

Clark County Community Services

The information below outlines what Clark County Community Services has done to add capacity to the homeless system by bringing on new providers and using different or new revenue sources since 2021. The COVID-Era Temporary Funding – Emergency Housing Funds (EHF), State’s Shelter Program Grant (SPG), and ARPA allowed a significant—but temporary—increase in capacity. These funding sources have now sunset, and we are relying on local homeless dollars to sustain services as best we can. We have also used local mental health sales taxes and opioid settlement funds to fund programs that serve people with behavioral health disorders and are unhoused.

New providers have been added to the homeless system to help people that are unhoused:

- Catholic Community Services (CCS) – Began billing under the State’s Shelter Program Grant in January 2022. They operate emergency shelter beds and assist households with exits to permanent housing. Their shelter operations are secured through June 2028.
- New Life Recovery Services – Launched a transitional housing program in July 2022 using document recording fees for individuals in recovery. Their current contract runs through June 30, 2025. While they did not apply for future RFA funding, they anticipate continuing operations independently.
- Consolidated homeless Grant (CHG) Expansion – Provided new ongoing funding to enhance prevention services through contracts with by/for organizations including:
 - Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) – continuing services through 2028.
 - Pacific Islander Community Association of WA (PICA-WA) – contract ending June 2025, not renewed.
 - Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) – contract ending June 2025, not renewed.
- Pier 360 – Although Pier 360 has been providing peer support services in the community for several decades, their expansion to become a housing provider began in January 2023. Recovery House One was launched with the support of Mental Health Sales Tax funding to expand the inventory of recovery housing in Clark County. Recovery House One provides a supportive living environment for 4-6 long-term/permanent residents who are in active recovery, and an additional 4-6 temporary residents exiting jail or treatment programs who can stay for up to 30 days as Pier 360 staff assist in their housing search. The contract is active through December 2025.
- Thrive2Survive - Pacific Northwest Grassroots Housing – Funded through the Mental Health Sales Tax to provide housing for individuals reintegrating into the community post-incarceration, treatment, or are experiencing ongoing homelessness. This is a "housing first" model, prioritizing rapid entry without the requirement of sobriety, with the belief that secure housing and peer support encourage sobriety and recovery. The contract is active through December 2026.
- Columbia River Mental Health Services – Mobile Intensive Housing Team (MIHT) – funded through the Mental Health Sales Tax to support adults experiencing homelessness who are

living with chronic and persistent behavioral health conditions. The MIHT was responsible for providing whole person care (mental health assessments, brief intervention, care coordination, case management, peer support, and housing assistance) through a single behavioral health and housing team. This contract ended in April 2025 due to a restructuring of services at CRMHS.

- Community Roots Collaborative – Mental Health Sales Tax is providing partial funding for 20-24 units of affordable housing with services provided through a behavioral health agency for individuals moving out of homelessness. All units will serve individuals and families exiting homelessness, earning below 30% AMI. It is anticipated that the contract will start in 2025 and be active through December 2027.
- Recovery Café Clark County – Opioid settlement funding is providing resources to open a satellite office near VHA projects that focus on supporting individuals who are houseless and moving into recovery.
- Lifeline Connections – Opioid settlement funding supports a Peer Pathfinder position within the Jail Transition Services (JTS) program. The Peer Pathfinder is tasked with connecting individuals exiting the JTS program to essential resources including housing support.

New partnerships and collaborations have been created or strengthened to help the unhoused:

- Formal collaborations have expanded with by/for organizations including NAYA, PICA-WA, CAP, and Thrive2Survive.
- Strengthened partnership with Council for the Homeless (CFTH), including efforts to incorporate external perspectives and evaluation into the County's homeless response.
- Ongoing workgroups are now open to all service providers, not just County contractors, to foster inclusive collaboration and learning across the system.
- Community Services created a Systems Integration Program Coordinator position that's funded through the Mental Health Sales Tax. This position is responsible for planning, administration and coordination at the intersection of behavioral health, housing, and homelessness as well as working with providers and funders to problem solve issues, remove barriers, and create capacity where needed.

Ways we leveraged resources to help people unhoused across systems or funding sources:

- Local funding has been blended strategically to preserve the expanded service capacity created during the pandemic; even as short-term investments have ended.
- Worked with the Community Foundation of SWWA to help some homeless providers receive short-term loans to fund administration when initial ARPA funding didn't allow for

these expenses. This strategy allowed the County to quickly get these funds out to the community without creating financial hardship on the providers.

- HMIS access and infrastructure have been supported through supplemental investments, enabling non-contracted partners to participate in system-wide data tracking.
- Resource coordination has prioritized cross-agency and system-wide alignment, especially with by/for partners and long-standing community-based organizations.
- Clark County provided match funds to Carelon Behavioral Health towards a Washington State Health Care Authority funded program designed to remove barriers for people with behavioral health issues to give them access to permanent housing, ultimately reducing homelessness and providing a stable environment for those at risk.
- Looking ahead to FY26, there is uncertainty around federal funding availability, which may place increased pressure on local systems to maintain current levels of service. We are actively monitoring this risk and exploring sustainability strategies.