

Purpose and Need for a Systems Analysis in Clark County, WA

Clark County is grappling with a complex and growing homelessness crisis, driven by interwoven factors such as housing insecurity, behavioral health challenges, poverty, disparities, and system fragmentation. Despite considerable community efforts and temporary COVID-era investments, homelessness remains persistent. To move from reactive interventions to sustainable solutions, Clark County requires a comprehensive systems analysis that focuses not only on effectiveness but also on resiliency.

The purpose of the systems analysis is to:

- **Understand the drivers of homelessness** including predisposing, precipitating, and perpetuating factors.
- **Evaluate the current response system**, assessing strengths, service gaps, misalignments, and barriers to success.
- **Identify points of integration** across homelessness services, housing, behavioral health, and criminal justice systems.
- **Assess the system's capacity to adapt and sustain** services in the face of fluctuating funding, community needs, and external pressures.

Why Resiliency Matters

Building resiliency means designing a homelessness response system that:

- Is **equipped to manage uncertainty**, including shifts in funding, population needs, or crises.
- **Balances short-term interventions with long-term strategies** for housing stability and prevention.
- **Leverages cross-sector partnerships** and shared infrastructure to reduce duplication and increase efficiency.
- Embeds **equity and flexibility**, ensuring marginalized communities are supported effectively.

Key Deliverables of the Systems Analysis

- A landscape assessment or **ecosystem analysis** of homelessness in Clark County, including who is impacted and why.
- An **evaluation of current programs and policies**: what's working, what isn't, and why.
- Identification of **service and data gaps**, under-resourced areas, and disconnected providers.

- **Strategic recommendations** for system improvements, policy alignment, and capacity building.
- A detailed plan for **implementation support**, benchmarks, and technical assistance needs.
- An evaluation of the **Housing First model** and whether it's being effectively leveraged countywide.
- A framework to ensure the **system can evolve, adapt, and remain effective over time.**

This analysis is not just about measuring outcomes. It's about **fortifying the entire system** to be smarter, more inclusive, and more capable of responding to future challenges. With this foundation, Clark County and its city partners can make informed, collaborative decisions that lead to long-term impact and lasting change