

Homelessness in Clark County

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Presentation objectives

- Provide a context for homelessness in Clark County
- Describe roles, responsibilities and resources for homelessness services locally
- Describe current efforts to address impacts of homelessness
- 45-minute presentation

Homelessness context and Council for the Homeless role



National context

On a single night in January 2016:

549,928 people were homeless

- 194,716 people in families with children
- 77,486 who were chronically homeless
- 39,471 who were veterans
- 35,686 who were unaccompanied youth

Clark County homeless numbers

In 2016:

- 496 families with children and 1,482 individuals requested emergency shelter
- 15 percent increase over 2015

During 2017 point-in-time count:

- 269 people were living outside or in a car, including 44 families with children
- 18 percent increase over 2016

Why is homelessness increasing?

Cost of housing is single biggest driver of homelessness

- More people become homeless
- People remain homeless longer
- Help doesn't go as far

\$1 million of rental assistance helps about 40 percent fewer households today than five years ago



Key elements of an effective homeless response

Access and prioritization

- Outreach
- Coordinated entry
- Diversion

Crisis and interim housing

- Immediate and easily accessible available for anyone

Assistance to return to housing

- RRH
- PSH
- Mainstream public housing

Why isn't our system working?

Is it that people don't want help?

- In 2016, only 37 percent of people who needed emergency shelter received it
- In 2016, only 18 percent of people who were homeless received housing assistance

Is it that the help doesn't work?

- Of people who receive housing assistance, 86 percent hadn't returned to homelessness in two years

Our community's programs work, but we are only serving a small percentage of those in need.



Council for the Homeless role

Coordination

Community's
response to
homeless

Planning, lobbying,
advocacy and
community
education

Staffing

Backbone for
Vancouver/Clark
County Continuum
of Care

Operates
coordinated
assessment, HMIS



City of Vancouver roles and responsibilities



City of Vancouver role

Convene

Facilitates discussions and solutions on emerging issues

Fund

Distributes \$300,000 in CDBG annually. Funds Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Funds limited rental vouchers.

Distributes Affordable Housing Fund.

Zoning

Oversight on zoning controls and Municipal Code

Recent response to homelessness

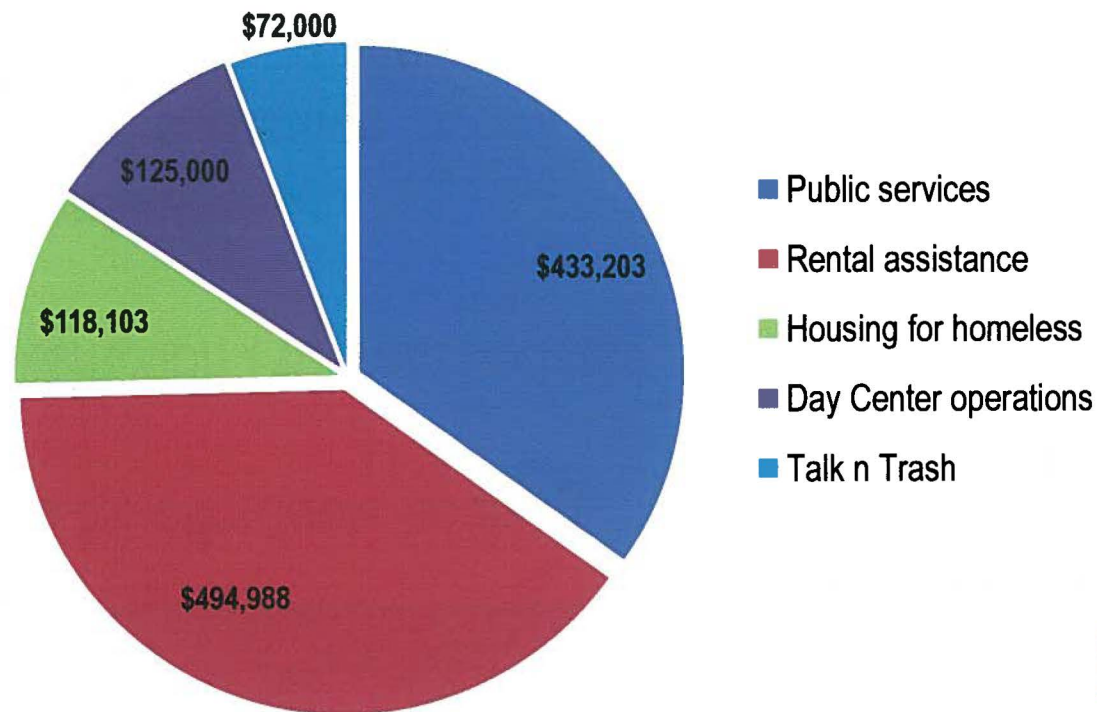
- Camping ordinance
- Cleanup of tent city
- Homeless Day Center – funding and land use
- Work with faith community on car camping and shelter
- Monthly meeting on homeless issues
- Affordable Housing Fund
- Impact fee waivers for affordable housing

City of Vancouver funding for homelessness

2016 Funding - \$1,243,294

Sources:

- CDBG
- HOME
- General Fund
- Solid Waste Fund



Affordable Housing Task Force

- Impact fee waivers for affordable housing
- Multifamily Tax Exemption Program updates
- Renter protection ordinances
 - Source of income protection
 - 45-day notice of rent increase
 - 60-day notice to vacate
- Voter-approved Affordable Housing Fund

Affordable Housing Fund – \$42 million over seven years

Increase housing supply: 40 percent

- Acquisition and construction of new affordable housing

Preserve existing housing: 27 percent

- Rehabilitation of single- and multi-family housing

Prevent, address homelessness: 30 percent

- Rent vouchers and self-sufficiency services
- Rent buy-downs for market-rate properties
- Homeless shelter

Implementation: 3 percent

- Development of contracts, program management, monitoring

Affordable Housing Fund – \$42 million over seven years

- Up to \$3.7 million available for construction, rehab, acquisition
 - Applications due May 15
- Projects must be in Vancouver and serve households up to 50 percent area median income
- Fund-assisted units proposed to remain affordable up to 20 years
- Funding provided in form of half grant, half loan
- Application link at www.cityofvancouver.us/affordablehousingfund

April 11 forum – Tools for Building Multifamily Housing

- Convened funders throughout state to talk about leveraging Affordable Housing Fund
 - Kim Herman, Washington State Housing Finance Commission
 - Susan Duren, Washington Community Reinvestment Association
 - Judith Olson, Impact Capital
 - Jennifer Ernst, Federal Reserve Bank of Des Moines
 - Roy Johnson, Vancouver Housing Authority
 - Jennifer Rhoads, Community Foundation for Southwest Washington
 - Sharif Burdzik, Riverview Community Bank

Clark County roles and responsibilities



“The continuum of care of homeless services is a crisis-response system.”

County is responsible for working with community stakeholders to plan, develop and implement a Homeless Action Plan.



10-year plan to end homelessness

- Framework to guide community in its homeless system planning
- Federal mandate (HEARTH Act)
- State mandate (Homeless Housing and Assistance Act)
- Requires focus on systems change and adoption of best practices
- Establishes continuum of care group (Coalition of Service Providers)



Federal HEARTH Act requirements

- Person-centered approach to services
- Sustain and increase homeless prevention and shelter diversion programs
- Streamline screening process for assistance so households are referred to most appropriate program
- Rapidly get families into private sector housing
- Housing is first focus
- Shift resources to programs meeting outcomes and finding efficiencies.



State requirements

- Local governments must use document recording fees in manner aligned with state strategic plan and conduct a point-in-time count.
- Goals of 2017 state strategic plan:
 - Coordinated access and assessment for services and housing.
 - Performance evaluation by measuring cost per successful exit to permanent housing.
 - Prioritize people living unsheltered.
 - Increase investments in housing unsheltered families with children and chronically homeless people and preventing youth from leaving public systems to homelessness.



State vision of an effective homeless system

Aligns with local community planning efforts

- Unsheltered people promptly identified and engaged.
- First use diversion strategies to solve housing crisis. Engage family and friends if safe and appropriate.
- People prioritized by need using transparent, consistently applied entry process.
- Access to housing and services not contingent on unnecessary conditions.
- Client-driven housing and service goals.
- Clients supported in developing stable housing plans that address safety, barriers to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Continued ...



State vision of an effective homeless system

Aligns with local community planning efforts, Page 2

- Programs quickly move most clients into market-rate housing and stay available as requested to maintain housing stability.
- Programs provide minimum assistance to secure housing, only offer more when necessary to prevent a return to homelessness.
- Programs intervene with permanent supportive housing when a disability hampers a client's ability to live independently and market-rate housing placements have not solved homelessness.
- Programs share client data between systems as allowable to improve coordination of services.

Clark County Community Services priorities

- Compliance and alignment with federal and state requirements.
- System approach to services and interventions.
- Performance measurement and cost effectiveness of funded services.



Clark County sources of funding for homeless plan

Local

- Document recording and marriage license fees, must comply with HB2060 and HB2163 requirements and state strategic plan
- General Fund

State

- Consolidated Homelessness Grant, must comply with CHG guidelines
- Housing and Essential Needs, must comply with CHG guidelines

Federal

- Emergency Solutions Grant, must comply with ESG guidelines
- HOME, must comply with HOME guidelines
- CDBG, must comply with CDBG guidelines

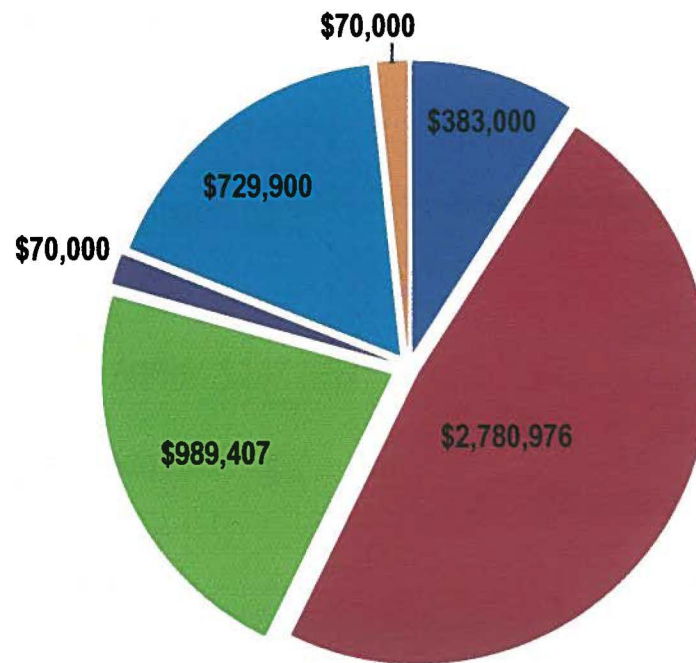


Clark County funding for homelessness

2016 Funding - \$5,023,283

Sources:

- CHG
- ESG
- HEN
- Doc recording fees
- CSBG
- General Fund
- County HOME TBRA



- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rapid Re-Housing & Prevention
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Homeless System Coordination & Housing Stability
- Outreach & Engagement



System performance by intervention type – 2016

❖ Emergency shelter

- Successful exits to permanent housing: 28% (258)
- Return to homelessness in two years: 21% (66)
- Cost per successful exit: \$8,086

❖ Transitional housing

- Successful exits to permanent housing: 51% (67)
- Return to homelessness in two years: 12.5% (20)
- Cost per successful exit: \$7,731

❖ Rapid rehousing

- Successful exits to permanent housing: 74% (204)
- Return to homelessness in two years: 6% (12)
- Cost per successful exit: \$7,350

❖ Targeted prevention

- History of homelessness: 13.7% (240)
- Exiting institutional setting or staying with family and friends: 34% (522)
- Cost per successful exit: \$7,884

❖ Permanent supportive housing

- Exits to permanent housing or retention of permanent housing more than two years: 92% (495)
- Cost per successful exit: N/A

❖ Percent of unsheltered persons entering system, March 2017 : 77



Additional county spending – 2016

Veterans - Veterans Levy

- \$120,415 - rental assistance for indigent vets
- \$4,381 - deposits, fees, other non-rent housing assistance for indigent vets

Total housing assistance for veterans: \$124,796

Continued



Additional county spending – 2016, cont.

Affordable housing acquisition, construction, rehab - CDBG, HOME

- \$155,000 - acquisition for first-time homebuyers, 2015 CDBG allocation via Proud Ground includes \$5,000 for program implementation
- \$125,742 - construction of affordable housing for veterans, 2015 HOME allocation via Freedoms Path
- \$345,000 - preservation of affordable housing stock, 2015 allocation for CDBG rehab program

Total affordable housing acquisition, construction and rehab: \$625,742

Continued



Additional county spending – 2016, cont.

Behavioral health housing - federal Access to Recovery grant, local behavioral health sales and property taxes

- \$334,377 - housing assistance and support through Access to Recovery
- \$1 million capital funding - Meriwether Place, 30-unit permanent supportive housing; Vancouver Housing Authority, Lifeline Connections and Community Services NW
- \$500,000 capital funding in 2017 - Rhododendron Place, 30-unit permanent supportive housing; Vancouver Housing Authority and Columbia River Mental Health
- \$20,000 in 2017 - Lincoln Place behavioral health staff; Beacon Health Options, Share and Community Services NW

Total: Capital, housing assistance and housing support for behavioral health population: \$1,334,377



Questions and discussion

