 950 | 3,656 |
| 2. Mental Health | | 2,729 | | |
| 3. Substance Abuse | | 3,070 | | |
| 4. Veterans | | 1,165 | | |
| 5. Persons with HIV/AIDS | | 188 | | |
| 6. Victims of DDV | | 2,482 | | |
| 7. Unaccompanied Youth | | 431 | | |
| 8. Physically Disabled | | 1,359 | | |
| 9. Agricultural Workers | | 23 | | |
| 10. Substance and MH | | 1,097 | | |
| 11. Seniors | | 243 | | |

What We Know

A total of 22,045 people were reported homeless in the second statewide point-in-time count that took place during the last week of January 2007—a 0.4 percent increase over the 2006 count. The increase represents 83 additional people sheltered, and is probably caused by expansions of count efforts and creation of new transitional housing.

Of those counted, 15,951 were in emergency shelters or transitional housing, and 6,094 were unsheltered (living outside or other places not meant for human habitation).

The count found 3,656 (16 percent) persons considered “chronically homeless” under the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition. HUD defines chronically homeless persons as unaccompanied homeless individuals with a disabling condition that have either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Many smaller counties attempted to count persons temporarily living with family or friends, commonly known as “doubled-up” or “couch surfers.” Although this population is not considered “homeless” under the HUD definition or state definition, they are considered homeless by the federal Department of Education, and are eligible for services under state-funded homeless programs. People temporarily living with family or friends are not included in the homeless count of 22,045.

Among those that were sheltered 2,729 (17 percent) identified a mental health disability and 3,070 (19 percent) reported a substance abuse problem. Although collection methods varied between counties and collection points, generally these numbers are self-reported and likely significantly undercount the actual problem.

Only 431 unaccompanied youth aged 17 and under were accounted for in the point-in-time count. Many homeless youth are “couch surfing” and thus not homeless under the HUD definition, although they are homeless under the federal Department of Education (DOE) definition. Using the DOE definition, schools in Washington State counted 14,490 homeless youth during 2005.

Seven percent (1,165) of the persons counted in emergency and transitional housing indicated that they were veterans. This number does not include unsheltered veterans, since many point-in-time counts do not ask homeless persons about their veteran status. When extrapolating the count of sheltered veterans to unsheltered homeless persons, the results are a count of 1,609 homeless veterans. The actual number of veterans is likely higher, given that national studies show 22 percent of homeless persons are veterans. Department of Social and Health Services eligibility data shows that among the approximately 1,200,000 persons served in 2005 (duplicated count), 11,473 individuals were homeless (7,309 sheltered and 4,164 unsheltered). Because homeless status does not determine program eligibility, the actual numbers may be higher.

What We Don't Know

The point-in-time count data does not tell us how many people become homeless over the course of a year. A duplicated accounting of state emergency shelter data shows 45,598 people served in 2005, versus the 6,046 counted (unduplicated) in shelters in the last week in January 2006. As better data is collected by the HMIS, we will be able to understand the relationship between how many people are homeless at a point in time versus the total number that are homeless during a year. Factors to examine include the seasonality of homelessness and the percentage of homeless people that are homeless briefly versus those who are homeless for long periods of time.

Improving Data Collection

Homeless management information systems, now in the early stages of deployment statewide will give us real-time, client-level information on those served in emergency shelters, transitional shelters, and to a limited extent unsheltered persons in contact with outreach programs.

These systems will give us the ability to know:

- 1) How many homeless persons were served in a year;
- 2) How many are being served at any given point-in-time;
- 3) How long each person is being served; and
- 4) What percentage of homeless persons who exit homeless services return to homelessness in subsequent years.

Although state and local governments share the responsibility for deploying HMIS throughout the state, CTED is responsible for providing assistance to ensure that the systems collect the appropriate data and make it available to local and state policy makers in a timely fashion. HMIS will begin to provide meaningful system-wide data starting in 2008.

The state will also be working to improve the point-in-time counts of homeless persons, which are currently the only available means of determining how many people are unsheltered. HMIS alone will only give us a measure of the numbers being served, which more directly correlates to funding levels and does not necessarily correlate to the actual extent of homelessness. As point-in-time counts improve, it will be important to recognize that better reporting may appear to result in an increase in the number of homeless people – simply because we are doing a better job of counting them.

DRAFT Washington State Point in Time Count of Homeless Persons - January 2008

| | <i>Sheltered</i> | | | <i>Unsheltered</i> | | | TOTAL Homeless | <i>Temporarily Living with Family or Friends</i> | <i>Chronically Homeless</i> | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Individuals | Persons in Families with Minor Children | TOTAL Sheltered | Individuals | Persons in Families with Minor Children | TOTAL Unsheltered | | | Sheltered | Unsheltered | TOTAL Chronic |
| Adams | - | 7 | 7 | 13 | 112 | 125 | 132 | 213 | - | - | - |
| Asotin | - | 7 | 7 | 1 | - | 1 | 8 | 10 | - | - | - |
| Benton-Franklin | 116 | 338 | 454 | 209 | 221 | 430 | 884 | 125 | 136 | 246 | 382 |
| Chelan-Douglas | 114 | 253 | 367 | 30 | 12 | 42 | 409 | 355 | 29 | 5 | 34 |
| Clallam | 147 | 226 | 373 | 70 | 7 | 77 | 450 | 299 | 50 | 19 | 69 |
| Clark | 421 | 459 | 880 | 84 | 98 | 182 | 1,062 | 328 | 106 | 42 | 148 |
| Columbia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 16 | - | - | - |
| Cowlitz | 172 | 243 | 415 | 34 | 2 | 36 | 451 | 154 | 16 | 9 | 25 |
| Ferry | 7 | 10 | 17 | 9 | - | 9 | 26 | 35 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Garfield | - | 5 | 5 | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | - |
| Grant | 51 | 217 | 268 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 277 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Grays Harbor | 66 | 82 | 148 | 51 | 4 | 55 | 203 | 154 | 13 | 8 | 21 |
| Island | 8 | 67 | 75 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 78 | 112 | - | - | - |
| Jefferson | 40 | 54 | 94 | 124 | 7 | 131 | 225 | 80 | 17 | 9 | 26 |
| King | 2,886 | 2,922 | 5,808 | 2,631 | 62 | 2,693 | 8,501 | - | 888 | - | 888 |
| Kitsap | 164 | 121 | 285 | 145 | 9 | 154 | 439 | 266 | 80 | 88 | 168 |
| Kittitas | 11 | 28 | 39 | 10 | - | 10 | 49 | 85 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Klickitat | 5 | 29 | 34 | - | - | - | 34 | 7 | - | 3 | 3 |
| Lewis | 20 | 136 | 156 | 26 | 16 | 42 | 198 | 212 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Lincoln | 6 | 28 | 34 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 42 | 70 | - | - | - |
| Mason | 11 | 88 | 99 | 44 | 79 | 123 | 222 | 365 | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| Okanogan | 29 | 38 | 67 | 14 | 2 | 16 | 83 | 248 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Pacific | 3 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 7 | 24 | 30 | 27 | - | 2 | 2 |
| Pend Oreille | 3 | 20 | 23 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 30 | 294 | 3 | - | 3 |
| Pierce | 526 | 952 | 1,478 | 227 | 38 | 265 | 1,743 | - | 211 | 161 | 372 |
| San Juan | - | - | - | 5 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 17 | - | - | - |
| Skagit | 61 | 194 | 255 | 101 | 182 | 283 | 538 | 628 | 9 | 14 | 23 |
| Skamania | - | - | - | 4 | - | 4 | 4 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Snohomish | 356 | 842 | 1,198 | 849 | 107 | 956 | 2,154 | - | 234 | 67 | 301 |
| Spokane | 736 | 344 | 1,080 | 263 | 27 | 290 | 1,370 | 395 | 162 | 44 | 206 |
| Stevens | 6 | 4 | 10 | 3 | - | 3 | 13 | 127 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Thurston | 171 | 137 | 308 | 140 | 14 | 154 | 462 | 150 | 54 | 30 | 84 |
| Wahkiakum | 5 | 27 | 32 | - | - | - | 32 | 2 | 2 | - | 2 |
| Walla Walla | 96 | 218 | 314 | 10 | 7 | 17 | 331 | 226 | 34 | 2 | 36 |
| Whatcom | 393 | 260 | 653 | 147 | 51 | 198 | 851 | 401 | 36 | 62 | 98 |
| Whitman | 27 | 88 | 115 | 1 | - | 1 | 116 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Yakima | 167 | 178 | 345 | 50 | 91 | 141 | 486 | 342 | 61 | 12 | 73 |
| TOTAL | 6,824 | 8,625 | 15,449 | 5,325 | 1,173 | 6,498 | 21,947 | * | 2,158 | 842 | 3,000 |

*Many of the largest counties did not attempt to count persons temporarily living with family or friends, which precludes the calculation of a meaningful state total. For those counties that did, the count is probably significantly low due to the difficul

DRAFT Difference Between 2006 and 2008 Point in Time Counts of Homeless Persons

| | <i>Sheltered</i> | | | <i>Unsheltered</i> | TOTAL Homeless | <i>Temporarily Living with Family or Friends</i> | <i>Chronically Homeless</i> | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Individuals | Persons in Families with Minor Children | TOTAL Sheltered | TOTAL Unsheltered | Sheltered and Unsheltered | Temporarily Living with Family or Friends | Sheltered | Unsheltered | TOTAL Chronic |
| Adams | (32) | (3) | (35) | 81 | 46 | 28 | (7) | (6) | (13) |
| Asotin | (8) | 1 | (7) | (10) | (17) | (75) | (4) | - | (4) |
| Benton-Franklin | (181) | (57) | (238) | 371 | 133 | (336) | 94 | 233 | 327 |
| Chelan-Douglas | (12) | 50 | 38 | (116) | (78) | 51 | 11 | (3) | 8 |
| Clallam | 15 | 89 | 104 | (126) | (22) | (226) | 22 | (13) | 9 |
| Clark | (194) | (46) | (240) | (89) | (329) | n/a | - | (31) | (31) |
| Columbia | - | (4) | (4) | (2) | (6) | 10 | - | - | - |
| Cowlitz | 10 | 81 | 91 | (98) | (7) | 33 | (1) | (3) | (4) |
| Ferry | 3 | (3) | - | 2 | 2 | 23 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Garfield | - | - | - | (1) | (1) | (6) | (1) | - | (1) |
| Grant | 36 | 107 | 143 | 9 | 152 | 11 | (2) | 2 | - |
| Grays Harbor | (54) | 40 | (14) | (17) | (31) | 15 | (15) | (24) | (39) |
| Island | (1) | (26) | (27) | (39) | (66) | (28) | (6) | (11) | (17) |
| Jefferson | (47) | 34 | (13) | 97 | 84 | 35 | 7 | (5) | 2 |
| King | (160) | 4 | (156) | 747 | 591 | n/a | (255) | - | (956) |
| Kitsap | 10 | (160) | (150) | 42 | (108) | (176) | (7) | 65 | 58 |
| Kittitas | (15) | 6 | (9) | (17) | (26) | (37) | (4) | (2) | (6) |
| Klickitat | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (7) | (4) | (9) | 2 | (7) |
| Lewis | (13) | 59 | 46 | (12) | 34 | (9) | (7) | (8) | (15) |
| Lincoln | (13) | (11) | (24) | 5 | (19) | 33 | (1) | (1) | (2) |
| Mason | 6 | 24 | 30 | 47 | 77 | (4) | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| Okanogan | (59) | (16) | (75) | (20) | (95) | 2 | (7) | - | (7) |
| Pacific | (1) | (28) | (29) | (22) | (51) | (54) | (1) | (7) | (8) |
| Pend Oreille | - | 4 | 4 | (14) | (10) | 278 | 3 | - | 3 |
| Pierce | 89 | 331 | 420 | (75) | 345 | n/a | 77 | 28 | 105 |
| San Juan | - | (7) | (7) | (34) | (41) | (45) | - | (5) | (5) |
| Skagit | (157) | (6) | (163) | 92 | (71) | 26 | (19) | (17) | (36) |
| Snohomish | (202) | (78) | (280) | 132 | (148) | (189) | 61 | (37) | 24 |
| Spokane | 199 | (192) | 7 | (229) | (222) | (287) | 74 | 7 | 81 |
| Stevens | (3) | (15) | (18) | (3) | (21) | 47 | 1 | (3) | (2) |
| Thurston | (4) | (7) | (11) | 32 | 21 | 46 | (9) | (10) | (19) |
| Wahkiakum | (11) | 20 | 9 | (4) | 5 | - | 2 | (1) | 1 |
| Walla Walla | (9) | 116 | 107 | (22) | 85 | (59) | 10 | (6) | 4 |
| Whatcom | 55 | (56) | (1) | 14 | 13 | 41 | (62) | (16) | (78) |
| Whitman | (2) | 12 | 10 | - | 10 | (6) | 3 | - | 3 |
| Yakima | (57) | (57) | (114) | (127) | (241) | (197) | (32) | (51) | (83) |
| TOTAL | (813) | 204 | (609) | 594 | (15) | n/a | (81) | (614) | (695) |

*Many of the largest counties did not attempt to count persons temporarily living with family or friends, which precludes the calculation of a meaningful state total. For those counties that did, the count is probably significantly low due to the difficul

DRAFT Percentage Difference Between 2006 and 2008 Point in Time Counts of Homeless Persons

| | <i>Sheltered</i> | | | <i>Unsheltered</i> | | | TOTAL Homeless | <i>Temporarily Living with Family or Friends</i> | <i>Chronically Homeless</i> | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Individuals | Persons in Families with Minor Children | TOTAL Sheltered | Individuals | Persons in Families with Minor Children | TOTAL Unsheltered | | | Sheltered | Unsheltered | TOTAL Chronic |
| Adams | -100% | -30% | -83% | -38% | 387% | 184% | 53% | 15% | -100% | -100% | -100% |
| Asotin | -100% | 17% | -50% | -91% | | -91% | -68% | -88% | -100% | | -100% |
| Benton-Franklin | -61% | -14% | -34% | 481% | 861% | 629% | 18% | -73% | 224% | 1792% | 595% |
| Chelan-Douglas | -10% | 25% | 12% | -64% | -84% | -73% | -16% | 17% | 61% | -38% | 31% |
| Clallam | 11% | 65% | 39% | -61% | -72% | -62% | -5% | -43% | 79% | -41% | 15% |
| Clark | -32% | -9% | -21% | -24% | -39% | -33% | -24% | n/a | 0% | -42% | -17% |
| Columbia | | -100% | -100% | -100% | | -100% | -100% | 167% | | | |
| Cowlitz | 6% | 50% | 28% | -74% | -33% | -73% | -2% | 27% | -6% | -25% | -14% |
| Ferry | 75% | -23% | 0% | 80% | -100% | 29% | 8% | 192% | | | |
| Garfield | | 0% | 0% | -100% | | -100% | -17% | -100% | -100% | | -100% |
| Grant | 240% | 97% | 114% | | | | 122% | 550% | -33% | | 0% |
| Grays Harbor | -45% | 95% | -9% | -15% | -67% | -24% | -13% | 11% | -54% | -75% | -65% |
| Island | -11% | -28% | -26% | -94% | -92% | -93% | -46% | -20% | -100% | -100% | -100% |
| Jefferson | -54% | 170% | -12% | 265% | | 285% | 60% | 78% | 70% | -36% | 8% |
| King | -5% | 0% | -3% | 125% | -92% | 38% | 7% | n/a | -22% | 0% | -52% |
| Kitsap | 6% | -57% | -34% | 91% | -75% | 38% | -20% | -40% | -8% | 283% | 53% |
| Kittitas | -58% | 27% | -19% | -57% | -100% | -63% | -35% | -30% | -57% | -67% | -60% |
| Klickitat | -17% | -6% | -8% | -100% | | -100% | -17% | -36% | -100% | 200% | -70% |
| Lewis | -39% | 77% | 42% | -28% | -11% | -22% | 21% | -4% | -88% | -89% | -88% |
| Lincoln | -68% | -28% | -41% | 33% | | 167% | -31% | 89% | -100% | -100% | -100% |
| Mason | 120% | 38% | 43% | 300% | 22% | 62% | 53% | -1% | | | |
| Okanogan | -67% | -30% | -53% | -55% | -60% | -56% | -53% | 1% | -78% | 0% | -58% |
| Pacific | -25% | -90% | -83% | -32% | -67% | -48% | -63% | -67% | -100% | -78% | -80% |
| Pend Oreille | 0% | 25% | 21% | -25% | -76% | -67% | -25% | 1738% | | | |
| Pierce | 20% | 53% | 40% | -24% | -10% | -22% | 25% | n/a | 57% | 21% | 39% |
| San Juan | | -100% | -100% | -72% | -84% | -79% | -82% | -73% | | -100% | -100% |
| Skagit | -72% | -3% | -39% | -29% | 279% | 48% | -12% | 4% | -68% | -55% | -61% |
| Snohomish | -36% | -8% | -19% | 21% | -13% | 16% | -6% | -100% | 35% | -36% | 9% |
| Spokane | 37% | -36% | 1% | -40% | -67% | -44% | -14% | -42% | 84% | 19% | 65% |
| Stevens | -33% | -79% | -64% | -50% | | -50% | -62% | 59% | | -75% | -50% |
| Thurston | -2% | -5% | -3% | 22% | 100% | 26% | 5% | 44% | -14% | -25% | -18% |
| Wahkiakum | -69% | 286% | 39% | -100% | | -100% | 19% | 0% | | -100% | 100% |
| Walla Walla | -9% | 114% | 52% | -71% | 75% | -56% | 35% | -21% | 42% | -75% | 13% |
| Whatcom | 16% | -18% | 0% | -13% | 240% | 8% | 2% | 11% | -63% | -21% | -44% |
| Whitman | -7% | 16% | 10% | 0% | | 0% | 9% | -86% | | 0% | 300% |
| Yakima | -25% | -24% | -25% | -77% | 75% | -47% | -33% | -37% | -34% | -81% | -53% |
| TOTAL | -11% | 2% | -4% | 26% | -31% | 10% | 0% | n/a | -4% | -42% | -19% |

*Many of the largest counties did not attempt to count persons temporarily living with family or friends, which precludes the calculation of a meaningful state total. For those counties that did, the count is probably significantly low due to the difficul

5 - County Recommendations

County governments make recommendations concerning state actions to reduce homelessness to the Interagency Council on Homelessness via local plans and annual reports to CTED.

The following is a summary of county recommendations and responses. Non-specific recommendations are omitted.

Prison and Jails

The Department of Corrections should increase case management of felony offenders.

There is an important distinction between “case management” and “community supervision.” Individuals under community supervision have specific compliance issues they need to meet in order to fulfill the terms of their supervision requirements.

Community supervision is time limited and unique to every individual’s release plan. Community supervisors have specific training around public safety. Case management of an individual, depending upon the agency they are working with, more than likely has a different level of engagement with a client.

One of DOC’s roles is to supervise offenders in contrast to case managers who work with clients over a longer term facilitating many levels of support. That distinction is important when addressing DOC’s role with offenders upon release and how case management intersects.

In rural areas of the state, DOC Re-entry Specialists (RES) work in multiple counties and one of their roles is to offer some case management type services. RES in rural areas often state that case management is more difficult because there are limited resources for individuals. RES can only refer to services available in a county.

Volunteers should have an open pipeline to jails and prisons to help connect offenders with services.

DOC does not have authority over jail administration. Volunteer opportunities at a county level needs to be addressed directly with local jail administrators.

DOC does allow volunteers access to state prisons by volunteers, guided by stateside policies.

Benefits should be expedited or reinstated more quickly for eligible individuals exiting state prisons.

DOC and DSHS are working under current legislation (E2SHB 1290) [RCW citation] to ensure that eligible individuals in prisons and jails are receiving the evaluations needed to enroll or re-enroll for benefits before being discharged. A DSHS Classification Counselor fills out the necessary paperwork while the offender is still under custody.

Timely mental health competency evaluations should be conducted for persons in jail.

Because discharge from jails happens at a much quicker pace than prisons, assessments, evaluations and planning for an individual's release may or may not happen in a timely manner, if at all. This is a resource issue and is unique to each jail's capacity to support their inmate population.

DSHS should be given access to the correctional facility's medical and psychiatric records in order to establish the existence of a disabling condition.

Once an offender in prison signs a release, records can be accessed. DOC is working to eliminate instances when records requests are not processed in a timely manner.

Youth

Increase access to existing state resources targeted to youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and expand eligibility to include both youth up to age 21 and youth not in state care.

Policy changes coming out of the 2008 legislative session provide increased access for foster youth to fill existing beds in the Responsible Living Skills Program (RLSP). Additionally, a policy change plus new resources expands eligibility for the THOR program to include individuals and families without children, which could provide increased access to transitional housing for this population.

State regulations governing providing shelter and housing to youth under the age of 18 are a barrier in smaller communities. For example, a youth under 18 in need of emergency shelter cannot be housed in a motel, but in some communities, motels are a primary form of emergency housing.

A well-crafted initiative creating a system of host homes, developing youth outreach teams, and/or creating housing, that targets this population could be a component of a state funded Homeless Grant Assistance Program project, and would be an eligible use of local homeless recording fee funding.

Data, Performance Measurement and Reporting

Involve the counties more closely in developing performance measurement standards for local Ten Year Plans.

All of the performance measures will be revisited in 2009 as part of an interagency effort to involve experienced social science researchers in the crafting of measures that are meaningful measures of performance. Counties will be brought into the process via an HMIS advisory group that will be formed in the winter of 2008 to guide the data sharing agreements between CTED and counties.

State agencies, including DOC and DSHS, should monitor and report on homeless populations they serve.

DSHS and DOC currently collect limited housing status information for those they are serving. The quality of that housing status information will be significantly improved by the interagency initiative being implemented to match Homeless Management Information System data against DSHS and DOC client data, to provide aggregate data on the overlap between the systems.

DOC currently collects limited housing status information for those they are serving. Programs throughout DSHS currently collect data on homelessness, usually at the point of screening and assessment, admission/discharge planning and/or eligibility determination (depending on the services a client is receiving).

Better coordinate reporting requirements to decrease the reporting burden.

CTED has completed a first draft of a new reporting requirements covering all of the homeless funding programs administered by the agency. The end result of this initiative will be the elimination of duplicative reporting once the new HMIS is implemented in 2009.

Allow flexibility in the methodology used for the point in time count of homeless people. Let local governments customize data collection, as well as the process, to reflect local conditions.

Counties are given broad flexibility under the existing state count of homeless person guidelines. The guidelines only 1) specify which data elements must be collected (many of which are optional); 2) require that some effort is made to reduce duplication; and 3) protect the privacy of the people being surveyed. CTED does provide a set of forms and an online database that implement the guidelines, but counties are free to implement their own techniques if the provided forms and database are too limiting given local needs.

The definition of homelessness leaves out the majority of homeless people and needs to be changed to include those who are doubled- up and/or couch surfing.

Although people living with family and friends are not considered homeless under state law, they are counted in the annual point in time count, and are eligible to receive services under almost all of the state funded

The following people should be considered homeless in the point in time count: people living in cars, recreational vehicles, moving from couch to couch, living in substandard

housing without operating utilities or facilities, or otherwise not visible to the public eye. Including these situations within the definition of homeless would vastly improve the accuracy of the count in rural counties.

People living in cars and living in housing without operating utilities are homeless under the state definition. The point in time count guidelines define people living in a dwelling lacking any of the following as homeless: drinking water, restroom, heat, ability to cook hot food, or ability to bathe. Many recreational vehicles may be missing one of these elements, making their occupants homeless under the state definition. People living temporarily with family or friends (moving from couch to couch) can be counted during the point in time count, but are not considered homeless under state law.

The funds provided through Homeless Act provide administrative funds to counties to administer the program. This is not always the case with other programs. As requirements increase under the Homeless Act for tracking performance measures, consideration should be given to the costs that come with those tracking requirements and counties should be compensated accordingly.

The costs of planning, data collection, and performance measurement reporting can be charged against the local Homeless Act funding. Although the state is careful to try and balance the need for data against the costs, the Homeless Act places a high value on performance reporting.

Other

Consider a regional approach to developing and implementing homeless assistance programs.

Regional approaches, particularly in rural areas, are preferred over single county approaches by most of CTED's homeless programs.

CTED should simplify the process for rural counties to access the state Homeless Act funds.

The state HGAP program is structured in three sub-competitions based on county size, so that small counties do not have to compete with large counties. Historically only a handful of small counties have submitted the relatively concise seven page applications for funding. CTED will continue to offer a sub-competition for small counties, and is offering intensive project development assistance to five small counties through the Permanent Supportive Housing Institute.

Smaller counties can also combine their efforts with adjacent small counties to propose stronger regional proposals.

The state should increase efforts to educate individuals who are homeless about the legal

rights of homeless children to receive an education.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction provides technical assistance to school districts as they enroll and serve homeless children and youth, and provides multiple annual training opportunities for district staff and others providers who serve homeless children and youth. Local homeless liaisons in the schools are required by federal law to post the educational rights of homeless children and youth throughout the community and in schools.

OSPI has a website with resources and links to national partners, offers a quarterly newsletter and provides grants to districts to support educational programs for homeless students. For further information, please see: www.k12.wa.us/HomelessEd/default.aspx

Confirm funding may be used for grant writing to develop more substantial capitalization for housing projects.

Use of local Homelessness Act funds is governed by local governments. Local funds can be used for local planning and coordination, which may include project planning.

Create a centralized system to provide background checks for low-income individuals and families that can be used for multiple rental agencies, so that these individuals and families aren't drained of their financial resources by paying for multiple background checks.

A well crafted initiative to work with landlords to reduce background check costs could be a component of a state supported HGAP project, and would be an eligible use of local homeless recording fee funding.

CTED should require a set aside amount dedicated to prevention services
CTED has eliminated the historic limit of the use of Emergency Shelter Assistance Program funding for prevention services.

CTED should encourage a "housing first" approach to increase the chances of people stabilizing on their own.

Housing first strategies are central to the state homeless plan and the HGAP program. CTED is primarily funding only new initiatives that employ a housing first or rapid-rehousing focus.

The policy departments of Health and Licensing should allow rest shelters for people recovering from medical issue that clearly fit within state regulatory guidelines.

DOH is working with the State Board of Health to develop rules to assure that homeless shelters are operated in a safe manner. The Department has been holding stakeholder meetings to gather input for the rules, and does not intend to preclude rest shelters.

Improve access to SSI/SSDI cash assistance for homeless persons.

DSHS is currently leading an initiative to train community case managers to assist clients with their applications for federal Social Security Disability benefits.

Make serving the homelessness population a top priority in state agencies and programs.

Although it is important to provide prompt and comprehensive services to people with the highest needs (including the homeless), the state does not want to create a perverse incentive for people to become homeless in order to receive services. The ICH will continue to explore how to ensure that people with the highest needs are not turned away in favor of those that are easier to serve, while not making an explicit preference for homeless persons.

Ensure that the local 40% share of 2163 funds sent to the state goes back to the local community.

All but 12.5% of the original homeless recording fee funds sent to the state Home Security Fund are returned to local governments via the HGAP program.

Require state agency officials and staff to serve on local Continuum's of Care so they can become more involved in local homeless and housing issues.

Many local continuums of care report that they have active participation from state agency officials on their Continuums and most counties have reported active participation on the local task forces to end homelessness.

Recommendations Requiring Legislative Action

The following county recommendations would require state or federal legislative policy and/or budget action to implement.

Assign responsibility for homeless youth facilities and teen foster care to CTED in order to coordinate service delivery. Alternatively - Require DSHS to address the needs of abused, abandoned, or homeless teen & pre teen youth. Measure effectiveness of delivery via survey of clients and sub contracting agencies.

Include consumers' voice in state policy decision by appointing them to positions on key state committees such as the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Limit fees and interest rates for payday loans, rent to own agreements, and other expensive quick cash loans.

Move surplus state property into a land trust for affordable housing. Request surplus federal property for same.

Increase access to existing state resources targeted to youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness expand eligibility to include both youth up to age 21 and youth not in state care.

Decrease or eliminate barriers to housing and employment for the offender population: develop alternatives to incarceration, clear criminal records after a certain time period or appropriate intervention (such as drug treatment, counseling, etc.), and provide employment opportunities for ex-offenders.

Expand access to Basic Health to ensure more individuals access to medical care.

Medical insurance and medication for seniors.

State policies and funding geared towards improving general educational levels of our citizens.

Creation of living wage jobs, with opportunities to progress beyond minimum wage, entry level positions.

Ensure non-discrimination in housing for persons in need or at risk. Some local jurisdictions in Washington have enacted ordinances or zoning policies that exclude or impose additional requirements on housing for targeted populations such as the homeless or those in need of assistance, subsidies or services. This creates unreasonable barriers to the creation and success of affordable housing for these persons in need of shelter and services.

Eliminate unfunded mandates to local governments.

Minimize funding cuts to local governments, which have to assume growing amounts of responsibility without accompanying revenues.

Decrease or eliminate barriers to housing and employment for people who have criminal histories and create alternatives to incarceration, such as a drug court diversionary program.

Allow for greater variance in government regulations and program requirements. While accountability to tax-payers and safeguards for clients are important, sometimes government regulations are so onerous that they hamper, and in some cases actually prevent, local agencies and organizations from providing services to the homeless. An example is regulation of shelter for homeless youth. Building and staffing requirements placed on youth shelters make them prohibitively expensive to establish and maintain, even though the need is significant. These regulations effectively diminish local capacity to provide shelter and services for these youth. Although well-meaning, such regulations actually exasperate local efforts to address homeless problems within the context of the resources available to them.

State programs often emphasize the presence of children as a qualifying condition for receiving services. This often excludes many deserving single-people, especially the elderly. Such decisions to determine eligibility should remain a local option.

Federally-funded programs are laced with expensive regulations and program requirements that are often out-of-step with local situations. For example, Housing Quality Standards demanded of rental housing units under the Section 8 Program are difficult to meet given the condition of the local housing stock. Other federal programs place outcome requirements on agencies that are difficult to fulfill given local situations. State agencies need to lobby federal agencies, such as HUD, to reform current regulations and program requirements.)

Many men remain unemployed and homeless because they cannot afford past child support or fines. Because they are shouldered with such overwhelming obligations, they never will be capable financially of getting a starting foothold at returning to a normal life. Instead of crippling garnishment, the state could consider subsidizing the child support for a period of time until homeless father gets financially readjusted. Instead of one set of rules that fits all situations, there needs to be greater latitude in individual application.

State legislators and policy makers should view homelessness as a disaster just as devastating as hurricanes, earthquakes or other natural disasters and they should respond accordingly. Homelessness is an economic disaster created by a skyrocketing housing market that is creating an ever-widening gap between wages and housing costs.

Enact stronger laws to prevent rural slum lords from taking advantage of homeless and very low-income people. Examples include: renting poor people camper trailers which either have no utilities or are illegally hooked up to utilities and refusing to attend to repairs, including plumbing and sewage issues.

The State Employment Department should receive mandatory training on issues of homelessness. Homeless job seekers here can get some, but not all, the help they need. For example, they may use a phone to contact a potential employer, but may not have a message number to use for that employer to call back.

Some counties should be mandated to implement rent-control programs. External forces causing property values and rents to rise beyond reasonable levels are displacing people whose families have lived here for generations

Extend foster care housing and services to youth ages 18 to 21 that are enrolled in college or vocational education. The outcomes for youth exiting foster care at age 18 are very poor and include increased risk of homelessness, dependence on public assistance, criminal behavior and addiction. Currently youth in foster care can continue to live in their kinship/foster home after age 18 only if they are enrolled in high school or a GED

program. Extending housing support and services to age 21 will create an incentive for education and training that will help prevent homelessness for a lifetime.

Adopt policies to encourage employers to create living wage jobs and hire homeless and at-risk individuals.

Encourage economic development that creates more jobs.

Enact land use and zoning policies that encourage affordable housing development.

Add ex-felons (with families) to the list of citizens protected under the non-discrimination housing policy, especially when ex-felons return to their families, placing their families at-risk for losing affordable housing.

Add victims of domestic violence to the list of citizens protected under the non-discrimination housing act. Victims of domestic violence are at risk of losing their affordable housing options if they have been engaged in any incident of D.V.

Modify the BECA bill, so that it supports and encourages youth to stay in school (not kick them out of school for being truant).

Expand Home State funding to be a state-wide initiative.

Funding for Section 8 Housing Vouchers needs to expand ten-fold. Multi-year waiting lists are the norm throughout the state.

Provide chemical dependency/mental health inpatient treatment and outpatient treatment for those without the proper insurance.

Limit fees and reduce barriers for developing affordable housing.

Provide cost effective health care and increase access to health care and health insurance.

Enact legislation limiting payment for credit checks to twice a year per household and allowing prospective tenants to provide copies to property owners.

Provision of tax incentives for landlords/property owners who maintain affordable rents (housing affordable to households at 30-50% of median income).

Amend the Washington State Landlord Tenant law requiring just cause for eviction, such as failure to pay rent within 3 days of a notice to pay or vacate or if the owner has notified the tenant in writing of overdue rent at least 4 times in a 12-month period. Current Landlord Tenant law allows for no-cause evictions with a twenty day notice. For low-income households this means that on the tenth day of any month in which they do not have an active lease, they can be informed without cause that they have twenty days to move.

Creation economic incentives (taxes, reduced permit fees, etc.), in addition to State tax incentives, for the development of affordable housing and its inclusion in market rate properties.

Create impact fees that fund affordable housing.

Revisit authorizing exceptional sentences for violent crimes against homeless people. Judges should be authorized to consider the criminal victimization of a homeless person as an aggravating circumstance that may warrant an exceptional sentence.

Low income housing inclusionary law for new developments

Increase GAU and TANF cash grants to a level that qualifies at a higher percentage for rentals.

Tax Increment Financing should require a certain percentage of affordable housing to be included in any development plans

Enact new relocation laws that would include mandatory relocation of tenants when housing is purchased by new owners and there is a change in use.

Increase the inadequate Alcohol and Drug Addition Treatment and Support Act (ADATSA) funding.

Setting the need standard for child support orders at 125% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Statewide provide clear standards for both tenants and rental property owners regarding the circumstances under which a month-to-month tenancy may be terminated and eviction can occur. One model for such standards is Seattle's Just Cause Eviction Ordinance.

Provide local officials the flexibility to determine local safety zones for housing offenders.

Remove the restrictions on state-only mental health funding to allow services to be provided more holistically to homeless individuals with co-occurring disorders including but not limited to mental illness, substance abuse, developmental disabilities, cognitive impairments and medical disabilities. Focus on global disability rather than needing to meet inclusion criteria under several different Look at the funding streams that are accessed for homeless services. The areas of mental health, substance abuse and housing are typically funded through different state funds are then split into different agencies to provide the services. If the funding were appropriated in a similar manner and agencies were funded together and with the realization that collaboration and sharing the funds could lead to more success when dealing with the homeless populations.

Enact legislation to prevent families from being evicted from November 1 April 1 (winter months similar to Minnesota law).

Pass legislation that would accommodate undocumented people with housing and services.

Create and fund a Homeless Ombudsman program.

Increase the LIHEAP funding in proportion to increasing energy costs; dedicate a portion to homeless prevention and allow more local input into how funds are allocated.

Change DSHS Additional Requirements to reflect the actual need and not some arbitrary set amount.

¹ *From Asylum to the Prison: Rethinking the Incarceration Revolution, Part II; State Level Analysis*, The Law School, The University of Chicago, March 2007, page 20.

² “Market Reports, Affordability”, *Washington State Center for Real Estate Research*, http://www.cb.wsu.edu/~wcrer/HOUSINGMARKET_Info.ASP.

³ Elizabeth Warren, “The Middle Class on the Precipice Rising Financial Risks for American Families”, *Harvard Magazine*, January-February 2006.