



# WELCOME! Community Action Advisory Board Meeting

---

- This meeting is being recorded.
- Please identify yourself when talking so we can capture accurate minutes.
- “Chat” function is not available due to public disclosure rules.
- Closed Captioning now available 
  - Turn on Webex Assistant and follow the prompts to turn on closed captioning
- Lock participant videos in Webex
  - Lock up to 6 participants to see them regardless of who is speaking
  - Each person can customize their own set of pinned participants
  - Hover over the thumbnail location you want to lock a participant to
  - Click on More  and select *Lock a participant to this location*
  - Select the participant from the list you want to lock in that position



# Election of Executive Officers (action)

---

- Open to all board members
- Can serve up to 3 years in each position
- Current executive team:
  - Chair: Melanie Green, served 1 year
  - Vice-chair: Alishia Topper, served 1 year
  - Secretary: Rob Perkins, served 1 year
- Nominations received:
  - Chair: None received
  - Vice-chair: Alishia Topper
  - Secretary: Rob Perkins



# Approval of Nov 2023 Minutes (action)

## COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Hybrid Meeting: in-person at Center for Community Health and through Webex online platform  
November 1, 2023

PRESENT	EXCUSED	ABSENT	STAFF
Alishia Topper, vice chair	Diana Perez	Karyn Kameroff	Abby Molloy
Amy Roark	Lance Carter		Rebecca Royce
Bridget McLeman			Janet Snook
David Poland			Michael Torres
Ernie Suggs			Alissa Page
Jamie Spinelli			Luis Nunez
Joyce Cooper			Kayla Williams
Megan Mulsoff			
Nickeia Hunter			
Melanie Green, chair			
Rob Perkins, secretary			

**Guests:** Esra Khalil (Community Foundation of SW WA); Ann Hawkins, Samantha Whitley (City of Vancouver); CODAs interpreters

- I. Welcome/Introductions
- II. Approval of September 2023 Minutes  
Alishia Topper made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Rob Perkins and carried.
- III. Nominations for 2024 Executive Team  
Chair Melanie Green, Vice Chair Alishia Topper, and Secretary Rob Perkins are all serving first year in position and may serve up to three years. Nominations are being accepted by email until the January 3rd meeting.
- IV. Community Foundation of SW Washington, Social Justice Resiliency Fund presentation (Org. Std. 5.9)  
The Social Justice and Resiliency Fund (SJRF) is a program that was created as an outcome of lessons learned during the pandemic. It was designed to provide rapid discretionary funding to nonprofits working with the economically vulnerable. It was found that BIPOC communities were underserved. The grant making process was redesigned to be responsive to community needs, focusing on under-resourced communities. Funding focuses on systemic change, advocacy, and capacity building to end generational poverty. The County provided funding for the program through the state's CSBG Proviso budget request along with funds from the Developmental Disabilities unit and Behavioral Health units. A new two-year contract is in process to continue funding into the community.
- V. Task Force updates
  - Legislative Advocacy  
HB1343 allows city or county to provide tax incentives to provide affordable housing;  
HB1625 to adopt programs to stabilize rents, and to repeal Washington laws that do not allow for rent controls.
  - Community Needs Assessment  
Consultant is putting data together with an equity lens. Interviews are being scheduled and community forums are being formulated. Supplemental data is being collected. Final CNA to be approved in May meeting.
- VI. Refugee Stabilization Grant Application (Org. Std. 5.9)  
Funds were designated for assisting refugees of the 2021 Afghanistan conflict and 2022 Ukrainian conflict. Lutheran Community Services Northwest is the local refugee resettlement agency. All funds will be

allocated to them if awarded. Request is for \$1M per year for two years. CAAB will be notified when updates are received.

- VII. Clark County Community Services staffing changes  
Rebecca has moved to the affordable housing programs within Community Services. Her Community Action position is being filled by competitive application. Abby Molloy will temporarily cover until the position is permanently filled.
- VIII. Clark College Financial Wellness program update/fund reallocation policy  
Reorganization at Clark College has caused them to request cancellation of their contract. Approximately \$30,000 of their contract will be reallocated to cover funding shortfalls for other Community Action contracts and cover costs associated with conducting the CNA. Staff provided an overview of the re-allocation process.
  - When new funding is received by Community Services, an RFA overseen by the CAAB is conducted.
  - Ongoing funding is included in the regular RFA process conducted every three years. Additional funding received through existing grant agreements are allocated into existing contracts selected through the most recent RFA, through a separate RFA process or to fund activities required to provide the previously approved programs.
  - Reallocated funds are recaptured when programs underspend their contracted budgets. These funds are used to fill shortfalls in programmatic requirements, added to previously approved contracts, or added to the next regular RFA process.
- IX. City of Vancouver Affordable Housing and Homelessness update  
Reopening housing production applications in January. CDBG and HOME application cycle now mirrors Clark County's. Received 46 pre-applications, including 12 new agencies. Safe Stay 3 opening November 20. Site 4 opening around December 19.
- X. July 2022 – June 2023 Finance reports and County audit update (Org. Stds. 8.3, 8.4, 8.7)  
Expense report shows contracts by funding source, indicated amount and percent spent and amount remaining. Report broken down by regular and COVID funding sources. Council for the Homeless Community Planning includes funding for the Homeless Action Plan, which is underway. 95% of grant funds were spent in the fiscal year.  
The Revenue Report lists two years of document recording fees as the county collects the fees before allocating them into contracts. Estimated shortfalls are around \$1.5M. Charts represent spending by fund source and service type.  
Clark County is audited for all funding annually. Community Services had no findings. Results are posted at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/reportsearch>.
- XI. Open Forum  
No discussion.
- XII. Other Business
  - Applications have been received for three of the six open positions; they are being reviewed by the committee.
  - Next meeting, hybrid, 9am-12pm, Wednesday, January 3 for board business.
  - Annual hybrid training time to be determined from survey results. Board members are highly encouraged to attend training in-person.

Rob Perkins, Secretary  
rr



# Clark County Community Services Director Update

Vanessa Gaston, Community Services Director



# Community Services Strategic Plan Update

Jackie St. Louis, Consultant

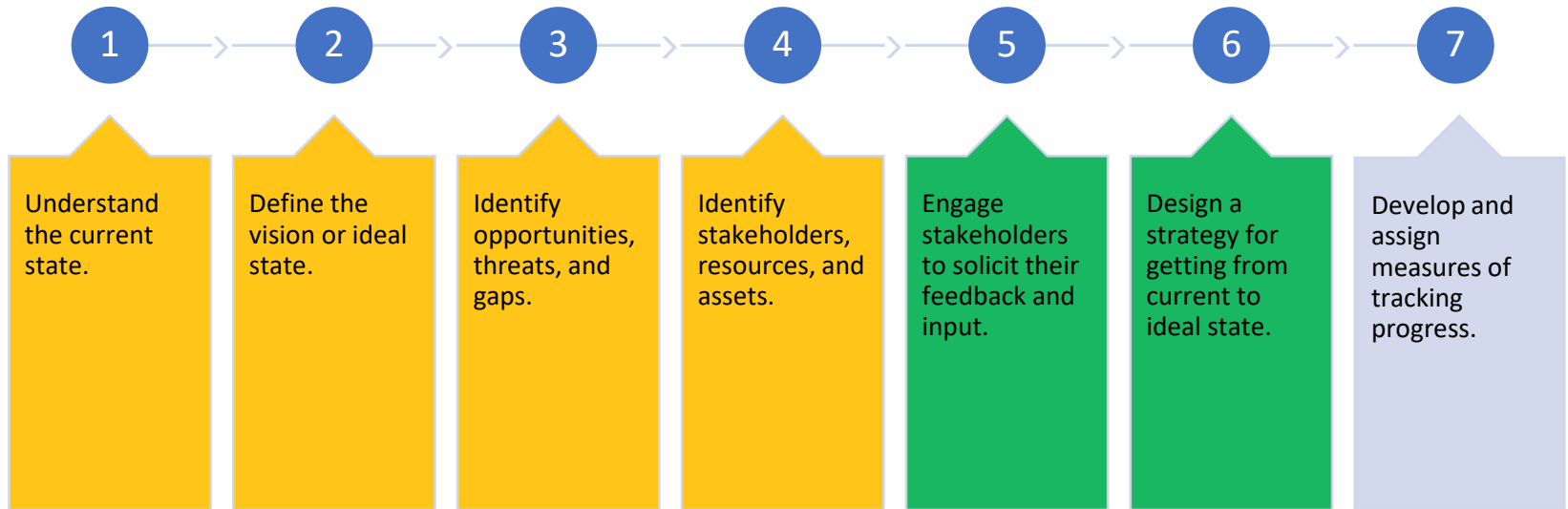




# Community Services Strategic Plan Update

Jackie St. Louis

# Progress to Date





# Work to Date

- Formed Committee
- Reviewed Previous Strategic Plan
- Researched Strategic Plans from similar communities
- Designed and beta tested surveys
- Published Surveys
- Assessed Survey Results
- Engaged Leaders
- Will engage: Youth, Lived Experience
- Writing





# Internal Survey Findings

- Excellent response to the survey – 30 people participated
- Highlights
  - 60% of respondents worked with Community Services for 10+ years
  - 70% plus of respondents are women
  - 63% participated in previous strategic planning process in some capacity
    - 89% were contributors
  - 57% thought the previous plan was well done
  - People generally think the plan has been well executed
    - 1/3<sup>rd</sup> are uncertain
  - Recommendations for current plan
    - More alignment with council
    - More staff input
    - Deeper community involvement
    - More inclusion of DEI



## Internal Survey Findings II

- Things cautioned against
  - Setting unrealistic expectations
  - Ignoring political implications
- Most urgent issues that need to be addressed
  - Mental Health
  - Racial Equity
  - Housing
  - Homelessness
  - Poverty and economic Development

# Internal Survey Findings III



Factors most impacting the community

Political/Policy  
Race and Cultural Issues  
Economics



Only 17% of respondents indicate belief that there is consensus in the community (as a whole) about the most pressing needs



Only 3% believe that the organization (Clark County Government) has consensus about the most pressing needs

# Internal Survey Findings IV

---

- Favorable View of Community Services
  - 57% believe that there is consensus about most pressing needs of community
  - 60% of respondents believe that Community Services is able to accomplish its strategic plan goals
  - 69% believe that Community Services has good relationships with providers/non-profit organizations
  - 61% believe that Community Services has good relationships with advisory boards
  - 69% believe that Community Services has good relationships with government agencies
  - 79% believe that Community Services has good relationships with funders
- Areas for improvement
  - Relationship with community groups (44%)
  - Relationship with recipient's of services (65%)

# Internal Survey Findings V

- Top barriers to successfully implementing strategic plan
  - Political/Policy
  - Lack of resources
  - Economic/Financial
- Top groups to prioritize in the strategic planning process
  - Social Service Providers
  - Recipients of services
  - Community members
  - Community Services staff
- Engagement Methods
  - Focus Groups
  - Surveys
  - Questionnaires
  - Virtual meetings
  - Group Interviews

# Internal Survey Findings VI

---

- Most responsible for the success of Strategic Plan
  - Community Services
  - County Government
  - Community Organizations
- State of racial equity
  - Community services doing well (86%)
  - Clark County Government can improve (70%)
  - 80% embed racial equity in their work/take a racial equity approach
  - Shared understand in Community Services but not across the organization
  - Uncertainty as to whether providers take racial equity approach
  - 90% believe racial equity is important component of the strategic plan



# Internal Survey Findings VII

---

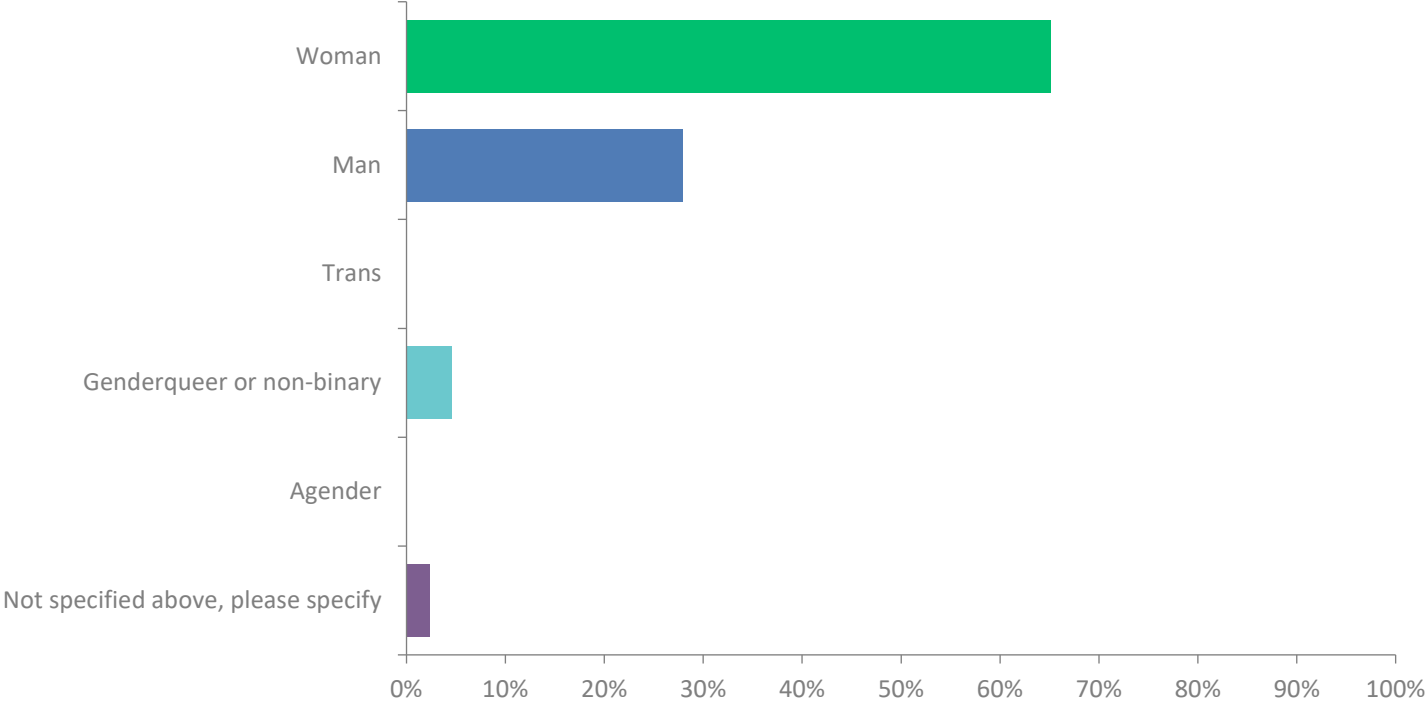
- Measurement and Evaluation
  - Increased access to services
  - Meeting benchmarks that have been set
  - Client outcomes
  - Increased diversity among workforce
- Success is
  - Community being more resilient
  - Racial Equity Outcomes
  - Progress toward goals
  - Alignment across the board

# Findings From “Provider Survey”

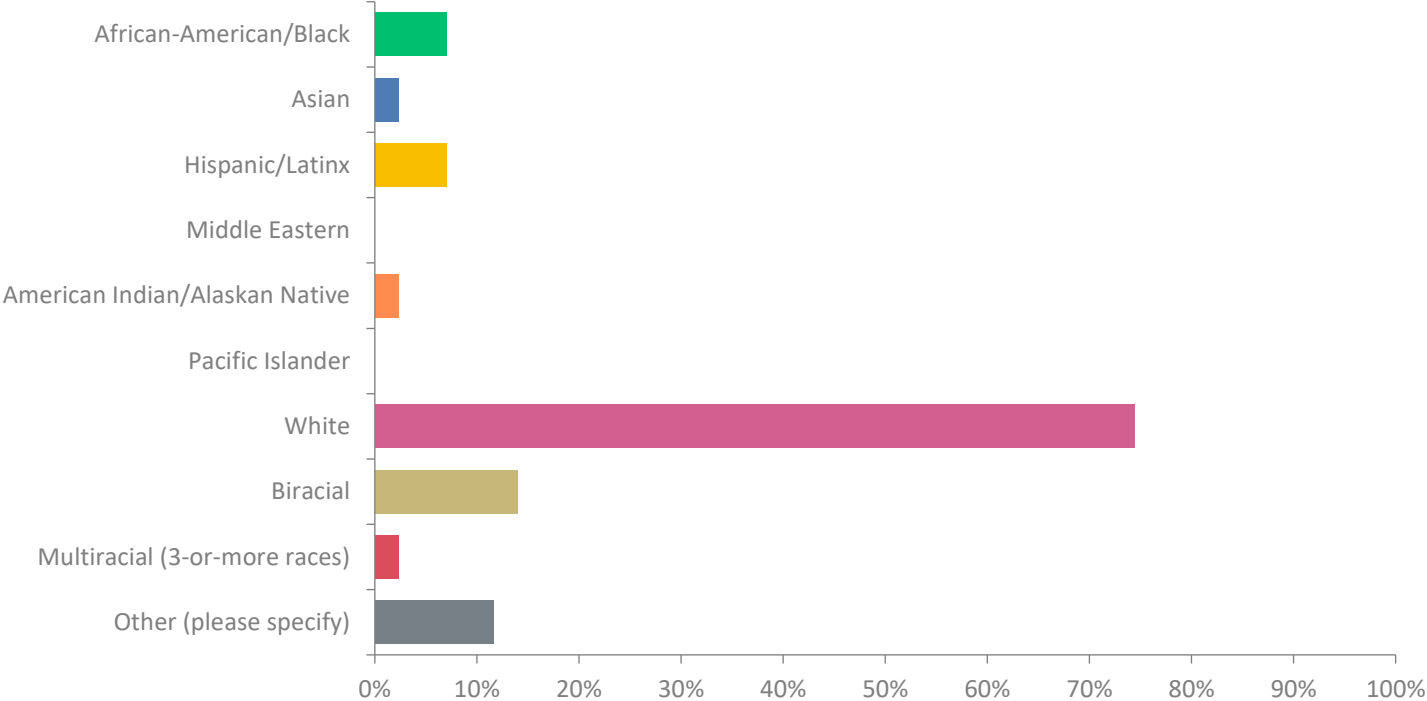
- Goal to understand the landscape from the perspective of those interacting with the most vulnerable and in need in our community
- Gain insights as to the most pressing issues, challenges and assets



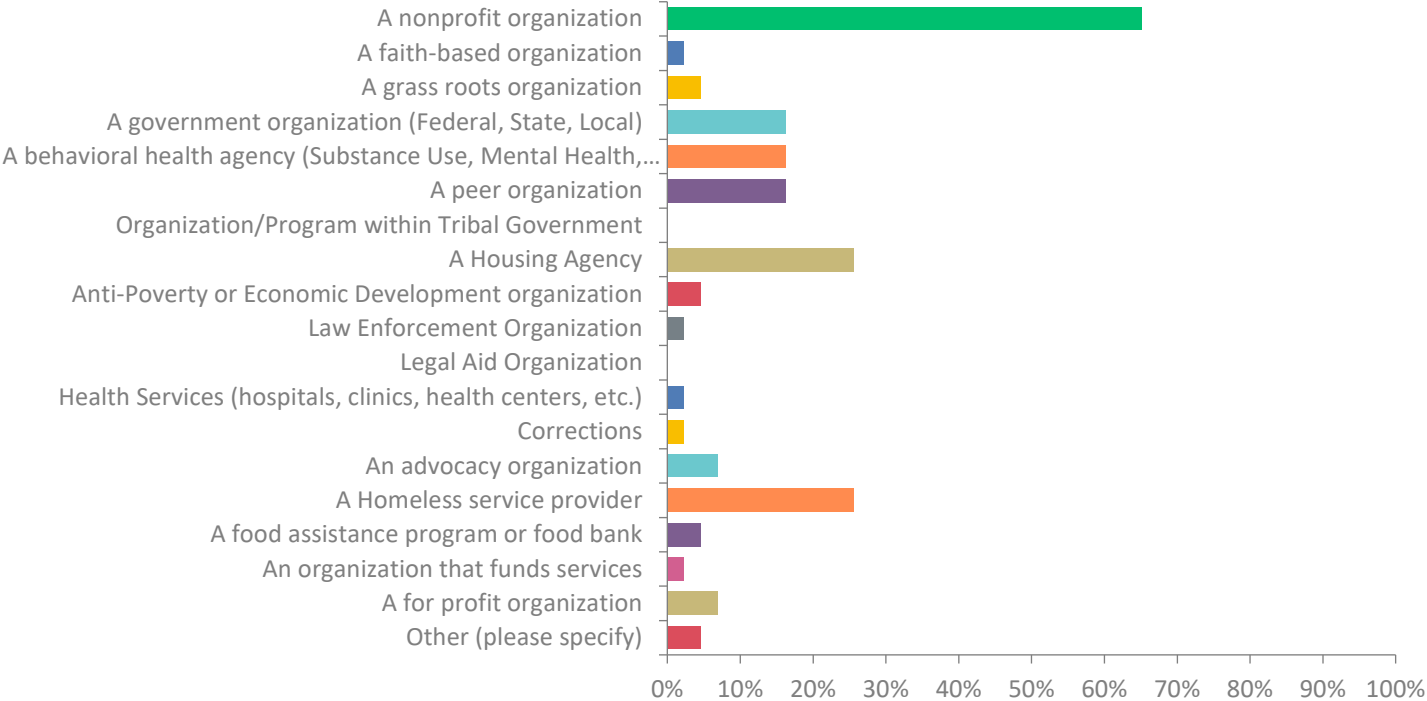
# What is your gender identity?



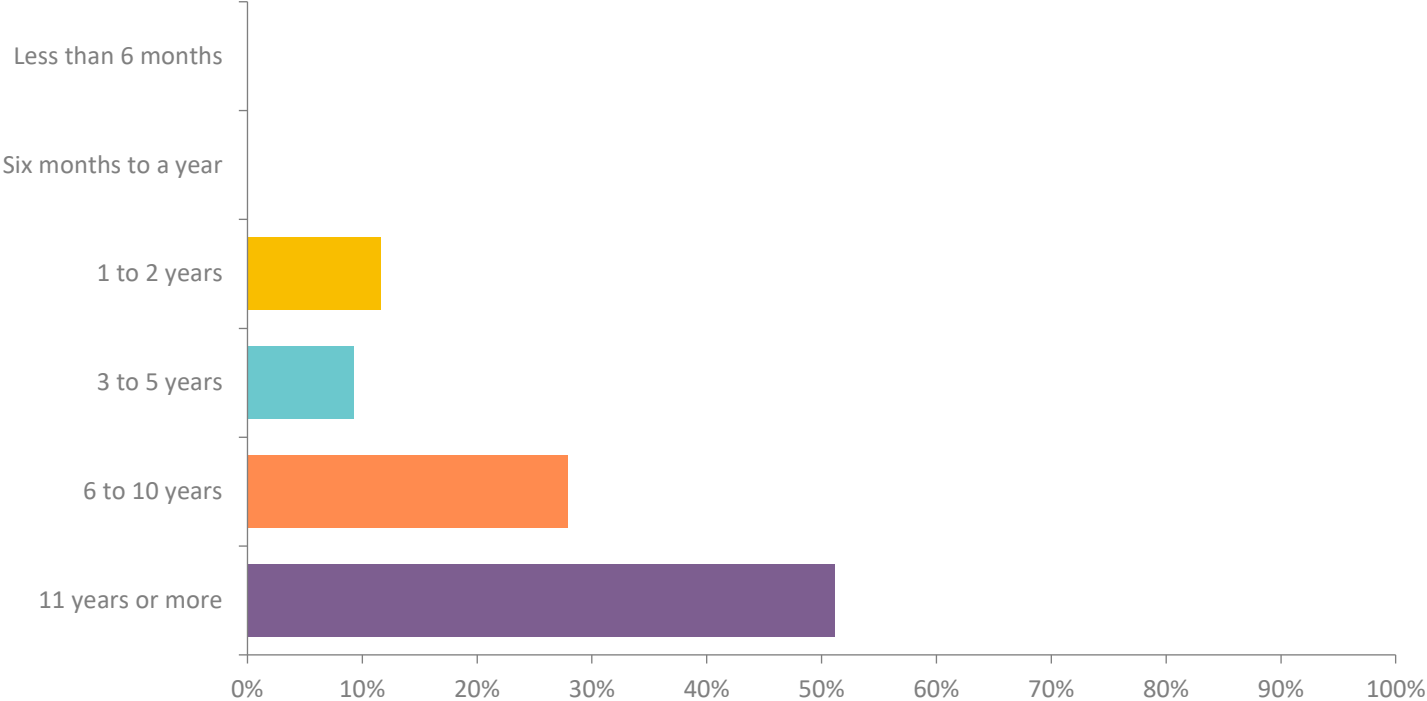
# What is your racial or ethnic identity?



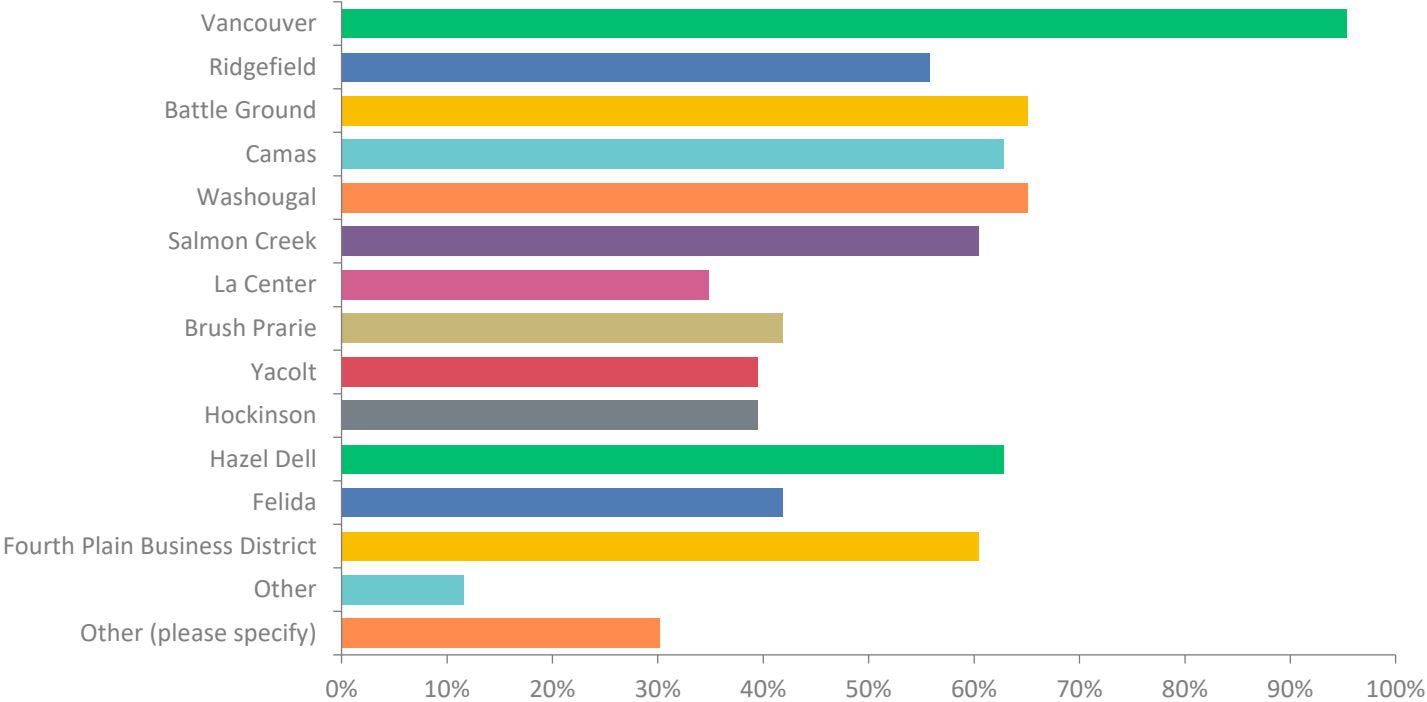
# Is your agency



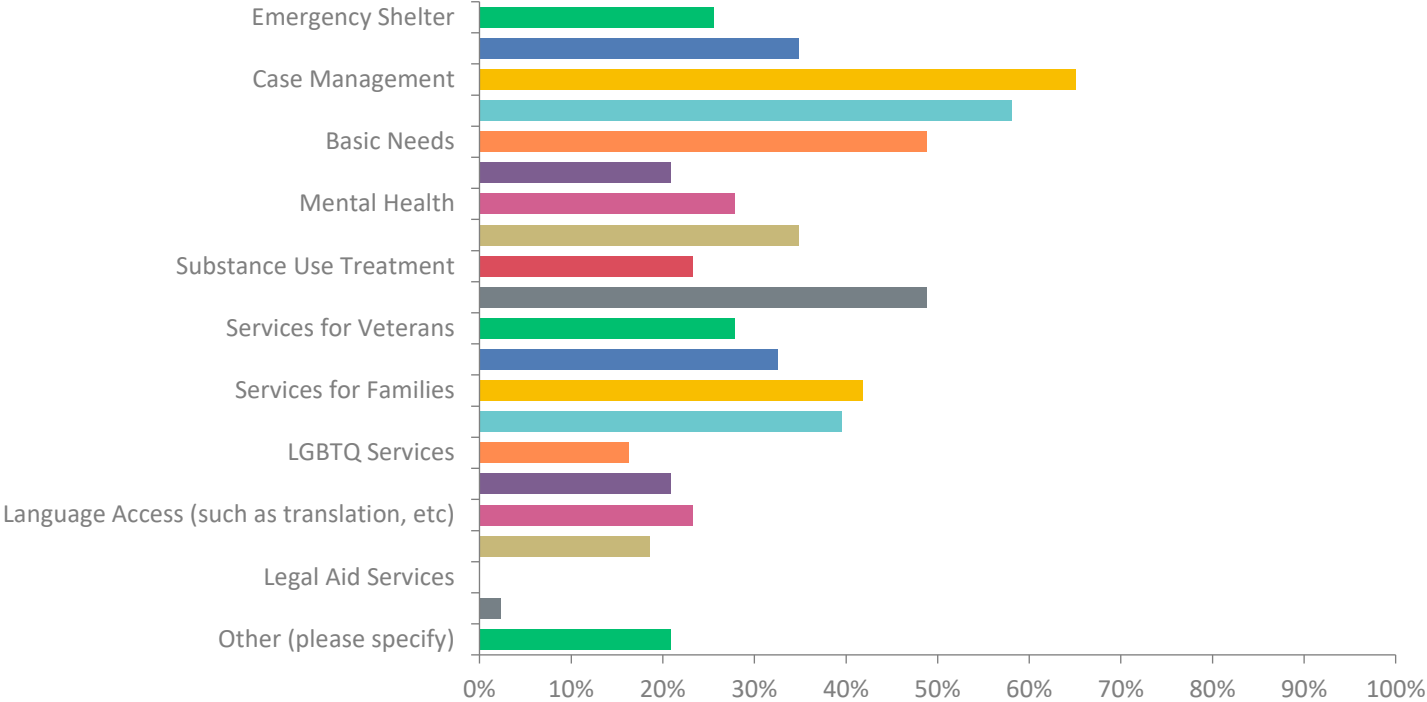
# About how long have you been in the field of Human/Social Services?



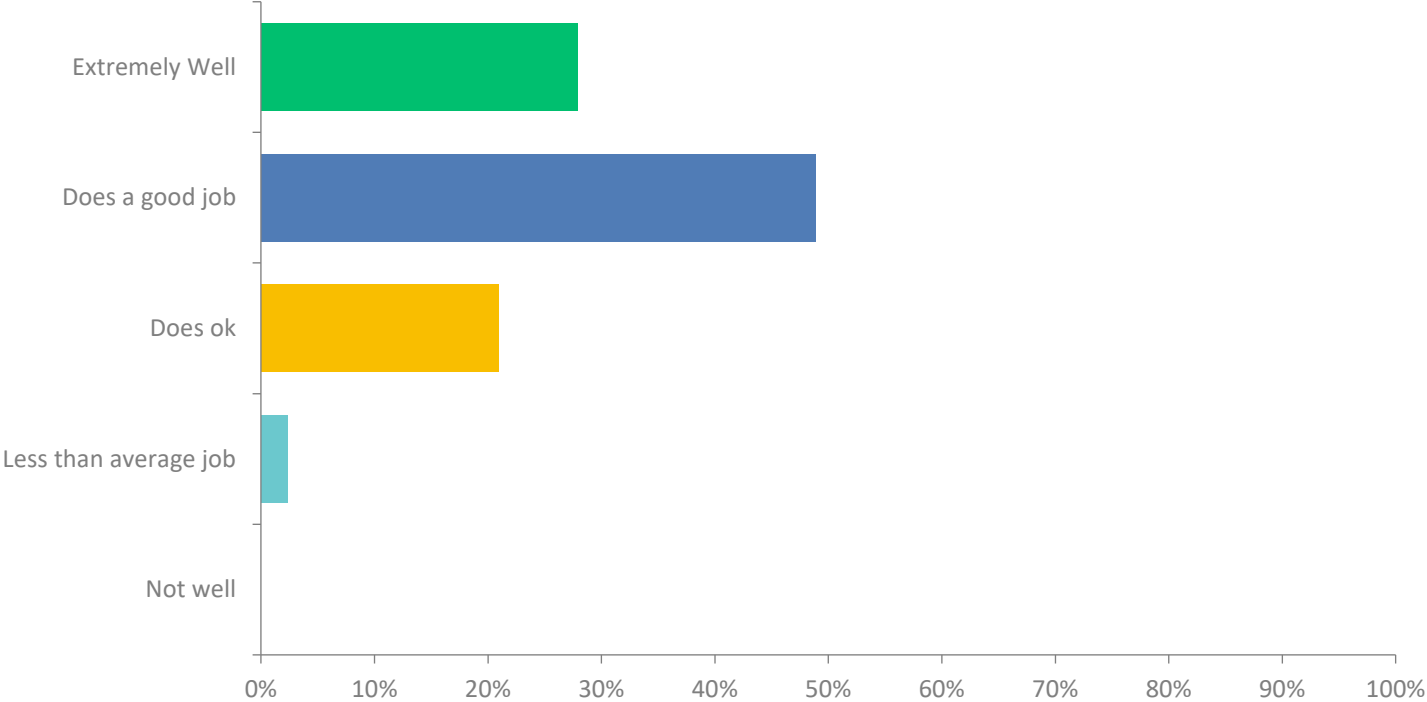
# In what areas does your organization provide services?



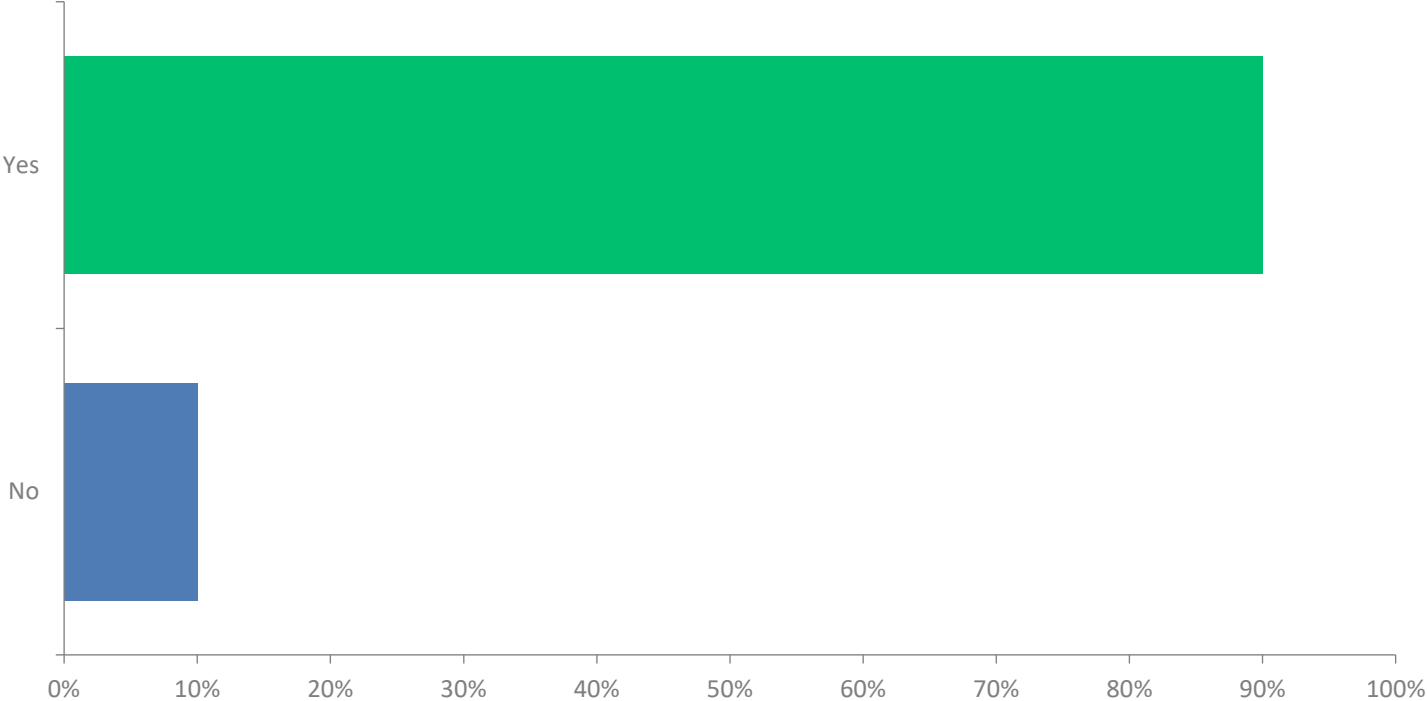
# What types of services does your organization provide?



# How well does your organization integrate with other local social service providers to provide comprehensive care?

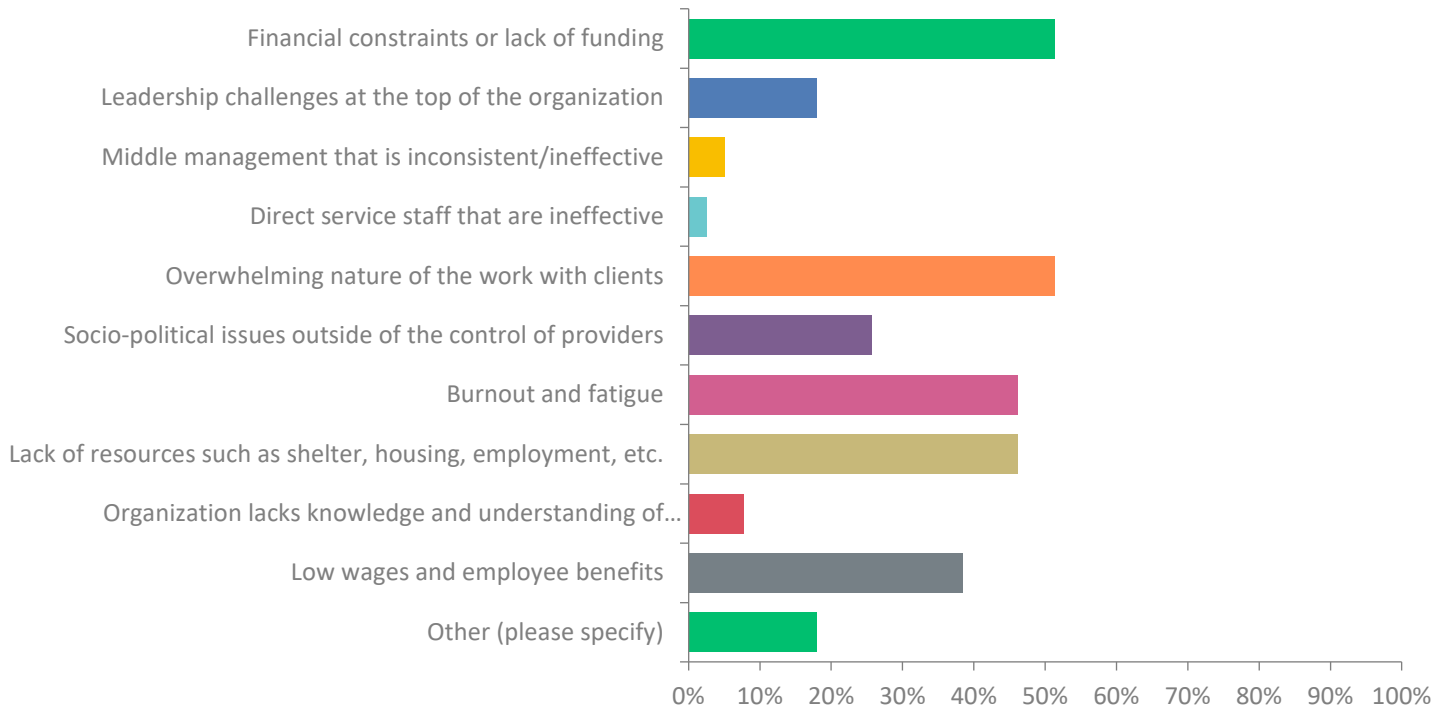


# Have the needs of your clients changed in the past five years?

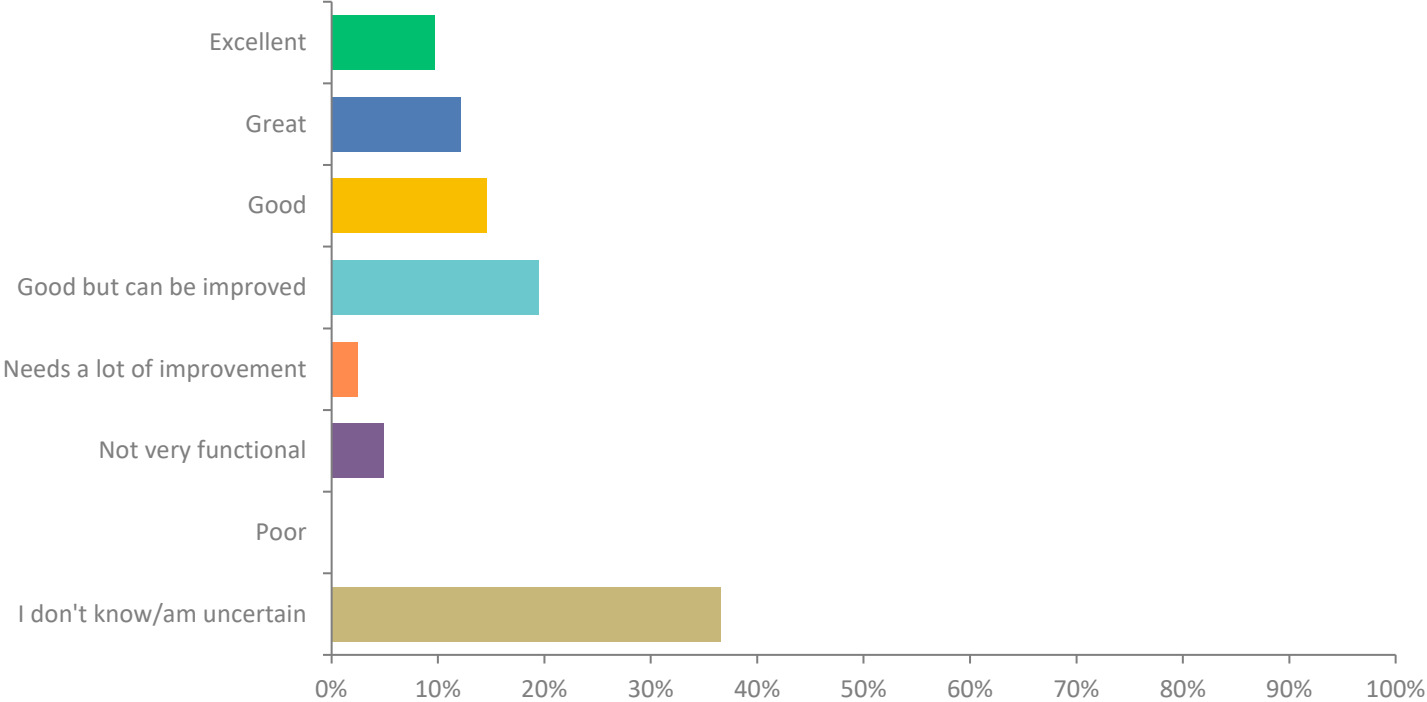




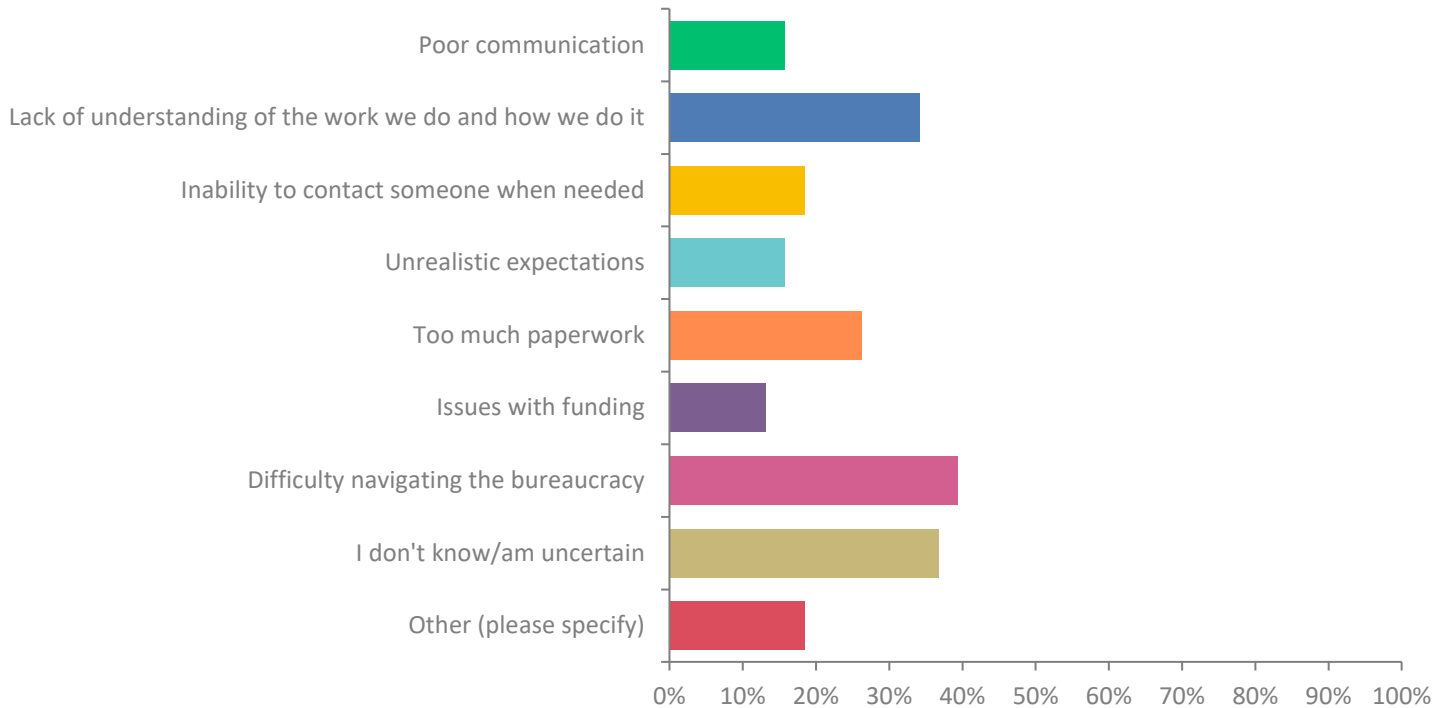
# What are the top three challenges your organization currently faces in providing services to the populations you serve?



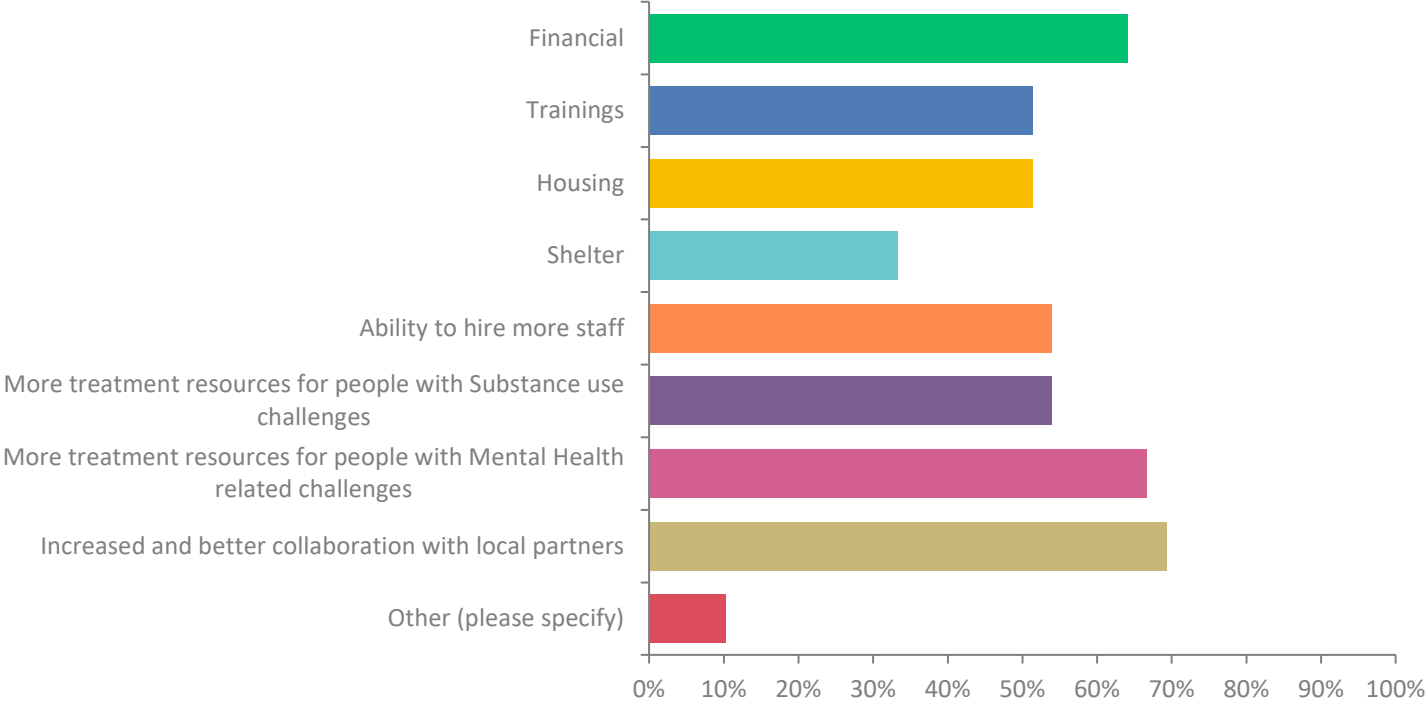
# How would you rate the relationship between your organization and Community Services?



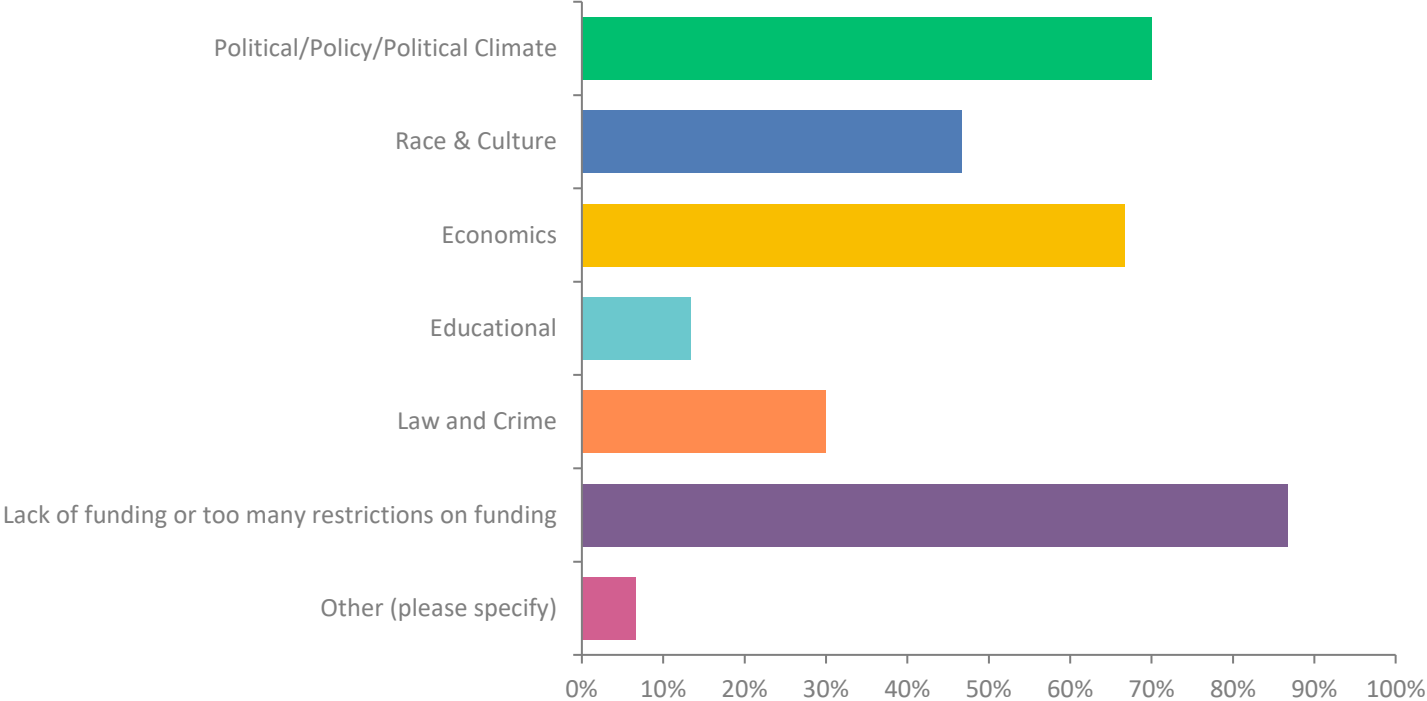
# Which of the following negatively affect your organization's relationship with Community Services?



# What kind of resources could help you be more effective in your role?



# What trends or issues in the community will have the most impact on the strategic plan?





# Emerging Strategies

## Strategic Objectives

- **Affordable Housing and Homelessness:**
  - Expand affordable housing options.
  - Implement targeted homelessness prevention and intervention programs.
  - Collaborate with local organizations to provide comprehensive support services.
- **Economic Development and Employment:**
  - Foster a business-friendly environment encouraging job creation.
  - Enhance workforce development and training programs.
  - Support small businesses and entrepreneurial initiatives, focusing on underserved communities.
- **Community Engagement and Representation:**
  - Strengthen channels for community input and feedback.
  - Ensure diverse community representation in all planning and decision-making processes.
  - Develop outreach programs to engage historically marginalized groups.
- **Mental Health and Substance Use Services:**
  - Increase accessibility to mental health care and substance use treatment.
  - Promote community awareness and destigmatization campaigns.
  - Integrate mental health services with other community support programs.
- **Equity and Inclusion:**
  - Embed equity considerations into all departmental policies and programs.
  - Conduct regular equity audits and assessments.
  - Provide training and development for staff on DEI practices.

# Goals

- **Short-term Goals (1-2 years):**
  - Immediate enhancements in homelessness services and affordable housing availability.
  - Launch of targeted job training programs in high-growth sectors.
- **Medium-term Goals (3-4 years):**
  - Significant strides in community engagement and representation.
  - Expansion of mental health services and integration with other community programs.
- **Long-term Goals (5 years and beyond):**
  - Sustainable economic growth with increased job opportunities.
  - Established culture of equity and inclusion within all county services.

# Evaluation and Measurement

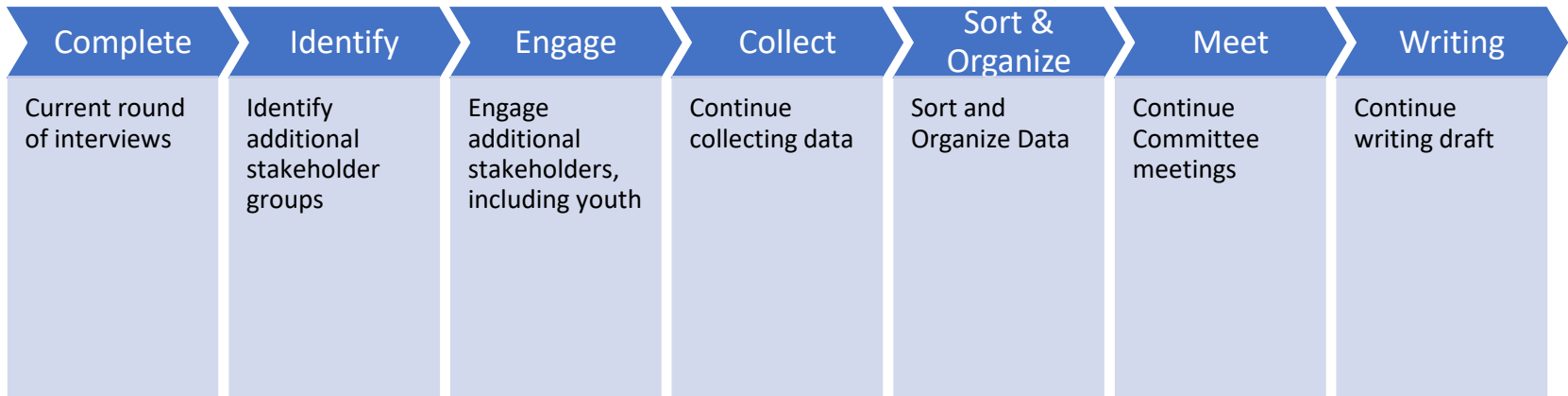
- **Performance Metrics:**
  - Number of affordable housing units developed.
  - Employment rates in targeted populations.
  - Community satisfaction and engagement metrics.
  - Accessibility and utilization rates of mental health services.
- **Continuous Monitoring:**
  - Regular community surveys and feedback sessions.
  - Data analysis to track progress against set benchmarks.



# Risk Management and Contingency Planning

- **Identified Risks:**
  - Economic downturns impacting funding and resources.
  - Changes in federal and state policies affecting service delivery.
  - Unforeseen social challenges, like health crises or natural disasters.
- **Contingency Plans:**
  - Flexible budgeting to accommodate economic fluctuations.
  - Diverse funding sources to minimize dependency on single streams.
  - Emergency response protocols for rapid service adaptation.

# Next Steps



# Questions?





# Thank You

---

- Feel free to contact Jackie St. Louis ([jackiekstlouis@gmail.com](mailto:jackiekstlouis@gmail.com))

# Blueprint for a Just & Equitable Future



## The 10-Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty in Washington

Alex Panagotacos, DSHS Director of Strategic Partnerships

## Poverty in Washington

- In 2021, **1.72 million** Washingtonians, **22.7%**, lived below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line.

## Washington Free of Poverty

- Improvements in well-being
- Enhanced education, health, employment outcomes,
- Decreased homelessness, child neglect, addiction, and crime
- Dignity, humanity and belonging
- For every \$1 invested in reducing poverty = at least \$7 return



# Blueprint for a Just & Equitable Future

## The 10 Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty in Washington

### POVERTYREDUCTION WORK GROUP



The Work Group included members from diverse systems and sectors and was led by a 22-person steering committee reflecting the experience of poverty in WA State

#### PARTICIPANTS

- ▶ Agencies
- ▶ Think Tanks
- ▶ Racial & Ethnic Commissions
- ▶ Philanthropy
- ▶ Tribal & Urban Indians
- ▶ Legislators
- ▶ Employers
- ▶ Advocates
- ▶ Community-Based Organizations
- ▶ Steering Committee



### The STEERING COMMITTEE



22- person committee reflecting the experience of poverty in Washington State



**STEERING COMMITTEE**  
Monthly, full day meetings to:

- ▶ set priorities
- ▶ provide feedback and direction to Work Group

Development of strategies and recommendations

**POVERTYREDUCTION WORK GROUP**  
Steering Committee Co-chairs represent at full Work Group meeting

# Centering Lived Experience



“As soon as I take a breath and have a second to just sit and play with my kids on the floor and not worry about how I am going to get dinner on the table tonight or how to pay the rent . . . the rug gets pulled out from underneath me. **It’s like a game of Chutes & Ladders** . . . I climb up, just to fall back down repeatedly, and getting to the top seems dependent on a lucky roll of the dice.”



“Most of the time I am like, **what’s the secret handshake?** How do I navigate this to get what I need?”



“I live with a disability and chronic illness. I have a Master’s degree and am attending law school, but I live in my van because my insurance does not cover the basic medical care I need and I cannot afford rent. People ask me, ‘What does ‘being healthy’ look like to you?’ and I respond, **‘Being healthy basically looks like being rich.’**”



“Programs do not communicate with one another. I have to tell my story 20 times, each time reliving the trauma of it. **It’s exhausting.**”



The burden of figuring out the system is on the people being served . . . **it’s a full-time job.**”



# Blueprint for a Just & Equitable Future

## 8 Strategies: Root Causes & Beyond



### 8 STRATEGIES POVERTY REDUCTION

ROOT CAUSES & BEYOND



- 1 UNDO STRUCTURAL RACISM**  
Understand structural racism and historical trauma and take action to undo how they manifest in state policy, program, and practice.
- 2 BALANCE POWER**  
Make equal space in decision-making for people and communities most affected by poverty and inequality.
- 3 INCREASE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**  
Target equitable income growth and wealth-building among people with low incomes.
- 4 ENSURE FOUNDATIONAL WELL-BEING**  
Strengthen health supports across the life span to promote the intergenerational well-being of families.
- 5 PRIORITIZE URGENT NEEDS**  
Prioritize the urgent needs of people experiencing homelessness, mental illness, or addiction.
- 6 BUILD A HOLISTIC CONTINUUM OF CARE**  
Build an integrated human service continuum of care that addresses the holistic needs of children, adults, and families.
- 7 DECRIMINALIZE POVERTY**  
Decriminalize poverty and reduce reliance on the child welfare, juvenile justice, and criminal justice systems.
- 8 PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE OF WORK**  
Ensure a just transition to the future of work.

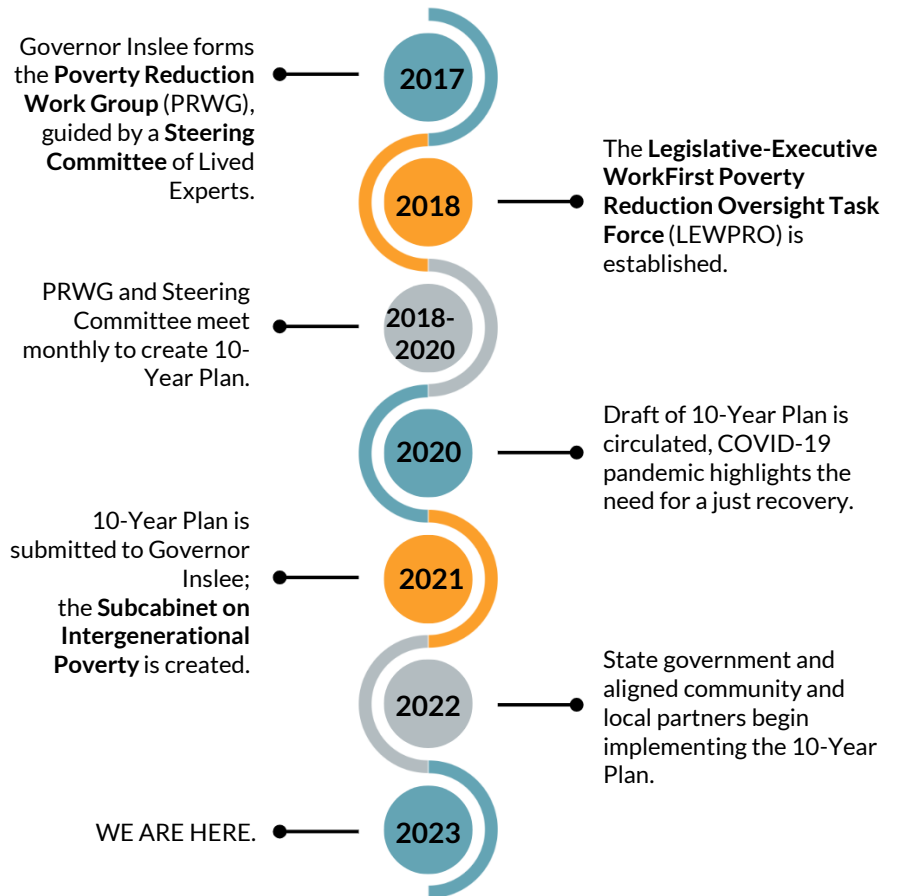
# Blueprint for a Just & Equitable Future: Strategy Detail

STRATEGIES/RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTATION			ESTIMATED TIME TO IMPLEMENT			ESTIMATED COST RANGE*
	Maximize the System We Have			5+ Years			
	Build the System We Need			3-5 Years			
	Lay a Strong Foundation			1-2 Years			
<b>STRATEGY 1: Understand structural racism and historical trauma, and take action to undo their harmful effects in state policy, programs, and practice.</b>							
1a. Require state entities to collaborate with the Office of Equity to develop trainings on historical trauma, institutional racism, and implicit bias that are required of all public employees in systems that touch upon the lives of people experiencing poverty.	●			●			\$
1b. Require state entities to collaborate with the Office of Equity to develop data, processes, and tools that prioritize equity in state policies, programs, practices, and partnerships.	●			●			\$
<b>STRATEGY 2: Make equal space for the power and influence of people and communities most affected by poverty and inequality in decision-making.</b>							
2a. Provide resources to the Office of Equity for a collaboration with Indigenous, Black, and Brown leaders and organizations to develop a formal process for truth and reconciliation.	●			●			\$

# Blueprint for a Just & Equitable Future: Strategy Detail

STRATEGIES/RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTATION			ESTIMATED TIME TO IMPLEMENT			ESTIMATED COST RANGE*
	Maximize the System We Have			5+ Years			
	Build the System We Need			3-5 Years			
	Lay a Strong Foundation			1-2 Years			
<b>STRATEGY 2: Make equal space for the power and influence of people and communities most affected by poverty and inequality in decision-making.</b>							
2a. Provide resources to the Office of Equity for a collaboration with Indigenous, Black, and Brown leaders and organizations to develop a formal process for truth and reconciliation.	●			●			\$
2b. Establish a state entity to elevate the expertise and influence of people disproportionately affected by poverty and inequality in the implementation of the 10-year Plan.	●			●			\$\$
2c. Invest state resources to increase ownership capacity in communities most affected by poverty.	●			●			\$\$\$
2d. Fund meaningful access to legal assistance and representation for children, adults, and families disproportionately affected by poverty and racially biased systems.	●						\$\$
2e. Make high-speed, broadband internet universally available.	●						\$\$\$\$

# Background



# Where We Are Now



## 110 Actions Taken

110 policy, program, and funding actions have been taken since January 2021



## 3 Billion Invested

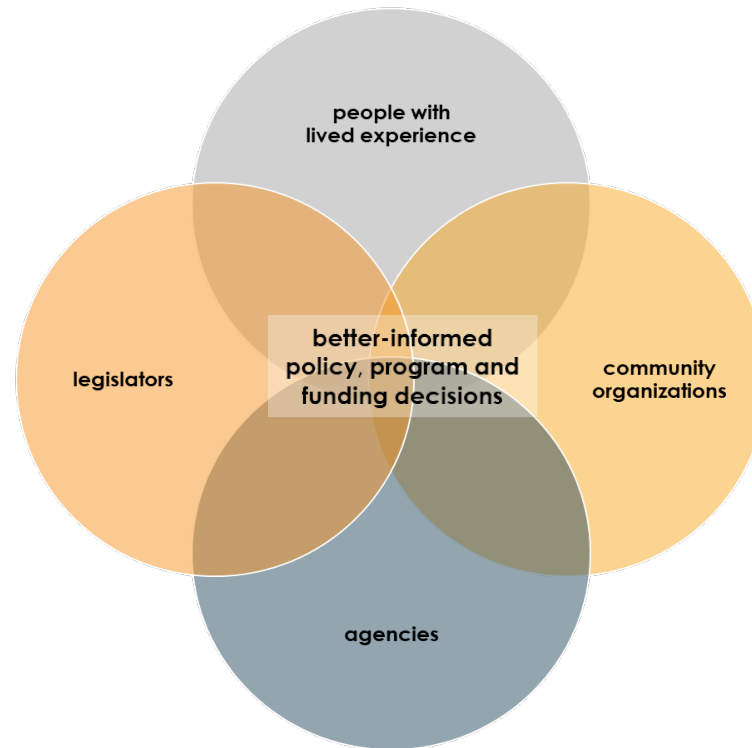
Over \$3 billion have been invested since 2022



## National Best Practice

Our efforts are recognized as a national best practice

# Theory of Aligned Contributions



# Important Links & Readings

- [Blueprint for a Just & Equitable Future: The 10 Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty in Washington](#)
  - [10 Year Plan Executive Summary](#)
  - [10 Year Plan Action Toolkit](#)
- [Dismantle Poverty in Washington Website](#)
- [Office of Equity PEAR Plan & Playbook](#)



# Thank you!







See you in 10 minutes!



# City of Vancouver Affordable Housing Fund and Homeless Services Updates

Samantha Whitley, City of Vancouver



# Board Business (information)

---

- Access to CAAB Bylaws (info)
  - Updated/approved in July 2022
  - Clark County website: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-services/caab-member-resources>
  - Sent via email
- Annual signing of Conflict of Interest form (info)
  - Sent via DocuSign
- Annual review of Board Member Responsibilities (info)
  - Sent via DocuSign
- Organizational Standards Update
- Board Member Roster for 2024 (info)
- Upcoming RFA Information



# Adopt 2024 Work Plan (action)

---

- Provided in meeting reminder
- 2024 Focus:
  - Adopt Clark County Community Needs Assessment 2024 and distribute to community.
  - Increase board driven equity efforts.
- Includes regular program updates by providers at each meeting
- Living document, updates as board's needs change



# Legislative Advocacy Task Force Update

---

- Amy Roark, Board Member

MENU

**The Columbian**

 My Account

---

## The Washington State Standard's guide to following the state legislative session Free

From how to watch to how to participate, we've got you covered.

By LAUREL DEMKOVICH, Washington State Standard

Published: January 2, 2024, 7:22am



# Community Needs Assessment Task Force Update

## Community Forum in Vancouver

- When: Tuesday, January 9, 2024  
*Open house / data walk:* 12–5 pm  
*Forum:* 5:30–7:30 pm
- Where: Vancouver Community Library  
901 C Street, Vancouver, WA 98660  
Columbia Room

## Community Forum in Ridgefield

- When: Wednesday, January 17, 2024  
*Open house/ data walk:* 1–5 pm  
*Forum:* 5:30–7:30 pm
- Where: Ridgefield Community Library  
210 N Main Ave, Ridgefield, WA 98642  
Allene Wodaeye Community Room

## Virtual Community Forum

- When: Tuesday, January 23, 2024  
10am-12 noon
- Where: Zoom, link:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87386007799>  
Meeting ID: 873 8600 7799

## Community Forum in Camas

- When: Thursday, January 25, 2024
  - *Open house / data walk:* 1–3 pm
  - *Forum:* 3:30–5:30 pm
- Where: Camas Public Library  
625 NE 4th Ave, Camas, WA 98607  
Dual Meeting Rooms A & B

*light refreshments available during in-person forums*

Scan this QR code  
with the camera  
on your phone  
and register today!



Buildings are wheelchair accessible. ASL, Spanish, Russian, and Chuukese interpretation services will be provided upon request. Please contact Abby Molloy, 564.397.7832, if you have questions or would like to request additional support.

## Please sign up to take notes at events

- <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nln-KS6L6bWXop66Jl1zmUE0P7BDjcRaXVcO2pjLKsg/edit#gid=0>



# Update on Fentanyl Crisis

Amy Roark, Board Member



# Agenda Items

---

- Open Forum (up to 3 minutes)
- Other Business

***January CAAB Meeting Part 2: Equity Training***  
***January 12, 2024 starting at 9am***

