



**Joint County City Council Meeting**  
Additional Resources for Information  
May 1, 2017

**Resources**

- Annual Plan to End Homelessness - [www.clark.wa.gov/community-action/documents/Adopted2015ClarkCountyHomelessActionPlan.pdf](http://www.clark.wa.gov/community-action/documents/Adopted2015ClarkCountyHomelessActionPlan.pdf)
- City of Vancouver Affordable Housing Fund - [www.cityofvancouver.us/ced/page/affordable-housing](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/ced/page/affordable-housing)
- City of Vancouver Camping Ordinance - [www.cityofvancouver.us/citycouncil/page/get-facts-about-citys-camping-ordinance](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/citycouncil/page/get-facts-about-citys-camping-ordinance)
- Clark County Community Action Advisory Board - [www.clark.wa.gov/community-action/advisoryboard.html](http://www.clark.wa.gov/community-action/advisoryboard.html)
- Clark County Community Services - <https://www.clark.wa.gov/community-services>
- Council for the Homeless - [www.councilforthehomeless.org](http://www.councilforthehomeless.org)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness <http://www.endhomelessness.org/>
- US Interagency Council on Homelessness - [www.usich.gov](http://www.usich.gov)
- Washington State Homeless Housing Strategic Plan 2017 - <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/V3-hau-hlp-final-homeless-strategic-plan-2017.pdf>

**Documents**

- 50% AMI snapshot
- Day center information
- CAAB report card
- Legislative update
- List of agencies
- CFTH resources
- Homelessness snapshot
- WA Department of Commerce housing needs for Clark County

# CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM



2015 Share Hunger Response Hot Meals Program

## 2015 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



# **CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS**

Marc Boldt, Chair

Jeanne Stewart, District 1  
David Madore, District 3

Julie Olson, District 2  
Tom Mielke, District 4

## **FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends of Community Action:

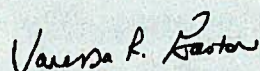
Clark County has nearly 55,000 individuals in poverty. The Department of Community Services has been working to better coordinate and integrate health and human services through Early Adopter for full Medicaid integration to improve people's physical and social well-being. The Department partners with several nonprofit organizations to provide programs that help families attain economic security. The following are two examples of the extensive programs that serve those most in need:

- The Homeless Employment Navigator program through Columbia River Mental Health Services works with people experiencing homelessness to gain employment by providing employment focused supports. Individuals receive employment and educational training plans, vocational assessments and resume development. Of the 100 individuals assisted in 2015, all obtained skills required for employment, 62 obtained employment with 45 of those individuals maintaining employment for at least 90 days; and,
- The Share, Salvation Army and Janus Youth Ending Family Homelessness programs served 50 households with rent assistance and supportive services. All families were recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and were supported through a collaboration of service providers including Partners in Careers, WorkSource, YWCA, DSHS and school district homeless liaisons. Over 92% of the households maintained housing stability for at least six months.

The Community Action Program conducts a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) every three years to better understand the service gaps and common challenges in the community for funding prioritization. The CNA includes information about the current demographics of people living below the Federal Poverty Limit, an analysis of the causes and conditions of poverty, and community feedback via a Survey of Needs completed by people who are low-income. The next CNA will be conducted during the summer of 2016 and we hope you will participate.

Thanks to the volunteers and staff of the many organizations that collaborate with Community Action, we continue to provide innovative services to improve the lives of those in our community.

Sincerely,



Vanessa R. Gaston, Director  
Clark County Department of Community Services  
2015 Clark County Community Action Report  
Approved by the Community Action Advisory Board July 2016



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## **COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD**

The [Community Action Advisory Board](#) (CAAB) is comprised of nine members representing a cross-section of the community. Board members include citizens who are low-income or have experienced poverty, elected public officials, and representatives from the private sector.

The Advisory Board conducts a Needs Assessment and Survey of Needs to provide direction for making recommendations for funding programs sponsored by community-based organizations. All services funded through the CAAB must address essential human needs and assist in moving people towards self-sufficiency.

### **2015 BOARD MEMBERS**

#### **Elected Officials:**

Mavis Nickels, District 1  
Julie Rotz, District 2  
Anne McEnerny-Ogle, District 3

#### **Citizen Representatives:**

Melodie Pazolt, District 1  
Armando Herrera, District 2  
Paula Martin, District 3

#### **Representatives of the Low-Income Community:**

Lydia Sanders, District 1  
Jessica Ghiglieri, District 2  
Sheree Thun, District 3

### **FROM THE BOARD CHAIR**

Dear Friends of Community Action:

The CAAB works in conjunction with staff to address the causes of poverty in Clark County. Every attempt is made to remove barriers to self-sufficiency. With limited resources and an abundance of challenges, the CAAB, with excellent staff support, has been successful at identifying programs that assist with meeting basic needs such as food and shelter. By utilizing innovative models of support service and best practices such as Trauma Informed Care, the CAAB and Clark County Department of Community Services staff has been able to make programs available that address long-term, multi-generational poverty.

The Report to the Community provides information that will increase the public's awareness of poverty related issues in Clark County. I wish to thank County staff for their support and hard work on behalf of the Board and all residents of Clark County.

Sincerely,  
Lydia Sanders, Chair  
2015 Community Action Advisory Board

2015 Clark County Community Action Report  
Approved by the Community Action Advisory Board July 2016



## **COMMUNITY ACTION**

The Promise of Community Action: Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Source: Community Action Partnership

Objectives of the Clark County Community Action Program:

- To promote institutional and community changes which address the causes of poverty, and to remove barriers to self-sufficiency faced by low-income communities, families, and individuals;
- To reduce the impact of poverty on communities, families, and individuals by providing resources for services which are responsive to their needs;
- To promote innovative approaches to addressing the causes and impacts of poverty in the community;
- To serve as a catalyst for community efforts to leverage additional resources which address the causes and impacts of poverty; and
- To make recommendations or take other action on any other subject as referred by the Commissioners or jointly by the Commissioners and one or more city governments.

Source: Clark County Community Action Advisory Board By-laws



## **FUNDING**

Clark County's Community Action Program is comprised of many funding sources focused on providing services to households with moderate, low, and very low incomes.

### **Local**

Clark County receives local funding from property taxes and document recording fees. Local funding is dedicated for specific types of programs that aim to end homelessness and support domestic violence survivors.

- House Bill (HB) 2060 Document Recording Fee
- House Bill (HB) 2163 Document Recording Fee
- House Bill (HB) 1359 Document Recording Fee
- Human Services Fund
- Marriage License Fee

### **State**

The Washington State Department of Commerce provides funding to the County for programs that help end homelessness and meet community members' basic needs.

- Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG)
- Community Services Block Grant-State (CSBG-State)

### **Federal**

Clark County receives grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Services include rental assistance, development of affordable housing, energy assistance, home weatherization, and self-sufficiency programs.

- Community Services Block Grant-Federal (CSBG-Federal)
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Weatherization (WX)

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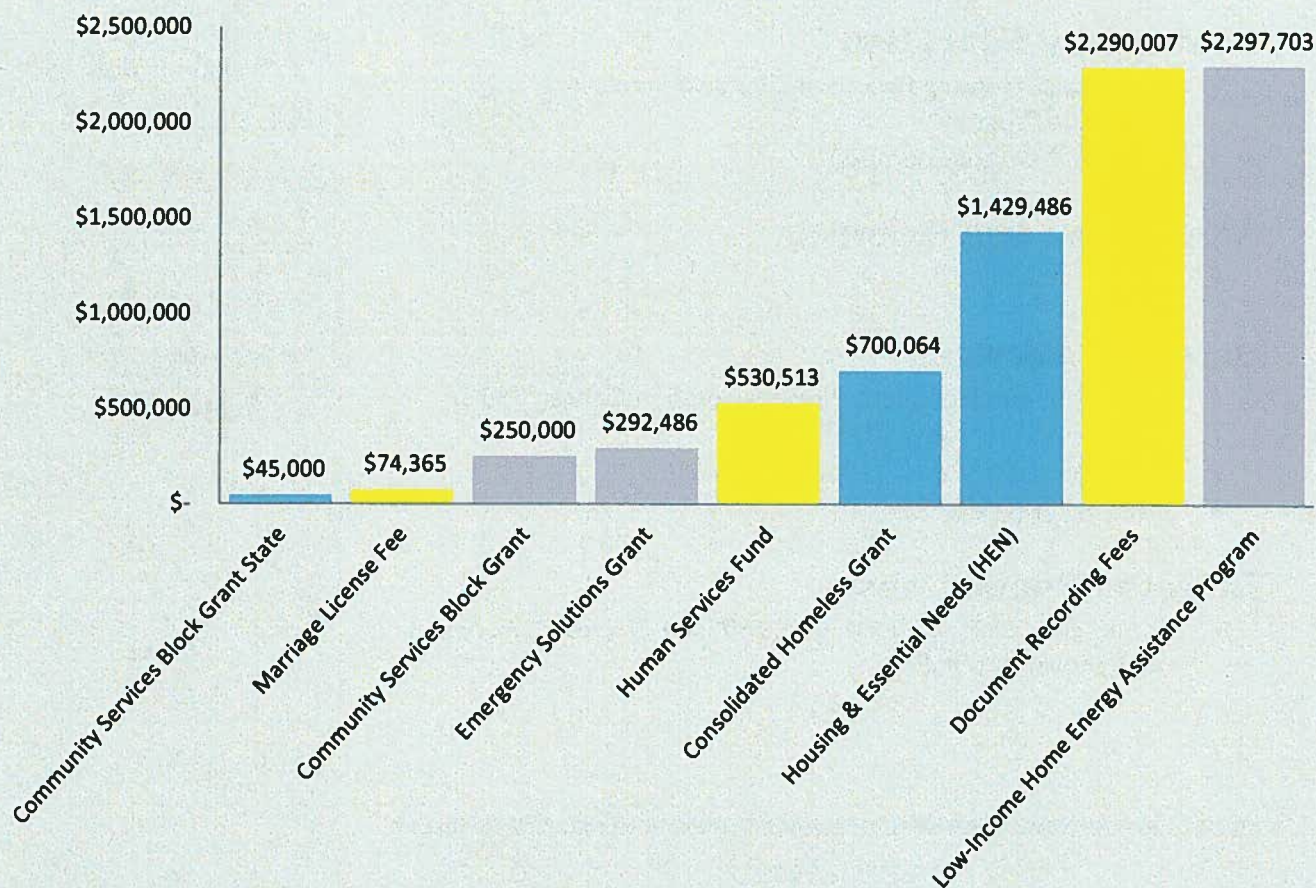
### **The Value of Volunteers**

The Clark County Community Action Program had 28 individuals who are low-income participate in formal community boards or provide input on decision-making and policy-setting through Community Action efforts.

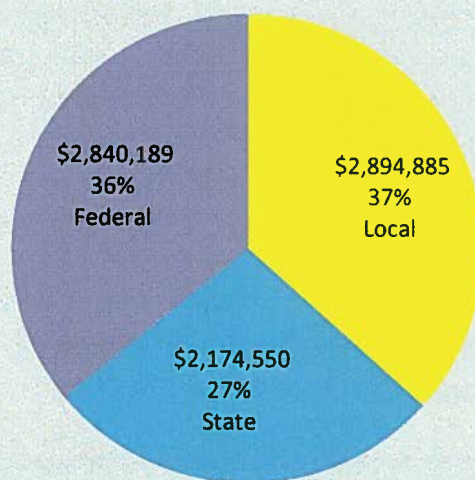
In 2015, programs funded through Community Action utilized nearly 55,665 volunteer hours to help operate their programs. This is equivalent to 27 full-time positions at a value of nearly \$1.3 million.

## FUNDING (continued)

### 2015 Community Action Funding



### 2015 Funding Sources





## ACCESS

Navigating complex systems can be challenging. The following programs provide guidance to households seeking services.

### Community Education

- Community Housing Resource Center, Foreclosure Assistance Program
- Rent Well Tenant Education

### Information and Referral

- 211info

### Homeless Services

- Council for the Homeless, Housing Solution Center (HSC)
- Janus Youth Programs, The Perch
- Janus Youth Programs, Yellow Brick Road
- Share, Bridging the Gap

### Targeted Populations

- Community Services Northwest, SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR)

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### Success Story

When “Shannon” met staff at the Council for the Homeless Housing Solutions Center (HSC) she was living doubled up at a friend’s home with her adult daughter and her grandchild. With over ten people in a two bedroom home, the housing situation was not sustainable and Shannon and her family needed to move out. Shannon was struggling to find housing rental options because of owed debt to a landlord and a poor credit report. The HSC connected Shannon to the Community Housing Resource Center (CHRC) who helped her negotiate the landlord and credit debt down, then pay off the debts using private funds. Once the housing barriers were resolved the HSC helped Shannon identify leads on apartments to rent and strategies to successfully rent in a tight market. Now, after pooling resources she and her two kids, plus her granddaughter are living together in a stable housing situation.

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In 2015, the Washington State minimum wage was **\$9.47** per hour.

However, the living wage for a single adult with one child was

**\$24.30.**

Sources:  
Washington State  
Department of Labor &  
Industries

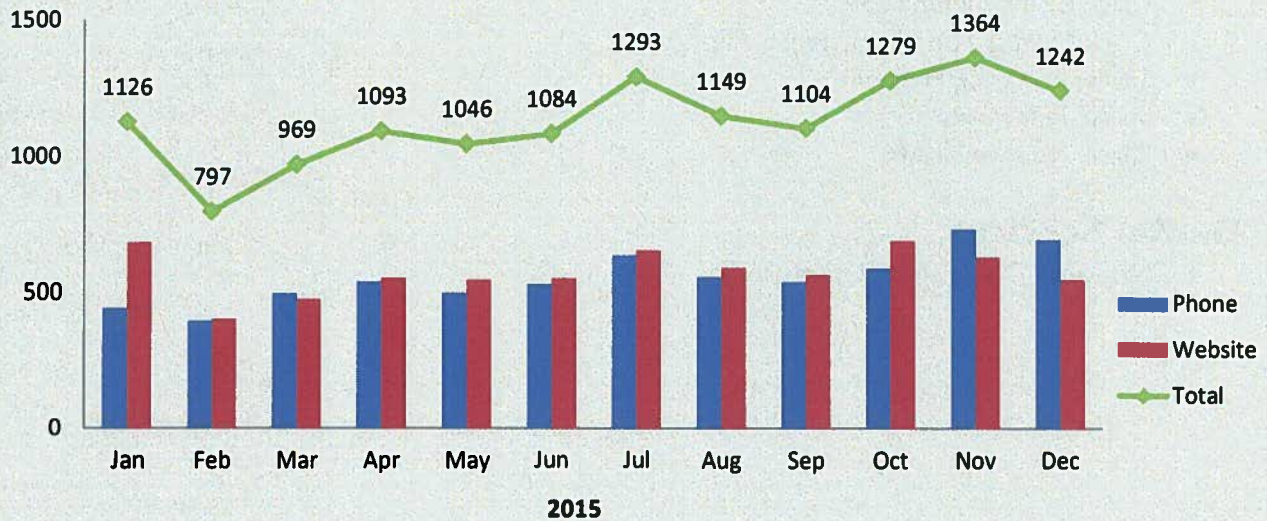
U.S. Dept. of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
(calculated using CPI for 2<sup>nd</sup>  
half of 2015).

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## **ACCESS** (continued)

### **211info Contacts**

Clark County Social Services' Information and Referral Source



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### The Housing Solutions Center (HSC)

The HSC was created in 2013 to serve as the community's coordinated entry and assessment response to homelessness. The HSC assesses the housing barriers for those needing housing and places them in the most appropriate type of assistance, when available.

Over the course of 2015, the HSC screened 3,321 households for eligibility and placement in 38 different housing and shelter programs. Based on the screenings, the HSC placed 1,178 households in emergency shelter, 206 households in short-term motels, and 616 households into rent assistance housing programs.

The housing navigation focus of the HSC, which helps people connect to mainstream resources in the community, like behavioral health support, DSHS assistance and/or clothing, served 799 households. In addition, 157 households were stably housed as a result of their work with the navigation program.

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## HEALTH

Clark County's Community Action Program supports programs promoting good health. According to the last Community Action Survey of Needs conducted in 2013, respondents indicated that food and dental services were the top two community needs.

### **Food Assistance**

- Clark County Food Pantries
- Clark County Food Bank, Fresh Alliance
- Share, Backpack Program
- Share, Hot Meals
- Share, Summer SLAM

### **Dental Services**

- New Day Dental, First Impressions

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In 2015, the Clark County Food Bank distributed **5 million** meals to **28,000** families through a network of **34** partner agencies. Of those receiving food, **36%** were children and **18%** were seniors.

Source:  
Clark County Food Bank

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### Success Story

New Day Dental provides free dental services in partnership with the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington for people in search of employment and working with local employment programs. "Jessica" is a single mother of seven who had severe decay and chipping of her front tooth causing her to lack confidence in public. Once her dental needs were met, Jessica was able to secure full time employment as a Certified Nursing Assistant making \$11.10 per hour.

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## HOUSING

Housing assistance is provided through several types of programs: emergency shelter/motel vouchers, transitional housing, prevention, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing. Each program targets a specific demographic of those in need, but all must meet strict income and housing status guidelines.

### **Emergency Shelter/Motel Vouchers**

Emergency shelters provide congregate living facilities where households may reside for up to 90 days. Motel vouchers provide up to 90 nights of shelter in a local motel for highly vulnerable households.

- Council for the Homeless Housing Solutions Center, Coordinated Motel Vouchers Program
- Janus Youth, The Oaks Shelters
- Share, Emergency Shelters (Share Orchards Inn, Share Homestead, Share House)
- YWCA, SafeChoice Domestic Violence Shelter
- Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO)

### **Transitional Housing**

Transitional housing provides a congregate or single unit living facility where households may reside for up to 24 months.

- Second Step Housing, Resident Self-Sufficiency Program

### **Prevention**

Prevention programs provide rent assistance and supportive services to households who are at-risk of homelessness to prevent them from becoming homeless. Households assisted include those who have three-day pay or vacate notices or those who are couch-surfing with family or friends. Assistance is provided for up to 24 months.

- Impact Northwest, Homelessness Prevention & Stabilization Program
- Janus Youth, Bridges Program
- The Salvation Army, Moving Forward Together Program
- The Salvation Army, Dislocated Families Fund
- Share, Prevention Re-Housing Options for Self-Sufficiency (PROS) Program
- Share, Fresh Approach to Stable Transitions (FAST) Program
- Share, Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Program

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In September 2015, the Clark County rental vacancy rate was **3.5%**.

This compares to Washington State's vacancy rate of **3.4%**.

The Fair Market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Clark County was **\$944**.

#### Sources:

Runstad Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Washington, WA Apartment Market, Fall 2015

U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), <https://www.clark.wa.gov/sites/all/files/community-services/HOME/2015IncomeandRentLimitswithutilityallowance.pdf>

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## **HOUSING (continued)**

### **Rapid Re-housing (RRH)**

Rapid re-housing (RRH) programs provide rent assistance and supportive services to households who are homeless. The programs move households into stable housing and assist them for up to 24 months. Households assisted include those who are living in cars, on the street, in places not meant for habitation, or in emergency shelters.

- Community Services NW, Re-Entry Housing Program
- Janus Youth, The Alliance Project
- Janus Youth, The Nest Program
- The Salvation Army, Ending Family Homelessness (EFH) Program
- Share, Prevention Re-Housing Options for Self-Sufficiency (PROS) Program
- Share, Ending Family Homelessness (EFH) Program
- Share, Ending Family Homelessness (EFH) Match Program
- Share, Fresh Approach to Stable Transitions (FAST) Program
- Share, Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Program

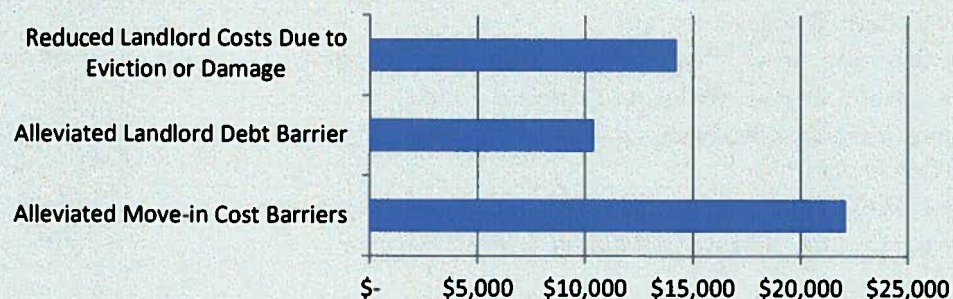
### **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)**

Permanent supportive housing (PSH) programs provide long-term, non-time limited, scattered-site or site-based housing with ongoing supportive services for households who are most vulnerable and have living on the streets for an extended period of time. Vulnerabilities may include serious mental health symptoms, co-occurring disorders, and chronic health challenges. Many people served through PSH are chronically homeless.

- Community Services NW, Re-Entry Permanent Supportive Housing Program
- Community Services NW, Welcome Home Program
- Share, ASPIRE Program
- Share, Bridging the Gap Program

### **Landlord Risk Mitigation Funds**

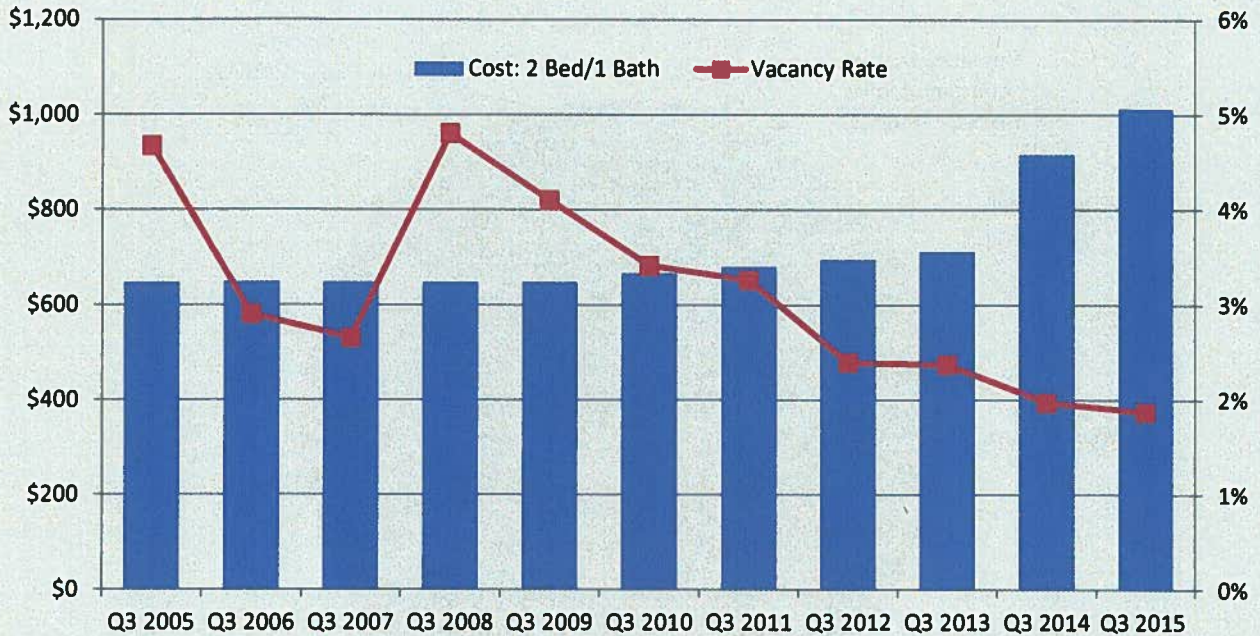
A Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund has been provided to each agency that provides County-funded Prevention, RRH, and/or PSH programs to households who are at-risk of homelessness or are homeless. Landlord Risk Mitigation Funds must be used as a tool to increase or sustain the number of housing options for program-eligible households with multiple barriers to obtain stable housing.



## HOUSING (continued)

### Vacancy Rate and Average Rent (2 Bed/1 Bath units)

Vancouver, WA 2004-2014



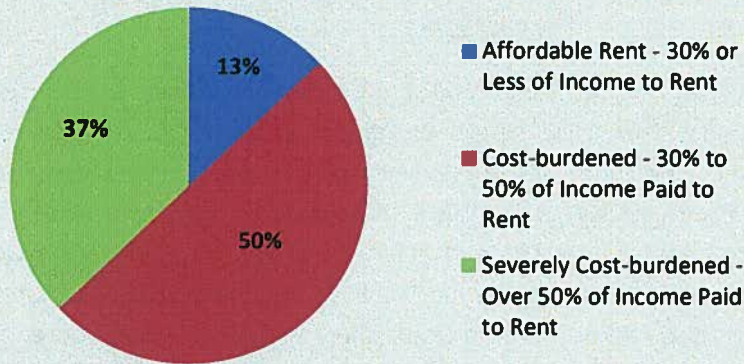
Source: Norris, Beggs & Simpson, Multifamily Reports



From 2013-2015, rents increased an average of 42%

### 2015 Clark County Renters 0% - 50% Area Median Income (AMI)

Total: 19,695 Households

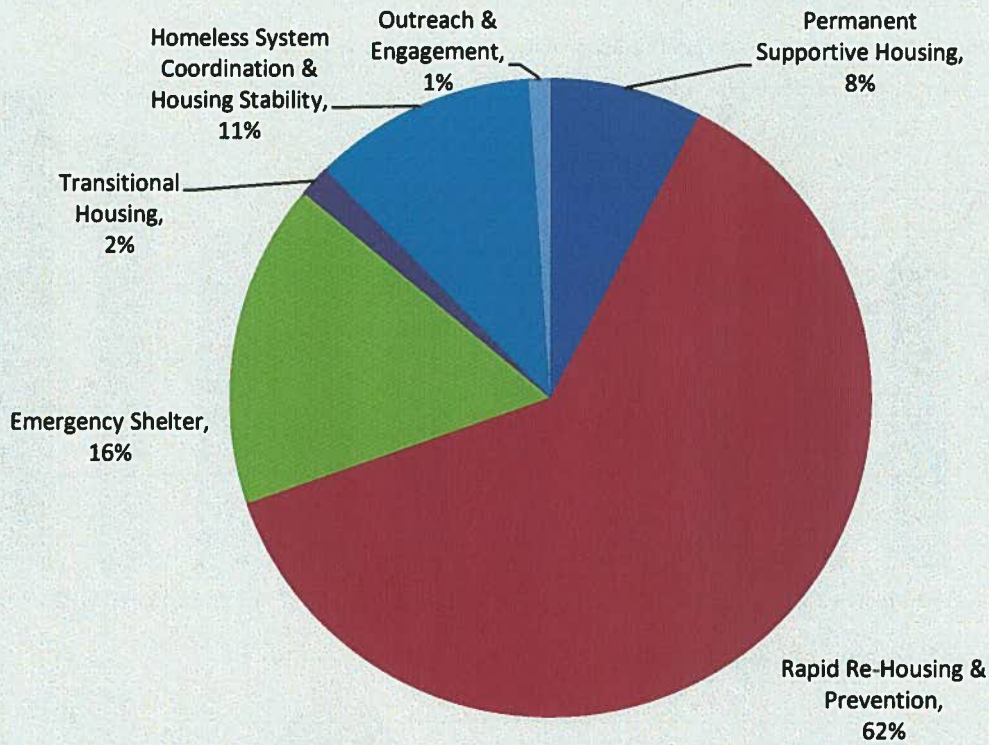


Source: 2015 Washington State Housing Needs Assessment, Clark County

2015 Clark County Community Action Report  
Approved by the Community Action Advisory Board July 2016

## HOUSING (continued)

### 2015 Funding Allocation



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#### Success Story

“Jackie” entered the Bridges Program after receiving a notice to vacate her property. Jackie’s troubles began when her husband was incarcerated and she faced the daunting task of finding a job and child care for her two children, one of whom has health complications. She had no idea where to start and had no money to pay her rent. The Bridges Program was able to quickly act as a liaison between Jackie and the landlord to negotiate a longer move-out period. Then, they worked with Jackie to re-house her family in a new, stable apartment and identify safe childcare for her children while she searched for a job. By partnering with WorkSource, after just a few months, Jackie was able to obtain almost full-time employment and remain stably housed after over a year. Lastly, her husband was released from jail early because he had a release address to go home to and exhibited good behavior.

## **SAFETY**

Clark County provides increased safety through domestic violence and stalking advocacy, homeless outreach and energy assistance programs.

### **Advocacy**

- YWCA, SafeChoice Domestic Violence Advocacy

### **Energy Assistance**

- Clark County, Other Emergency Services (Heating Repair)
- Clark Public Utilities, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

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In 2015, Clark County, working in tandem with Clark Public Utilities, provided **4,033** households with assistance in heating their homes. **85%** utilized electricity as their main heat source; **12%** were gas customers and **3%** used other sources such as wood, propane, or oil.

Source:  
2015 LIHEAP Client  
Characteristics Report,  
WA Dept. of Commerce

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### **Success Story**

“Julia” and her young son came to the SafeChoice domestic violence shelter after fleeing a five year abusive marriage. She had endured many forms of abuse including financial, emotional, and physical. The family received food, clothing and hygiene items while in shelter. At the beginning of their stay, Julia utilized the Child Advocacy Program frequently so she could meet with advocates for safety planning and support. She worked closely with the Family Support Advocate receiving parental support, housing assistance, and other resources. During their stay, Julia was able to secure safe child care, buy a car, and participate in an employment assistance program resulting in nearly full time employment. Julia and her son were referred to a local housing program and secured safe and stable housing. For every \$1 spent to help Julia, the return on investment is \$3.65.

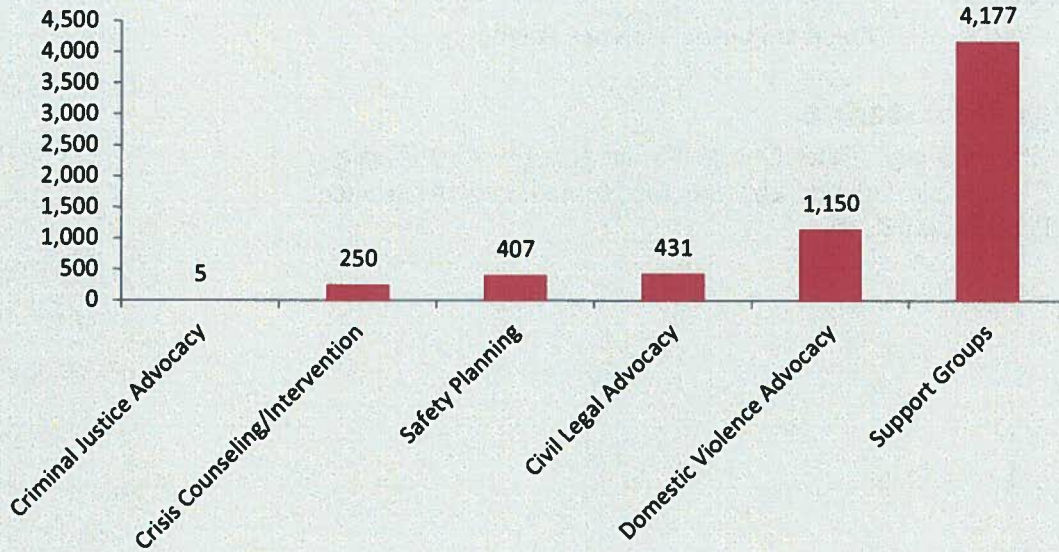
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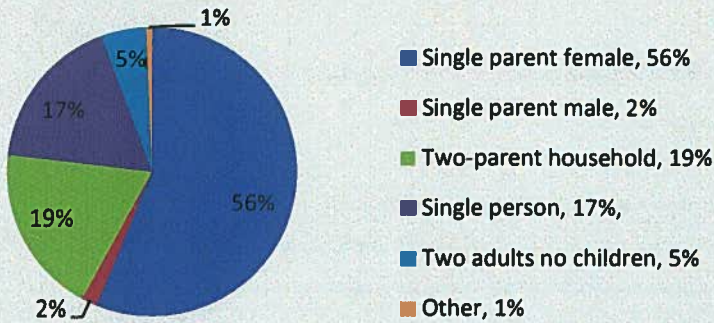
## **SAFETY** (continued)

### **YWCA SafeChoice Program Advocacy**

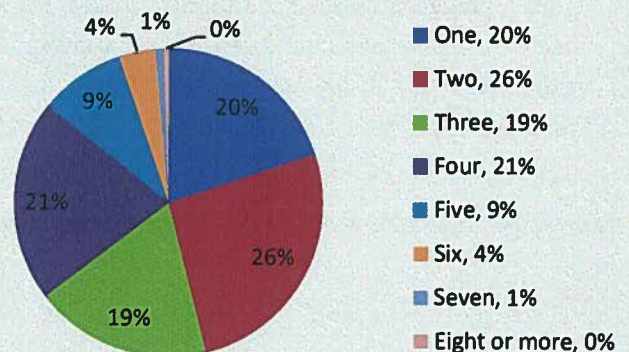
1,026 Individuals received advocacy services



### **Family Types Accessing SafeChoice Domestic Violence Programs**



### **Size of Families Accessing SafeChoice Domestic Violence Programs**



## SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Self-Sufficiency programs assist participants and their families make choices that will lead to self-reliance. Programs help people reduce barriers to move towards employment and stable housing.

### **Education and Employment**

- Big Brothers Big Sisters, Finish Strong
- Columbia River Mental Health, Homeless Employment Navigator (HEN)
- Partners in Careers, YouthFirst

### **Financial**

- Share, Individual Development Account (IDA) Program

### **Legal Assistance**

- Volunteer Lawyers, Homeless Court
- Volunteer Lawyers, Volunteer Lawyers Program
- Washington Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans Incarcerated Project
- YWCA, SafeChoice Domestic Violence Program

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Clark County's  
December 2015  
unemployment rate  
was **4.8%**.

Washington State's  
unemployment rate  
was **5.8%**, and the  
national average  
was **5.2%**.

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### Success Story

“Travis” is a 14-year old high school student participating in Big Brothers Big Sisters' Finish Strong program where youth at risk of not graduating are paired with adult mentors. Travis comes from a single parent family while his step-dad is in jail. Travis has been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and is enrolled in an Individual Education Program due to his academic struggles. Travis' mentor has accompanied him to Finish Strong events such as the Washington State University Vancouver tour and regularly talks to Travis about school, grades and his future goals. Due to the support Travis received from his mentor, he is interested in participating in the Running Start program and wants to become an electrician.

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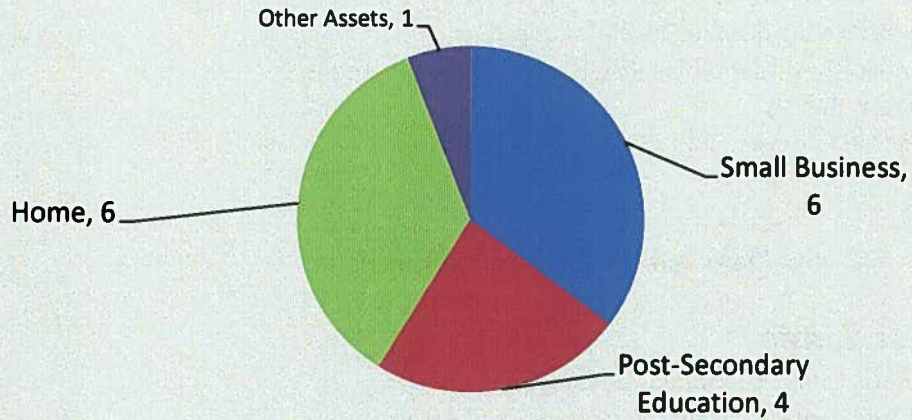
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Source:  
U.S. Department of  
Labor, Bureau of Labor  
Statistics

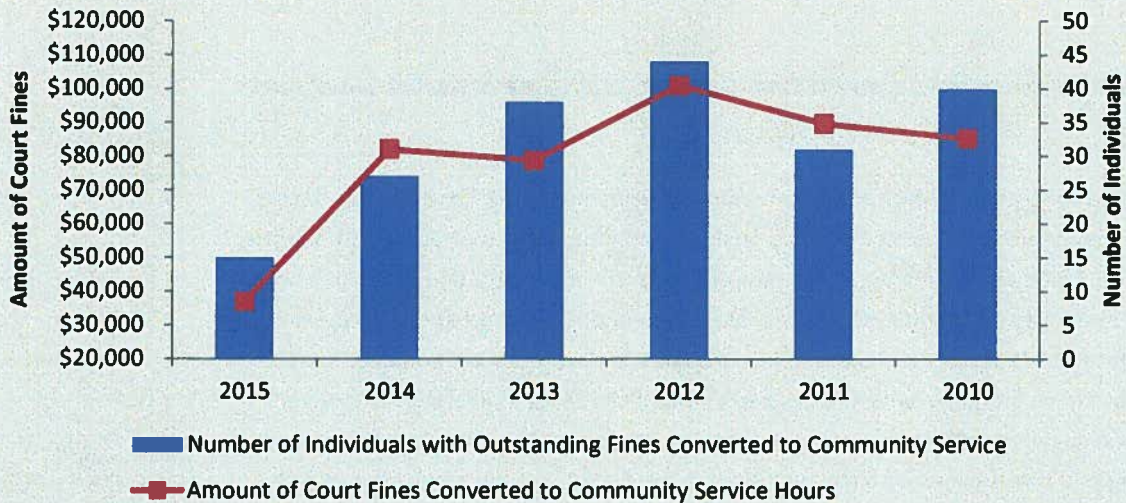
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## SELF-SUFFICIENCY (continued)

### Share IDA 2015 Program Purchases 17 Households Completed the Two-year Program



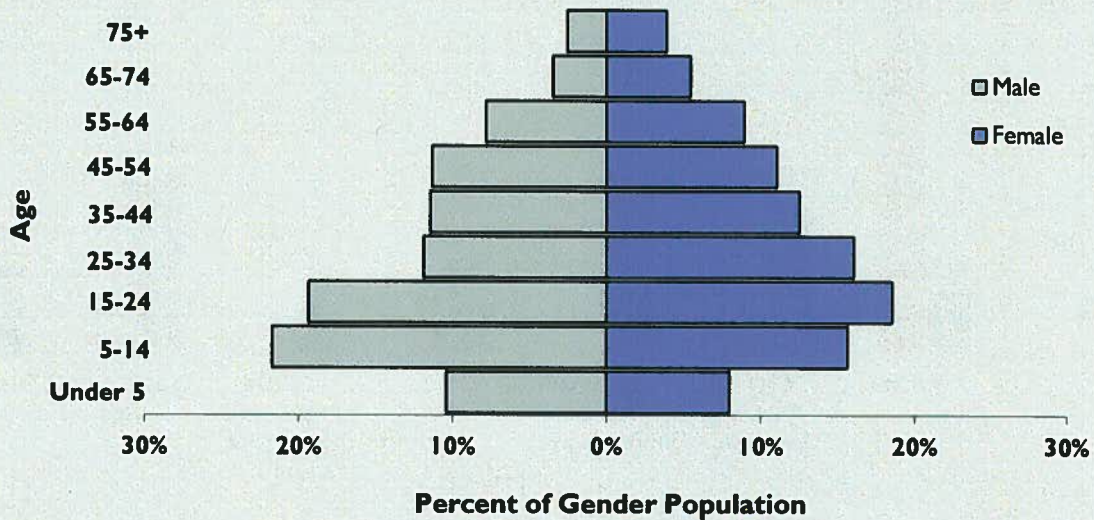
### Volunteer Lawyers Program Homeless Court Converted Fines



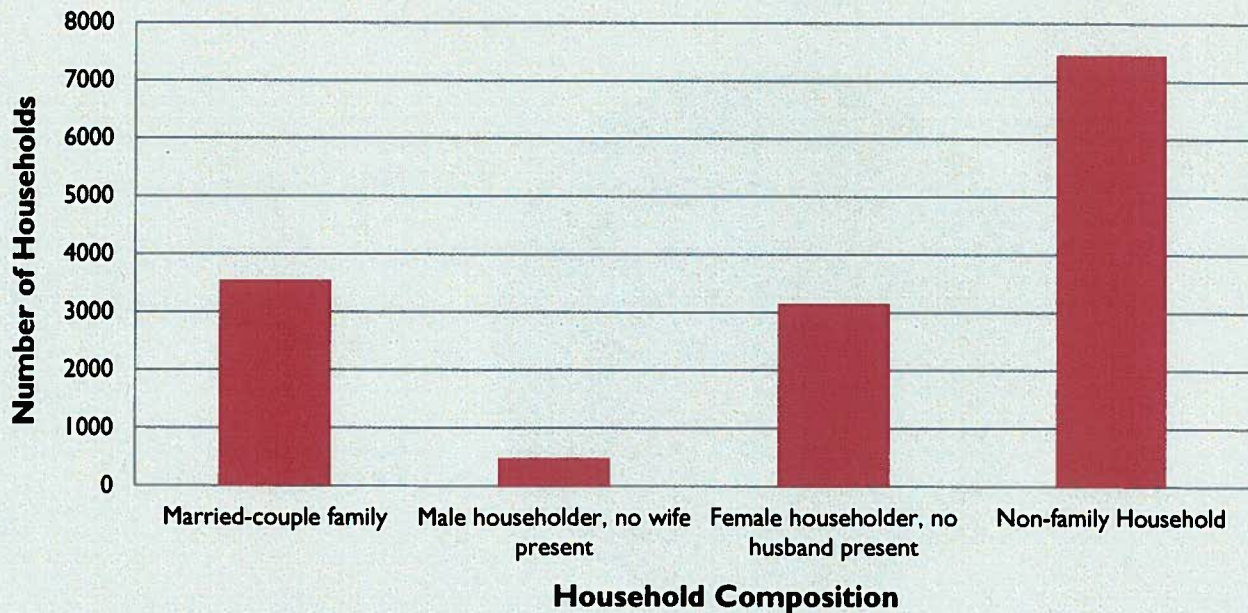
## POVERTY IN CLARK COUNTY

Based on the most recent American Community Survey data from 2014, there were over 14,600 households in Clark County who earned less than the Federal Poverty Level adjusted for family size. This equals \$24,250 per year, or approximately \$2,000 per month, for a family of four.

**Number of Men and Women Living Below Poverty  
in Clark County: 2014**

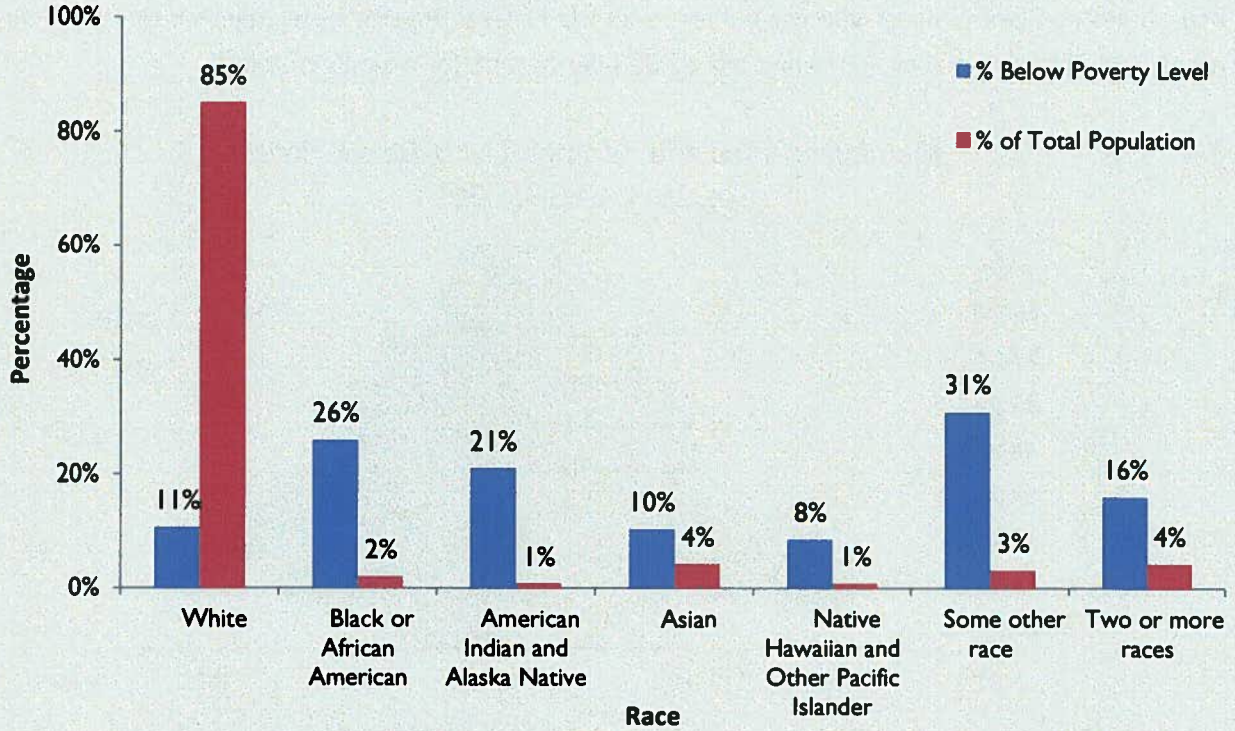


**Households Living in Poverty: 2014**

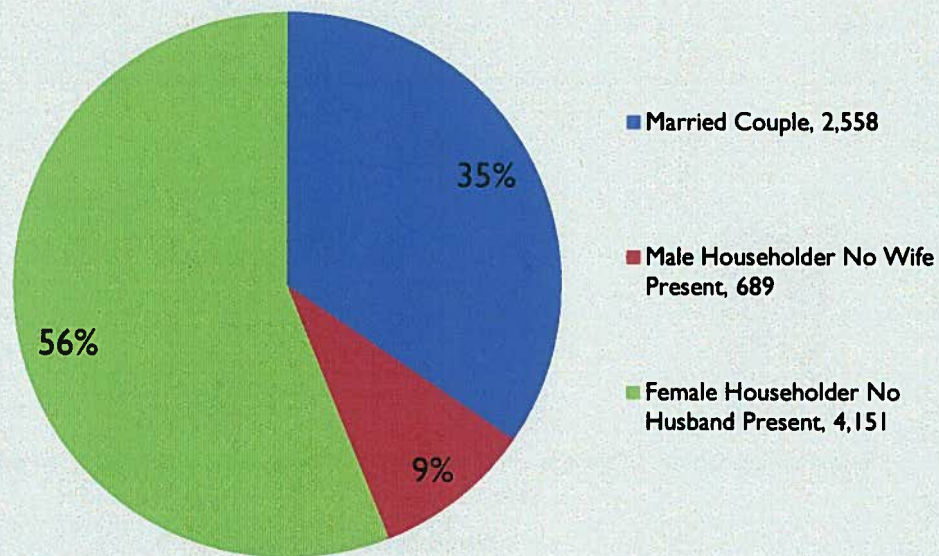


## **POVERTY IN CLARK COUNTY (CONTINUED)**

**Percent Race/Ethnic Groups Living in Poverty: 2014**

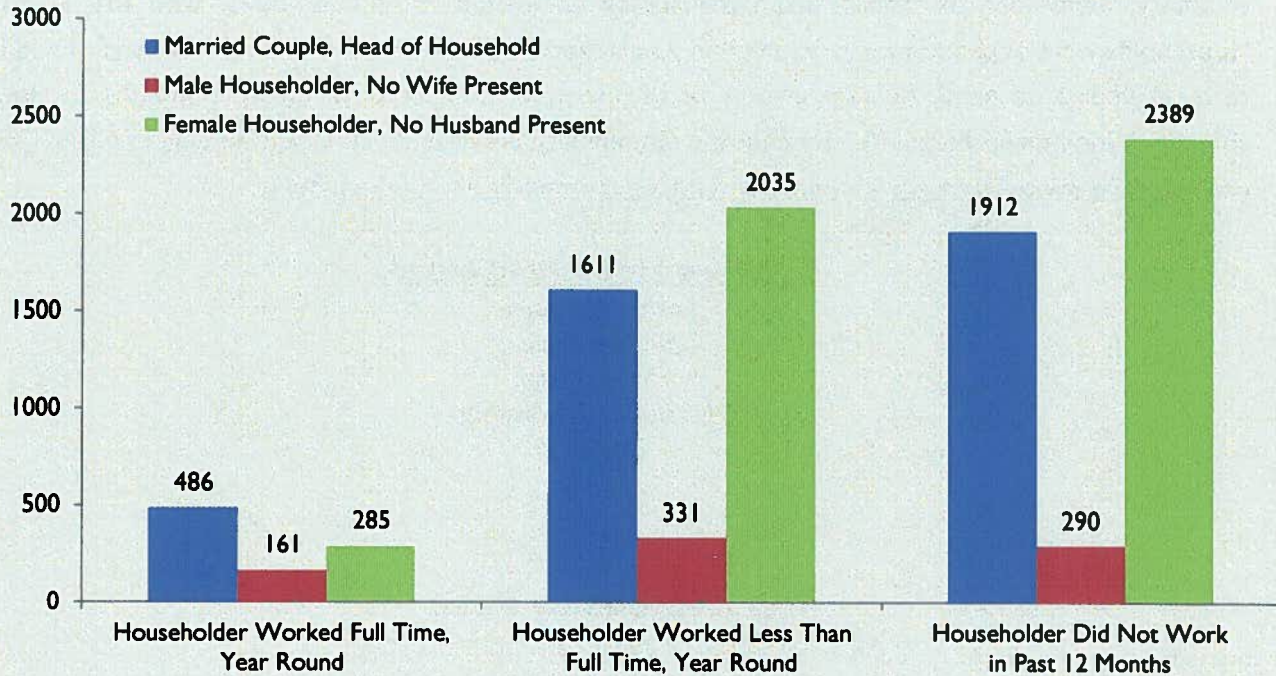


**Clark County Families with Children Under 18 Living Below Poverty: 2014**  
7,398 Total Households with Children

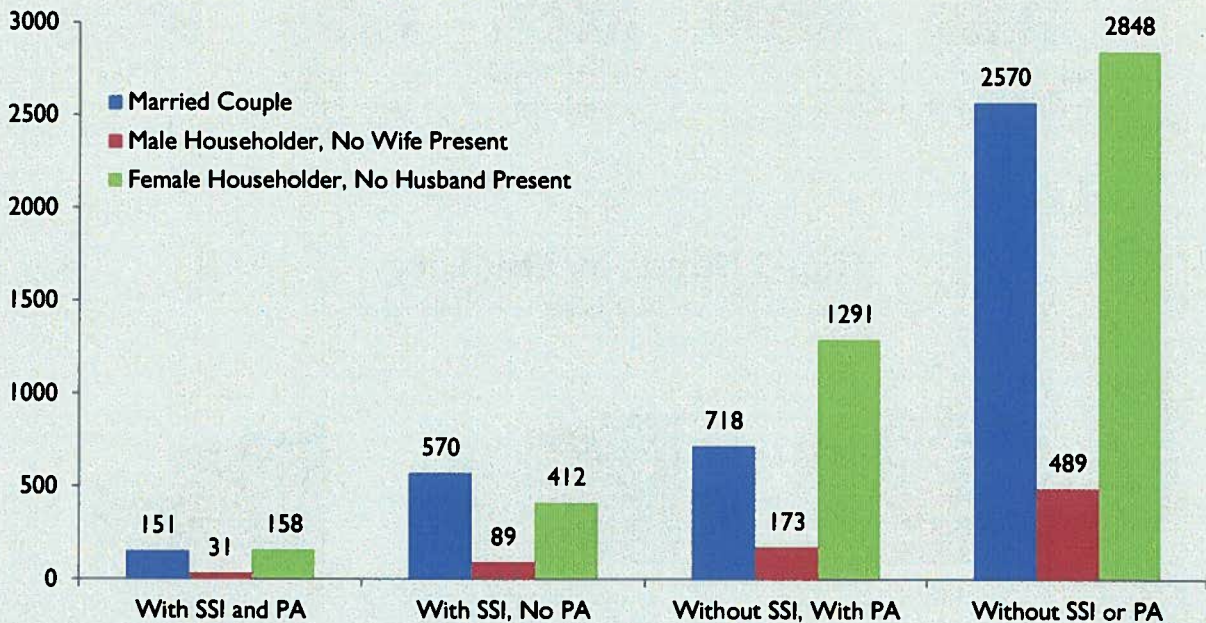


## POVERTY IN CLARK COUNTY (CONTINUED)

### Breakdown of Employment Hours of Families Living Below Poverty: 2014



### Families Living Below Poverty Level by Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Public Assistance (PA): 2014



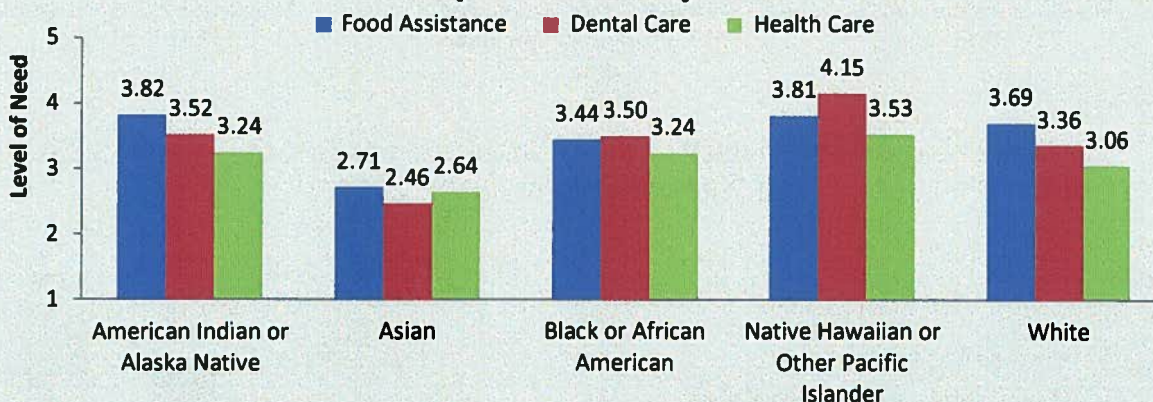
## COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY DATA

Clark County conducts a Survey of Needs assessment every three years. Participation is completely voluntary. Below are the results from the survey completed in summer 2013, with 816 responses. Households were asked to rank their need in 25 categories. Five represents the highest level of need, and zero represents no need. Average income of all respondents equals \$1,220.10 per month. To view the complete Community Needs Assessment for Community Services Block Grant funding in Clark County, visit <https://www.clark.wa.gov/community-services/community-action-documents>.

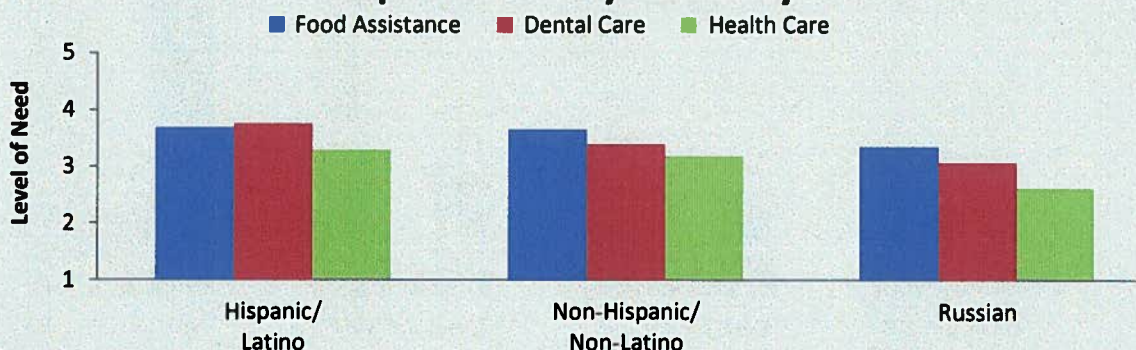
### Top Five Household Needs

- Food Assistance
- Dental Care
- Health Care
- Prescription Medication
- Clothing

### Top 3 Needs by Race

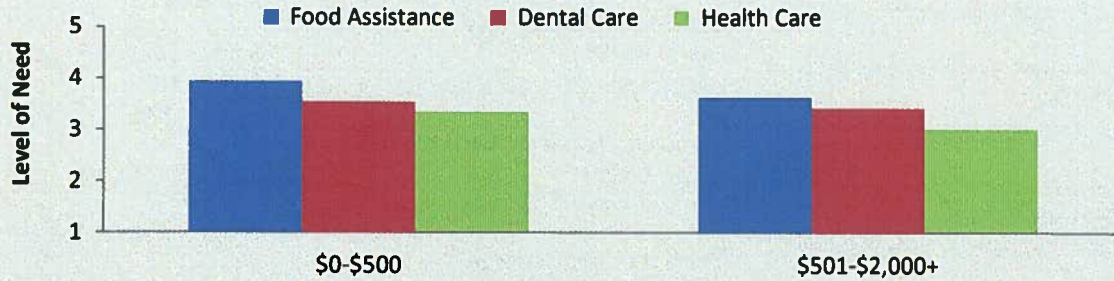


### Top 3 Needs by Ethnicity

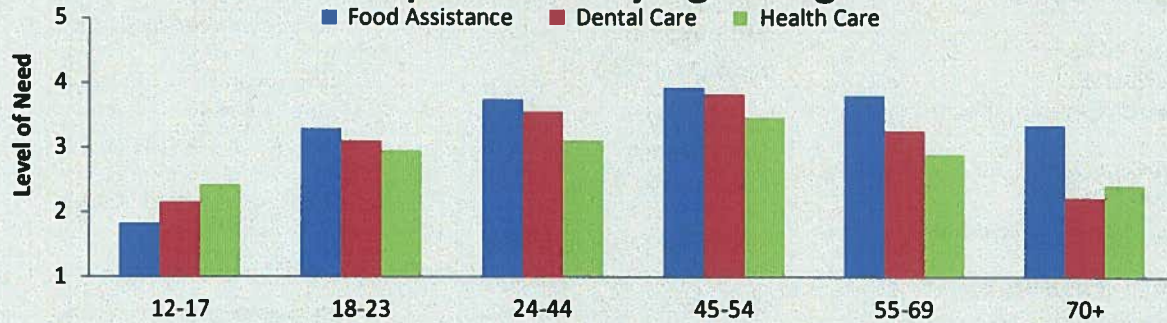


## **COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY DATA (continued)**

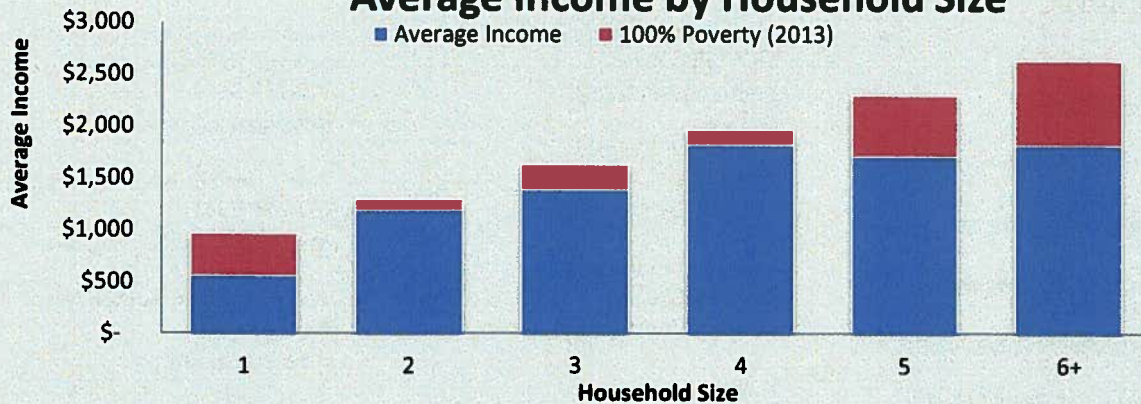
### **Top 3 Needs by Income Range**



### **Top 3 Needs by Age Range**



### **Average Income by Household Size**





## **PARTNERSHIPS**

### **FAITH BASED**

Friends of the Carpenter  
360-750-4752

[www.friendsofthecarpenter.org](http://www.friendsofthecarpenter.org)

Lutheran Community Services NW  
360-694-5624

[www.lcsnw.org/vancouver](http://www.lcsnw.org/vancouver)

The Salvation Army  
360-892-9050

[www.vancouver.salvationarmynw.org](http://www.vancouver.salvationarmynw.org)

St. Andrew Lutheran  
360-892-7160

[www.salcvan.org](http://www.salcvan.org)

St. Joseph's Catholic  
360-696-4407

<http://stjoevan.org/>

St. Paul Lutheran  
360-693-3531

[www.stpaulvancouver.com](http://www.stpaulvancouver.com)

St. Vincent DePaul  
360-694-5388

[www.svdpvancouverusa.com](http://www.svdpvancouverusa.com)

### **HEALTH SERVICES**

Free Clinic of SW Washington  
360-313-1390

[www.freeclinics.org](http://www.freeclinics.org)

New Day Community Dental  
360-892-7107

[www.newdaydental.org](http://www.newdaydental.org)

### **NON-PROFIT**

211 info  
2-1-1

[www.211info.org](http://www.211info.org)

Big Brothers Big Sisters  
360-891-8382

[www.bbbsnorthwest.org](http://www.bbbsnorthwest.org)

Clark County Food Bank  
360-693-0939

[www.clarkcountyfoodbank.org](http://www.clarkcountyfoodbank.org)

Columbia River Mental Health  
360-993-3000

[www.crmhs.org](http://www.crmhs.org)

Community Housing Resource Center  
360-690-4496

[www.homecen.org](http://www.homecen.org)

Community Services NW  
360-397-8484

[www.communityservicesnw.org](http://www.communityservicesnw.org)

Consumer Voices are Born (CVAB)  
360-397-8050

<http://www.cvabonline.com/>

Council for the Homeless  
360-993-9561

[www.councilforthehomeless.org](http://www.councilforthehomeless.org)

Housing Solutions Center  
360-695-9677

[www.councilforthehomeless.org](http://www.councilforthehomeless.org)

ESD 112  
360-750-7500

[www.esd112.org](http://www.esd112.org)

Impact NW  
503-988-6000

<http://impactnw.org/>

Inter-Faith Treasure House  
360-834-4181

[www.iftth-cw.org](http://www.iftth-cw.org)

Janus Youth Programs  
503-233-6090

[www.janusyouth.org](http://www.janusyouth.org)

Lifeline Connections  
360-397-8246

[www.lifelineconnections.org](http://www.lifelineconnections.org)

Metropolitan Family Service  
503-232-0007

[www.metfamily.org](http://www.metfamily.org)

Partners in Careers  
360-696-8417

[www.partnersincareers.org](http://www.partnersincareers.org)

Second Step Housing  
360-993-5301

[www.secondstephousing.org](http://www.secondstephousing.org)

Share  
360-448-2121

[www.sharevancouver.org](http://www.sharevancouver.org)

SW WA Workforce Development  
Council

360-567-1070

[www.wwdc.org](http://www.wwdc.org)

Volunteer Lawyers Program  
360-695-5313

[www.ccvlp.org](http://www.ccvlp.org)

YWCA Clark County  
360-696-0167

[www.ywcaclarkcounty.com](http://www.ywcaclarkcounty.com)

### **SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Battle Ground School District  
360-885-5300

[www.battlegroundps.org](http://www.battlegroundps.org)

Camas School District  
360-335-3000

[www.camas.wednet.edu/](http://www.camas.wednet.edu/)

Evergreen School District  
360-604-4000

[www.evergreenps.org](http://www.evergreenps.org)

Vancouver School District  
360-313-1000

[www.ridgefieldsd.org](http://www.ridgefieldsd.org)

### **GOVERNMENT**

City of Vancouver  
360-487-8600

[www.cityofvancouver.us](http://www.cityofvancouver.us)

Department of Commerce  
360-725-4000

[www.commerce.wa.gov](http://www.commerce.wa.gov)

Department of Social & Health  
Services (DSHS)

800-737-0617

[www.dshs.wa.gov](http://www.dshs.wa.gov)

Vancouver Housing Authority  
360-694-2501

[www.vhausa.com](http://www.vhausa.com)

WA Healthcare Authority  
800-562-6906

[www.hca.wa.gov](http://www.hca.wa.gov)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**More information about the Community Action Program, as well as plans and reports referenced in this document, can be found online:**

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/community-action>

**Staff for these programs work for Clark County's Department of Community Services and can be reached by calling (360) 397-2130.**

Vanessa R. Gaston, Director  
[vanessa.gaston@clark.wa.gov](mailto:vanessa.gaston@clark.wa.gov)

Michael A. Torres, Program Manager  
[michael.torres@clark.wa.gov](mailto:michael.torres@clark.wa.gov)

Kate Budd, Program Coordinator  
[kate.budd@clark.wa.gov](mailto:kate.budd@clark.wa.gov)

Rebecca Royce, Program Coordinator  
[rebecca.royce@clark.wa.gov](mailto:rebecca.royce@clark.wa.gov)

Rich Walters, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist  
[rich.walters@clark.wa.gov](mailto:rich.walters@clark.wa.gov)

Samantha Whitley, Program Coordinator  
[samantha.whitley@clark.wa.gov](mailto:samantha.whitley@clark.wa.gov)

Dawn Lee, Program Assistant  
[dawn.lee@clark.wa.gov](mailto:dawn.lee@clark.wa.gov)

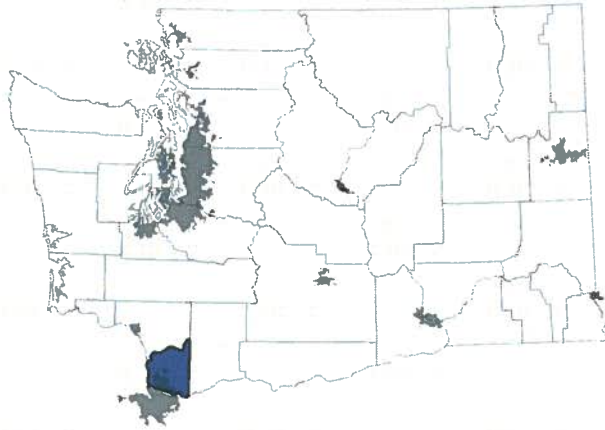
Janet Snook, Office Assistant  
[janet.snook@clark.wa.gov](mailto:janet.snook@clark.wa.gov)

*Clark County Department of Community Services*  
P.O. Box 5000 ● Vancouver, WA ● 98666-5000  
Tel 360.397.2130 ● Fax 360.397.6028 ● Relay 800.833.6384  
[www.clark.wa.gov/community-action](http://www.clark.wa.gov/community-action)



**For other formats**  
Clark County ADA Office, Voice (360) 397-2000  
Relay (800) 833-6384, E-mail [ADA@clark.wa.gov](mailto:ADA@clark.wa.gov)

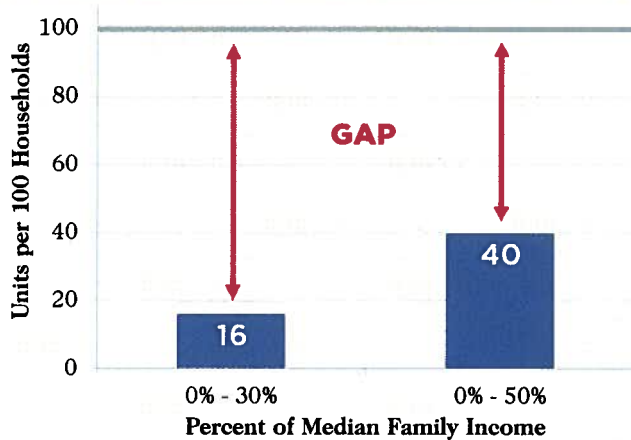
# CLARK COUNTY



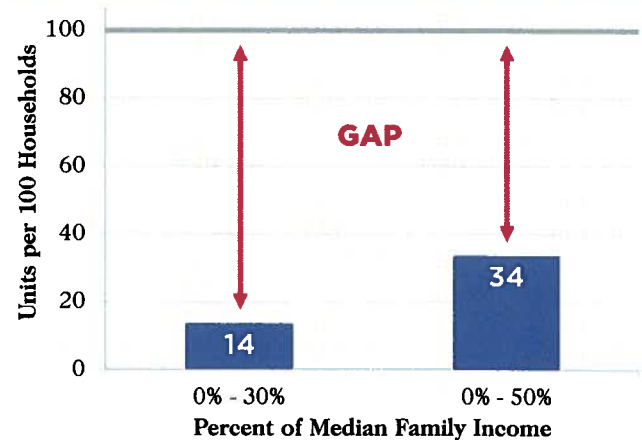
- Population: 426,984
- Area: 657 miles<sup>2</sup>
- Households: 158,365
- Median Family Income: \$73,000
- Low-income Renter Households: 31,890
- Subsidized Housing Units: 6,350

## Affordable Housing Gap

Affordable and Available Housing Units for Every 100 Households



Forecasted Affordable and Available Housing Units for Every 100 Households in 2019



## Housing Market

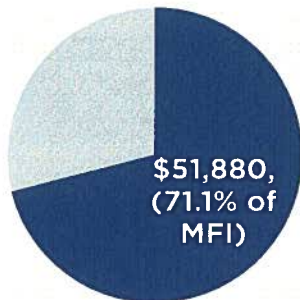
How Much of the Median Family Income (MFI) Must a Household Earn to Afford Rent?

**4 people / 3 bedrooms**

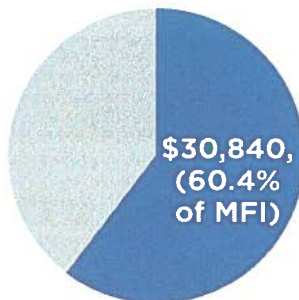
Fair Market Rent: \$1,297

**1 person / 1 bedroom**

Fair Market Rent: \$771



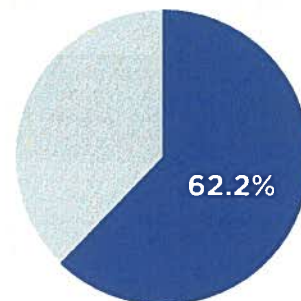
■ required income



■ required income

How Much of the Housing Stock Can the Median Family Income Afford to Buy?

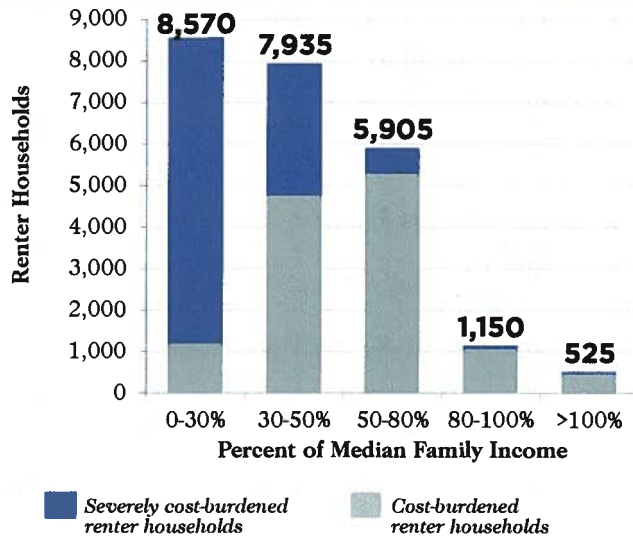
Maximum Affordable Home Value: \$281,248



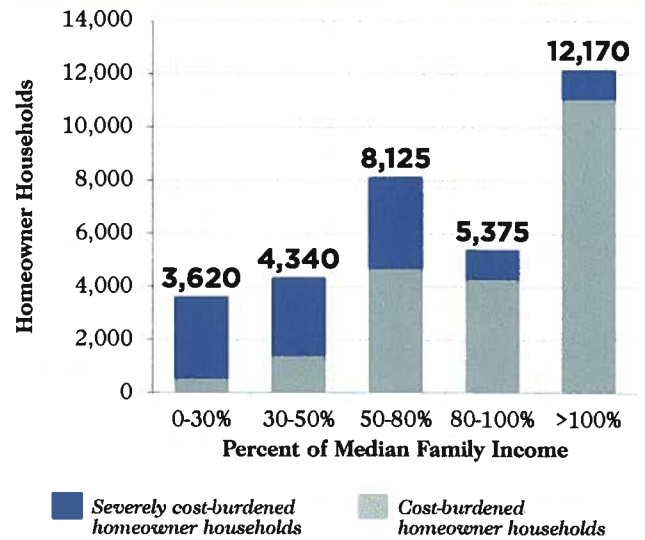
■ % of owner-occupied homes that are affordable

## Cost Burden

Cost-Burdened **Renter** Households

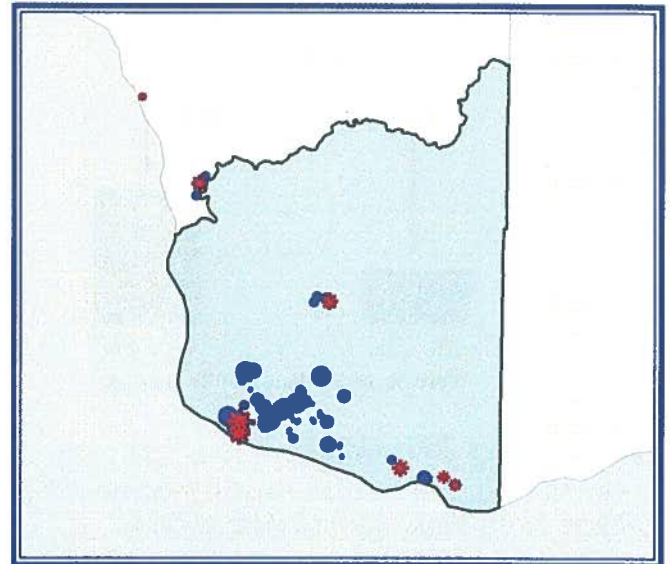
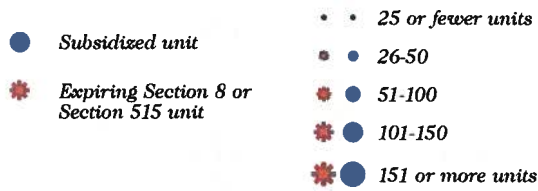


Cost-Burdened **Homeowner** Households



## Subsidized Housing Inventory

Subsidized Housing Units, Including Those That Are Scheduled to Expire by 2017



### Subsidized Inventory Characteristics

- Sites: 99
- Units: 6,350
- Section 8/Section 515 units set to expire by 2017: 518

### Are There Enough Subsidized Units for Eligible Renter Households at Different Income Thresholds?

% of Median Family Income	Renter Households	Subsidized Units for Which They Are Eligible*		Units per 100 Households
		#	%	
0% - 30%	10,600	5,136	100.0%	48
30% - 50%	9,095	4,115	80.1%	45
50% - 80%	12,195	489	9.5%	4
80% - 100%	6,420	0	0.0%	0

\* Income eligibility was not available for all units in the inventory

April 2016



# HOUSING SNAPSHOT

## Spotlight on very low-income\* residents

\* Very low-income is defined as earning 50% or less of the Area Median Income (AMI). The AMI for a 4-person household is currently \$73,300.



**17,690**  
very low-income  
households in  
Vancouver



**6,855**  
very low-income renter house-  
holds spend more than **half**  
of their income on housing

### How much does a very low-income household earn?

1-Person Household



**\$25,700**  
annual income

2-Person Household



**\$29,350**  
annual income

4-Person Household



**\$36,650**  
annual income

### How much can a very low-income household afford for rent?

1-Person Household



2-Person Household



4-Person Household



### How much does it cost to rent an apartment in Vancouver?

1-Bedroom Unit



**\$990**  
median  
monthly rent

2-Bedroom Unit



**\$1,070**  
median  
monthly rent

For more information about the City's work on this issue, visit

[www.cityofvancouver.us/AffordableHousing](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/AffordableHousing).

Data sources: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2016 income limits and 2008 -2012 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy data); April 2016 Apartment List National Rent Report.



# City Fact Sheet

VANCOUVER  
CITY HALL

## Day Center Proposal for People who are Homeless

In December 2015, the City of Vancouver assisted in funding and siting a temporary day center for people who are homeless at the Friends of the Carpenter Warehouse, 1600 W 20<sup>th</sup> St.

Over the past year, the temporary day center has been used by over 900 individuals but building and site limitations have deterred the effectiveness of the operation. In addition to easement issues, site location, building limitations, and changes in bus service, additional areas of concern identified were:

- Conflict between pedestrians and truck traffic in the access easement
- The stream of foot traffic through the neighborhood from Share House to the day center
- Lack of space for showers and bathrooms
- Lack of private counseling space

Earlier in 2015, the City of Vancouver convened a group of stakeholders to weigh in on the day center's location and key features. The following areas were identified as being especially important to this group and to respondents to a survey conducted by the Council for the Homeless and Share House:

- Proximity to Downtown and Share House
- Availability of services
- Hygiene services, such as showers and restrooms
- Clear rules and expectations

Working with project partners and stakeholders, it was determined that moving the day center would help to address the above areas. A proposal has been made for a new, permanent day center building at a new location.

### Proposed Location

The proposed site for the new day center is 1115 W 13<sup>th</sup> Street (across the street from Share House and next to Lincoln Place).

The day center will be open seven days a week from 7 am to 5 pm. The planned 3,000 square feet building will include: a great room, laundry room, small group kitchen, 1 handicapped restroom, 4 shower/ restroom combinations, and 2 small counseling offices.



Peggy Sheehan, Community & Economic Development Programs Manager  
(360) 487-8600 | TTY: (360) 487-8602  
415 W. 6th St. | Vancouver, WA 98668-1995  
[www.cityofvancouver.us](http://www.cityofvancouver.us)



## Services Offered

Share House, in partnership with local non-profits, will offer a range of services including: mental health counseling, general education classes, case management, personal storage, mail, phone charging stations, storage of belongings and job search assistance.

## Siting Ordinance Application

The proposed day center is a co-location of human service facilities (VMC Chapter 20.870) and will require a land use permit review process. The land use permit process will include a Notice of Application letter that will be mailed to all residences and owners of property within 500 feet of the site as well as to any city recognized neighborhood association whose boundaries include the site as well as any adjacent neighborhood associations. The notice will include information about the project and including staff contact information and public comment procedures. A human service facility colocation does not require a public hearing but does allow for citizen comments. Additionally, any parties that have submitted written comments on the proposed development will have standing to appeal the project during the appeal period.

## Project Partners

Project partners include: City of Vancouver, Share House, Clark County Community Services, and the Vancouver Housing Authority.

## Funding

Multiple sources will contribute to project funding including: the City of Vancouver, deed recording fees administered by Clark County, the Vancouver Housing Authority, and Washington State. Initial budget estimates are \$800,000 for building construction and \$300,000 for annual staff operations.

## Timeline

**January—February 2017:** City staff will attend surrounding neighborhood association meetings throughout January and February 2017.

**March 2017:** Notification of funding application decision (Share House) from Washington State.

**April 2017 (tentative):** Select architect and complete land use process.

**Summer 2017 (tentative):** Construction begins.

Regular project updates will be posted on the City of Vancouver's web site.





# HOMELESSNESS IN VANCOUVER

## Day Center for People Who Are Homeless

In December 2015, a temporary day center for people who are homeless opened near downtown Vancouver. This temporary day center is funded by Clark County, the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Housing Authority, and is operated by Share and Friends of the Carpenter.



1600 W. 20th St.

Open 7 days a week,  
7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Since opening, the center has served **968** people.

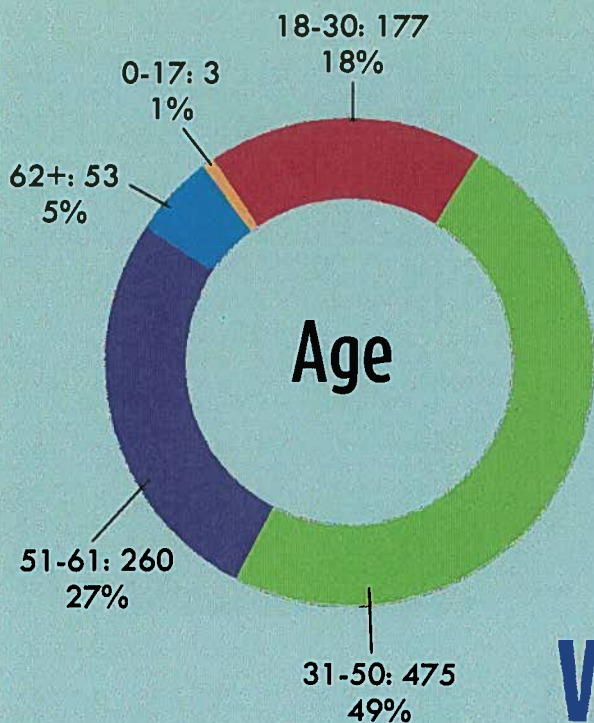
December 2015-November 2016



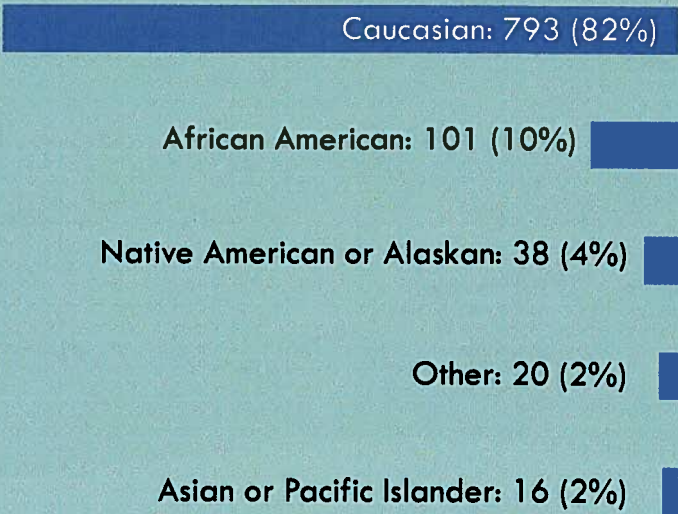
♂ 691 men

♀ 274 women

♂ 3 children



### Race/Ethnicity





# Services provided at the Day Center



**300 people**  
have used lockers for  
storage of personal items



**258 people**  
received help accessing benefits such as  
food stamps, disability or social security



**186 people**  
have received help  
looking for jobs



**17 people**  
received long-distance travel assistance to  
live with family members in other cities

## Additional services available



Mailing address



Transportation assistance



Information about cold weather  
shelters (during winter months)



Help filling out forms (health  
insurance or other benefits)



Telephone use and  
mobile phone charging



Clothing

## What's next?

In 2017, the City of Vancouver will research the development of a permanent day center on the property located across from Share House (1115 W. 13th St.). If funded and permitted, it will be operated by Share and will feature:

- Showers
- Laundry facilities
- Restrooms
- Storage
- Small conference room for case management

# HOMELESSNESS SNAPSHOT

Clark County, Washington | Jan. – Dec. 2016



The number of people who are homeless in Clark County increased 14.6% in 2016. Rising rents also continue to burden residents. According to the Journal of Urban Affairs, for every \$100 of increased rent, the population of people who are homeless increases by 6%.



**2,433**

people who are homeless who asked for housing assistance and are still waiting

**1,527** adults | **906** children



**2,226**

children in the Evergreen and Vancouver School Districts without a permanent home



**496**

households with children requested services in 2016

**5%** increase over 2015

**30%** were placed in shelters



**1,482**

single adults requested services in 2016

**15%** increase over 2015

**45%** were placed in shelters



**Share House (Esther Short)**

30 beds for men

**Safe Choice (Rose Village)**

23 beds

**Share Orchards Inn (Orchards)**

46 family beds & 4 single women beds

**Share Homestead**

(Hazel Dell Avenue inside city limits)

46 family beds & 4 single women beds

**Oak Grove (Bagley Downs)**

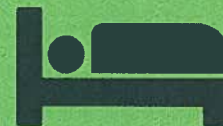
6 beds

**Oak Bridge (Forest Ridge)**

11 youth-only beds

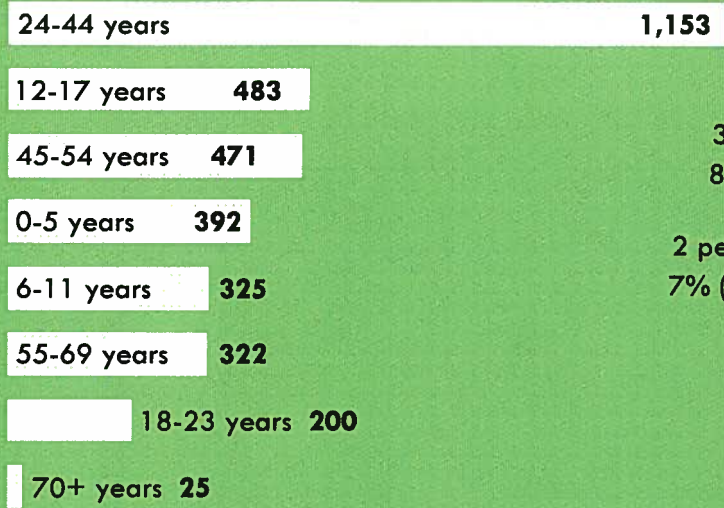
**Women's Housing & Transition**

12 beds for women

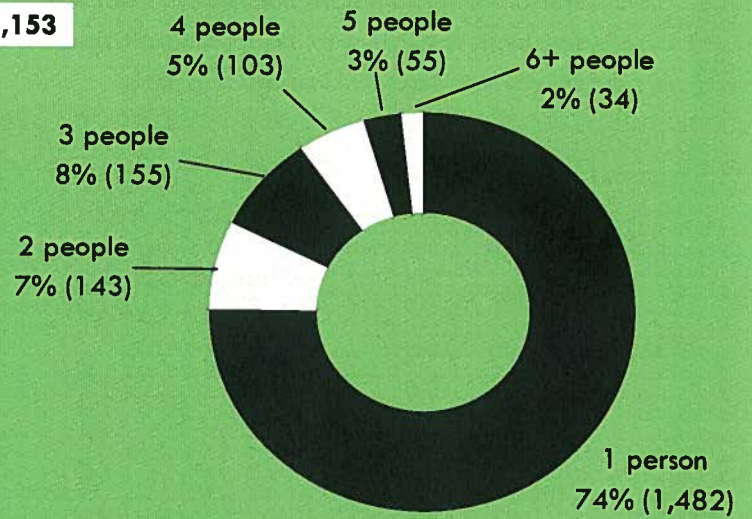


# Demographics for people requesting services in 2016

## AGE



## FAMILY SIZE



## Other statistics

- Only **18%** of people who were homeless in Clark County received housing assistance in 2016.
- Among those who receive housing assistance, **86%** have not returned to homelessness within 2 years.
- Of the **2,091** adults assessed for housing assistance in Clark County during 2016, **36%** reported a mental illness and **11%** reported a substance abuse disorder.
- During the nationwide homeless point-in-time count completed in 2016, **20%** of homeless persons reported a severe mental illness and **17%** reported a substance abuse disorder.



### **Who does each part of the crisis response system?**

#### **Access and Prioritization**

- Outreach (Community Services NW, Janus Youth Programs, Share)
- Coordinated entry (Council for the Homeless)
- Diversion (Council for the Homeless)

**Crisis and Interim housing** (Janus Youth Programs, \*Open Housing Ministries, \* Second Step Housing, Share, YWCA Clark County, Winter Hospitality Overflow)

#### **Assistance to Return to Housing**

- RRH (Community Services NW, Impact NW, Janus Youth Programs, Second Step Housing, Share, The Salvation Army)
- PSH (Community Services NW, Impact NW, Janus Youth Programs, Second Step Housing, Share, VHA and VA)
- Mainstream public/affordable housing (Columbia non-profit Housing, Private landlords, Reach CDC, Second Step Housing, Vancouver Housing Authority)



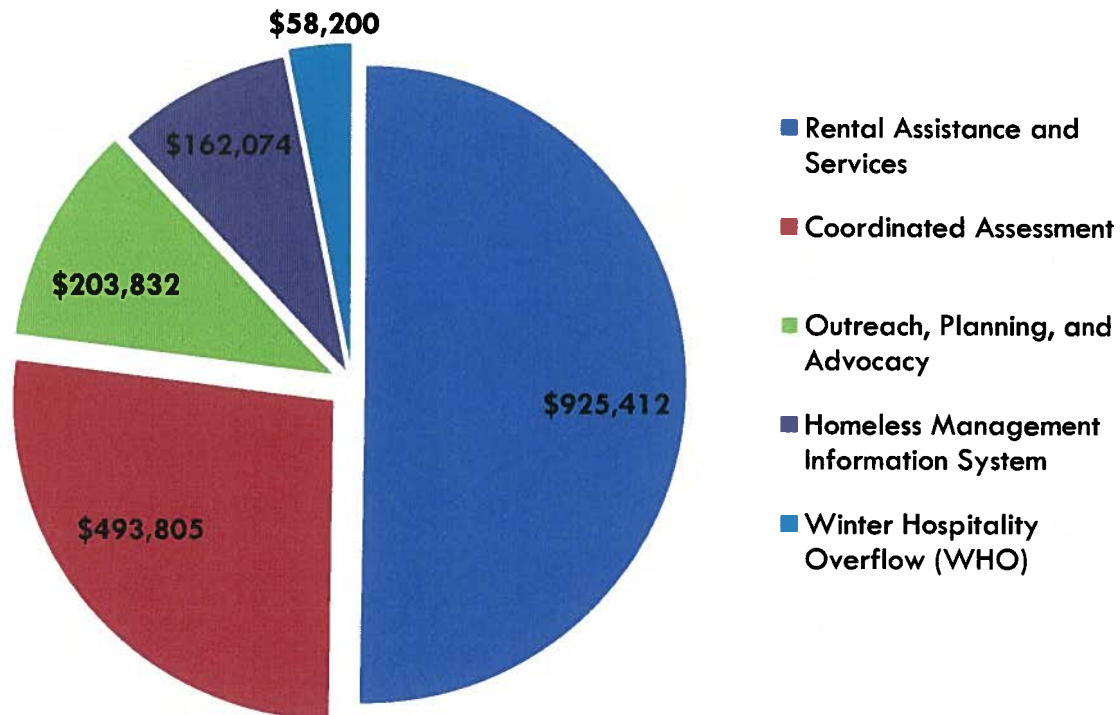
## 2017 Homelessness Funding

**Total Funding:** \$1,843,323

**Sources:**

- Vancouver Housing Authority
- Clark County
- Washington State (through EPS)
- HUD
- City of Vancouver
- Foundations
- Private contributions

**Uses:**





## 2017 Legislative Opportunities and Updates

### Federal

The U.S. government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) with a fair amount of uncertainty as to whether the CR will continue to be extended or whether Congress will return to regular budget order. The impacts of the CR have negatively affected homelessness locally as the Vancouver Housing Authority has halted entry to its Housing Choice Voucher Program due to a combination of rising rents and the less than full appropriation in the CR.

### State

As Washington State works through a special session there are several issues left that greatly affect homelessness. **In the operating budget**, the fate of the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program is uncertain as the House budget fully funds the program, while the Senate budget cuts it by over 80%. Locally, Share operates the HEN program and assists over 150 people in housing who would otherwise be homeless. **In the capital budget**, there are significant investments in the Housing Trust Fund in both the House and Senate budgets, but the House's investment is deeper.

Most importantly, the issue of the **document recording fees** that provide the majority of funding for our homeless crisis response system needs to be resolved before the end of the special session. We support HB 1570, which removes the scheduled sunset; provides a local option for counties to increase funding; and makes other policy changes to increase accountability and transparency.

### Local

There are several opportunities locally to decrease the cost of housing and increase access and protections for tenants. In both Clark County and the City of Vancouver there are opportunities to **decrease the cost of housing**, such as: higher density zoning; waiving the requirement for ground floor commercial for multifamily projects with below market rents in commercial zoning; and removing exclusionary zoning wherever possible. In Clark County, there are opportunities to **increase access and protections for tenants** by passing source of income protections and extended the period for no cause notices to vacate.