



Department of  
Housing Services

# Orientation Meeting

## Homeless Solutions Advisory Council



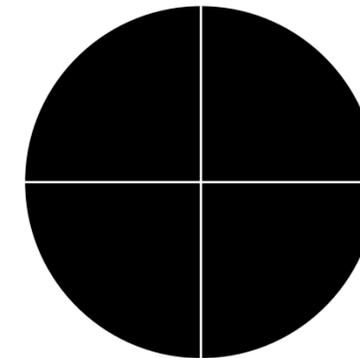
| January 26, 2024

# Introductions

Name

Pronouns

What drives you in this work?



# → Our Work Together

## Role of the Solutions Council

The Homeless Solutions Advisory Council provides guidance on the county's homeless services system of care, encouraging collaborative partnerships across a wide array of systems to build a Washington County where the experience of homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time.



# → Our Work Together



- Activating Severe Weather Shelters is a microcosm of the work we do...
  - Partnerships across jurisdictions, service providers
  - Triaging multiple needs at once
  - Meeting urgent need with little time to prepare and plan
  - Saving lives!

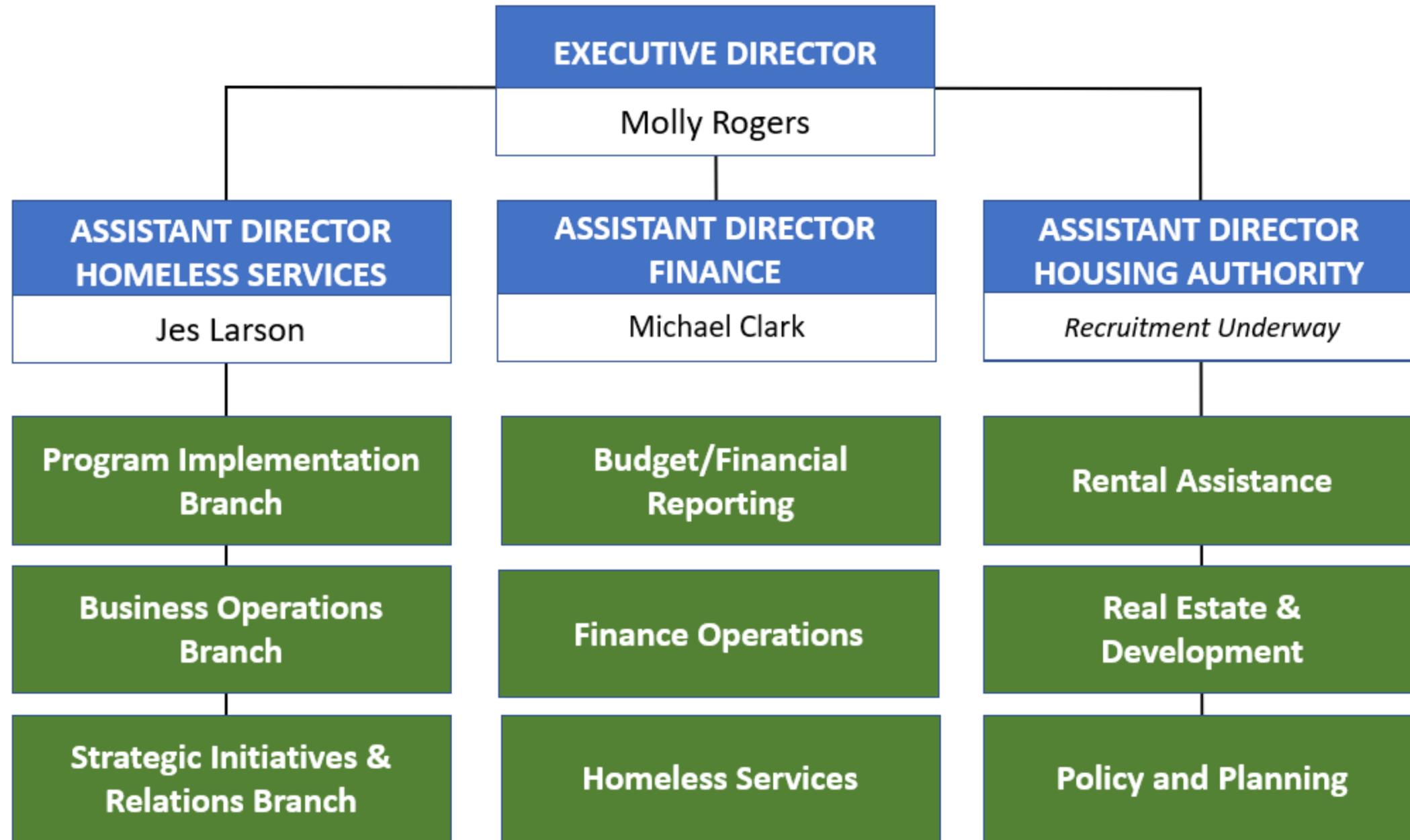


*Project Homeless Connect gets ready to open severe weather shelter at Salvation Army site*

Next step: Building a system where people can thrive!

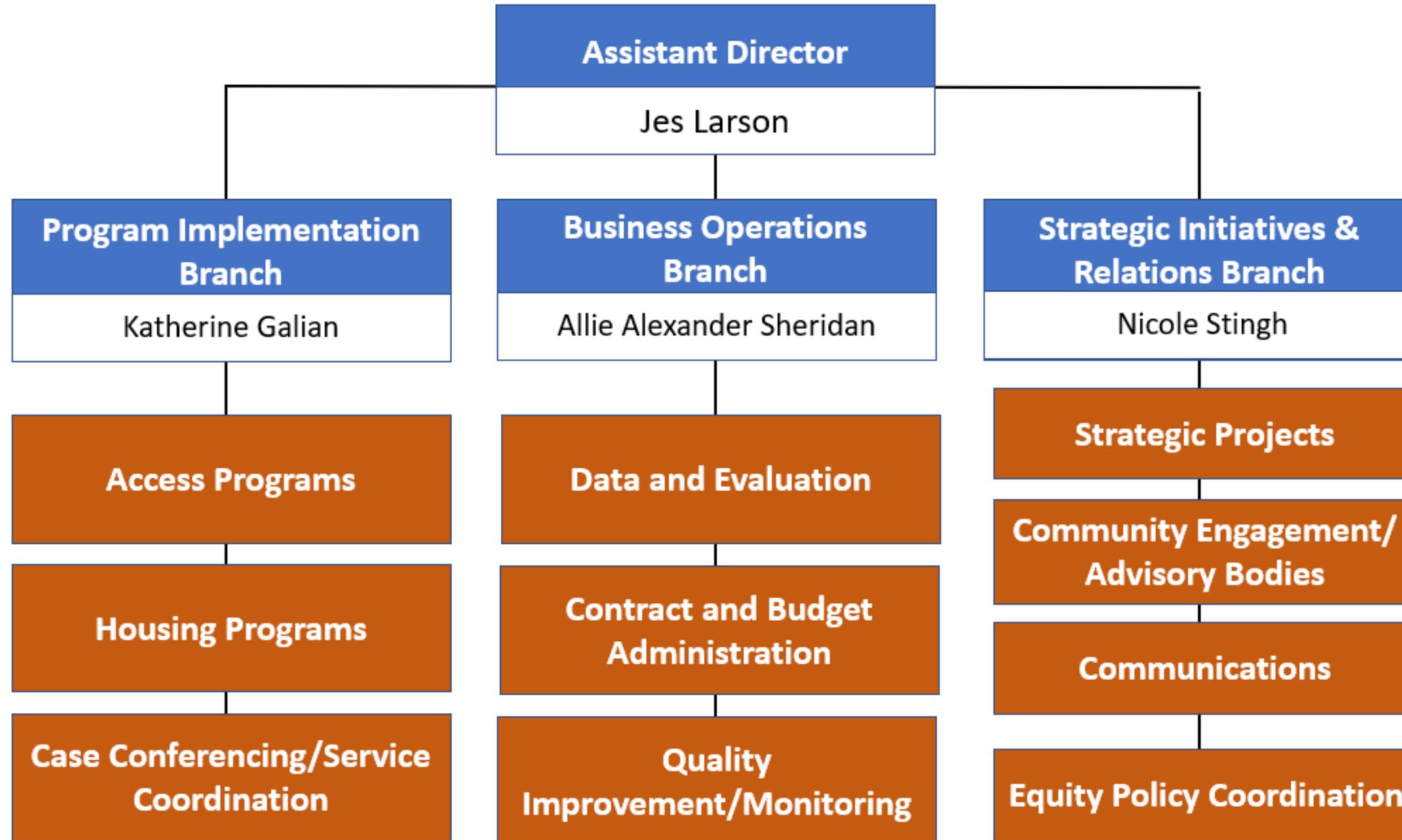


# Department of Housing Services





# Homeless Services Division

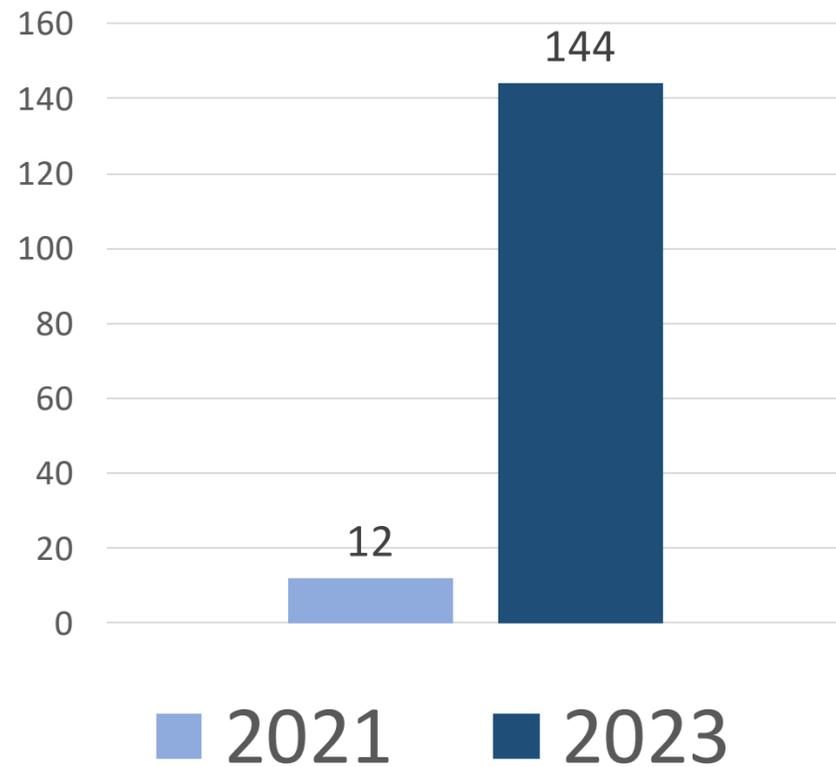




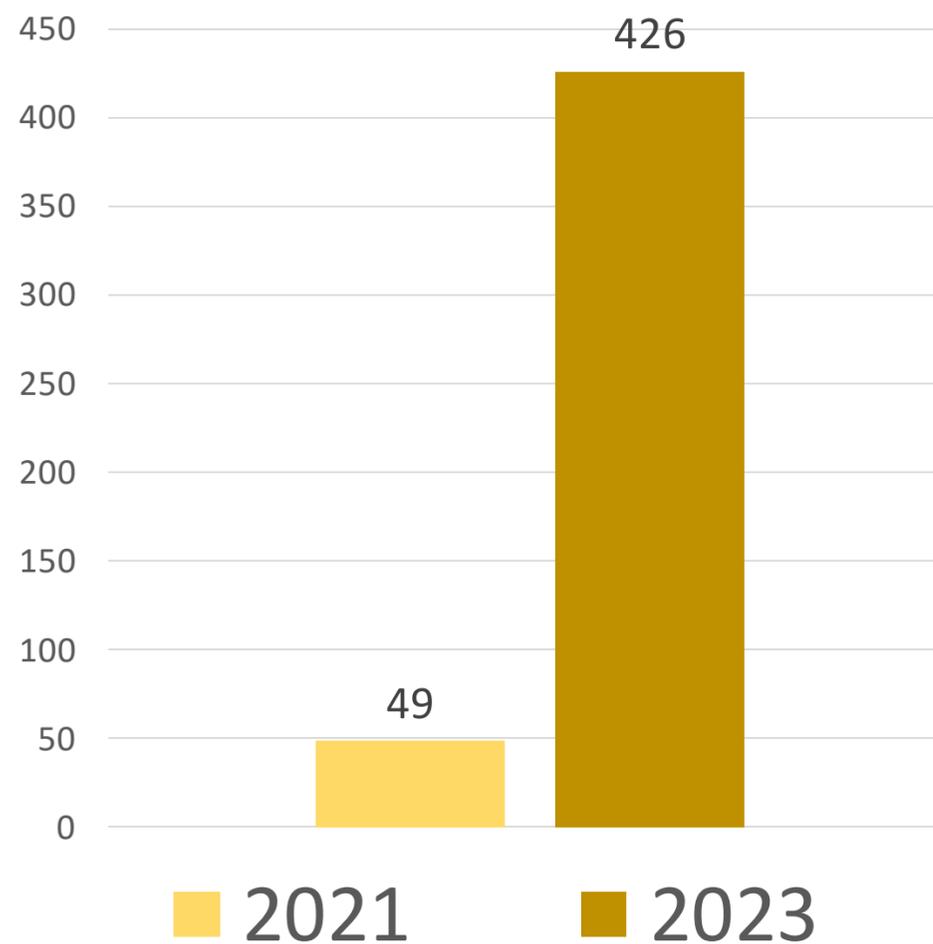
# Building a System of Care



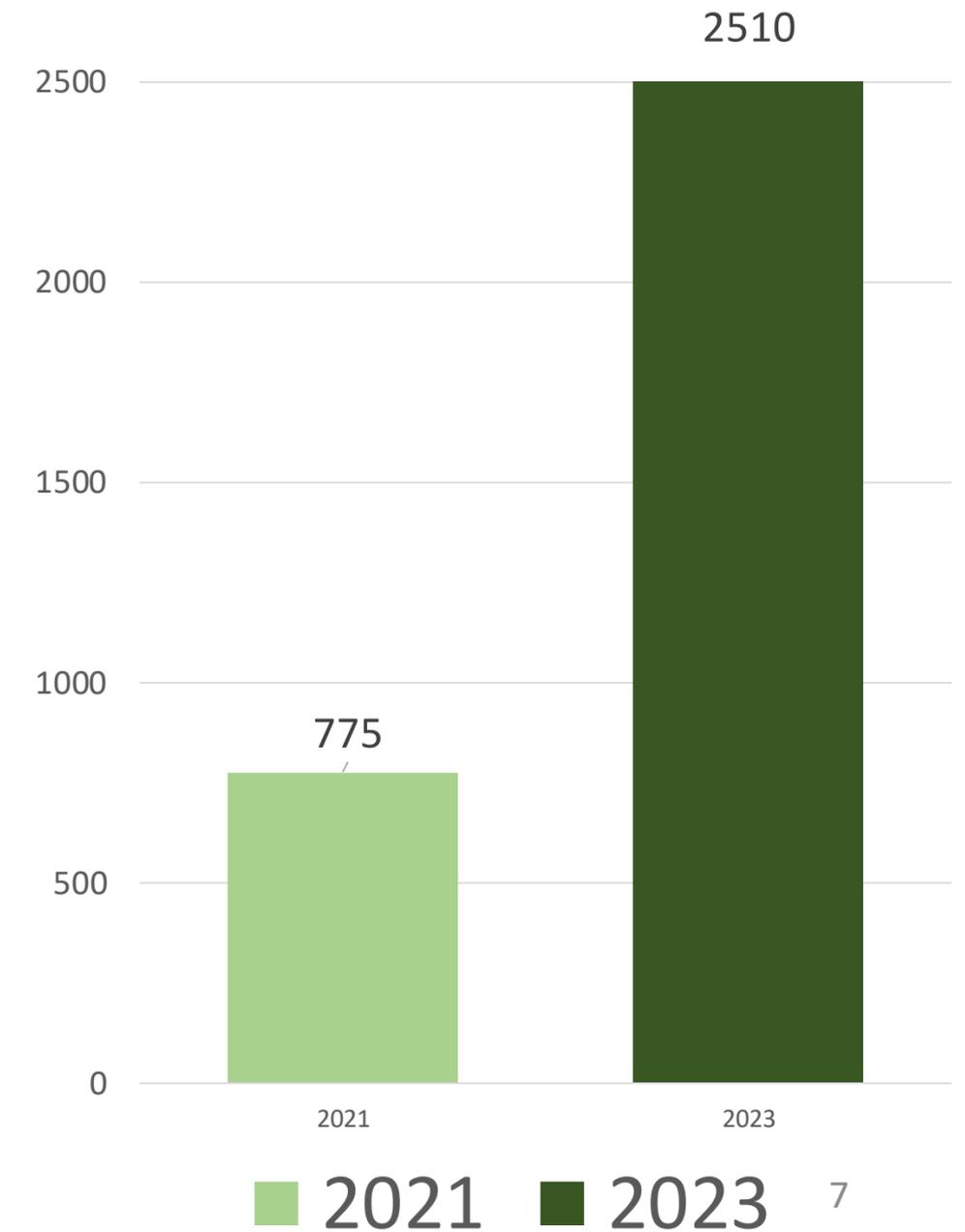
## Case Managers/ Outreach Workers



## Shelter Capacity



## Housing Capacity

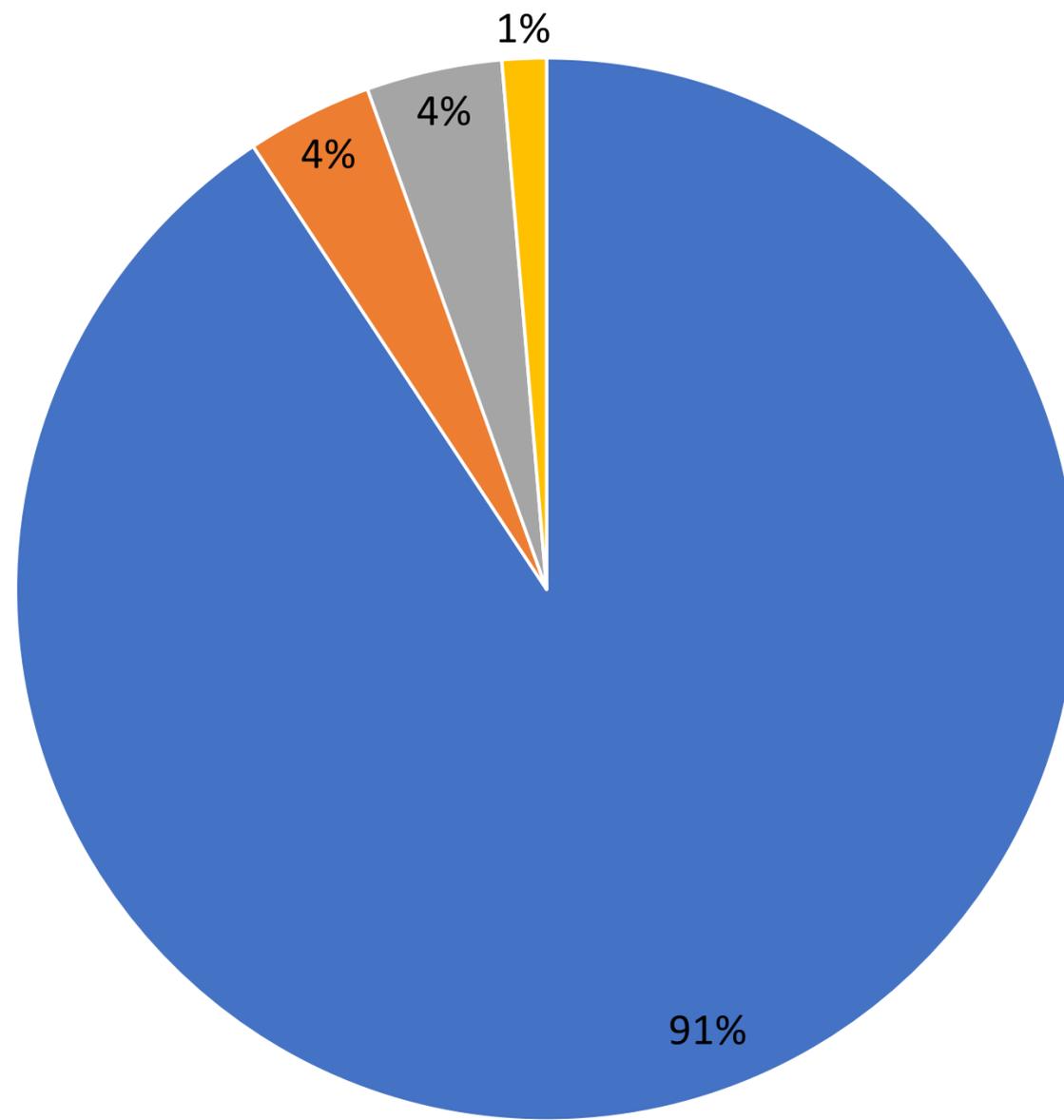




# Funding Sources



- Supportive Housing Services
- Continuum of Care
- Executive Order
- Other (County General Fund, Safety Levy, Kaiser Permanente Grant)



*Includes funding sources for Fiscal Year 2024-25, though the County General Fund figure is a placeholder.*

## **Other Funding Sources**

- SHS carryover

## **Delivered by Office of Community Development**

- Federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)



# Homeless Services – Activities Funded



- Eviction prevention
- Long-term rental assistance
- Rapid Rehousing
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Street outreach
- Shelter
- Case workers



*Just Compassion year-round shelter and resource center groundbreaking*



# Key Terms



## Continuum of Care (CoC)

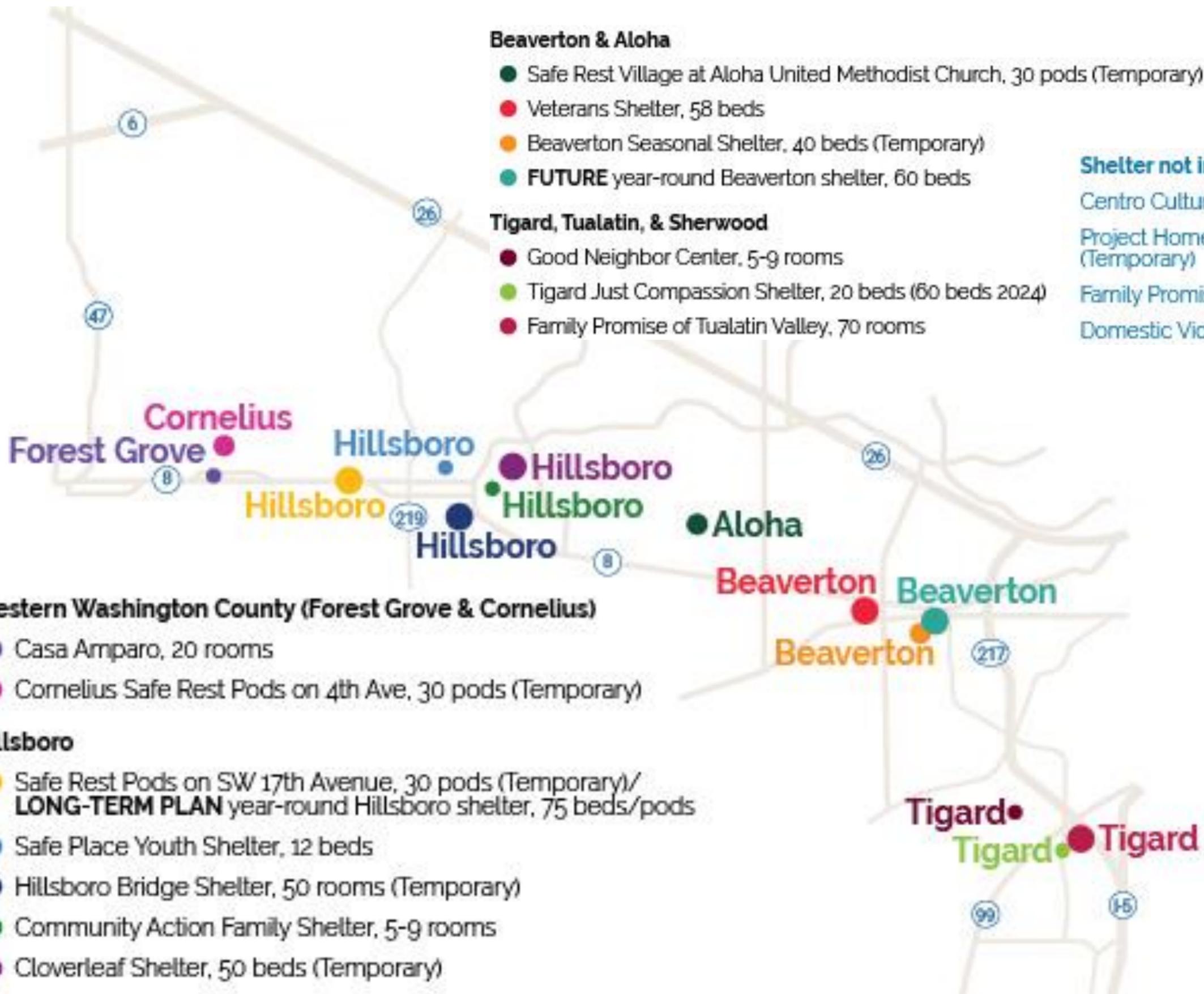
- Federally defined structure designed to bring partners across systems of care and agencies together to coordinate in the provision of homeless services.

## Community Connect

- The coordinated entry point for emergency housing – which includes accessing shelter and housing programs – for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Washington County.

## Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- Required by US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Contracted providers who provide housing and supportive services are required to enter data into HMIS.



**Shelter not included on map**

- Centro Cultural motel vouchers, 20 units (Temporary)
- Project Homeless Connect motel vouchers, 45 units (Temporary)
- Family Promise of Greater Washington County, 5-9 units
- Domestic Violence Survivor Shelter, 9 beds

**Shelter System**



## Rental Assistance Programs

- Housing Choice Voucher
- Special Purpose Vouchers
  - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
  - Foster Youth to Independence
- Project Based Vouchers

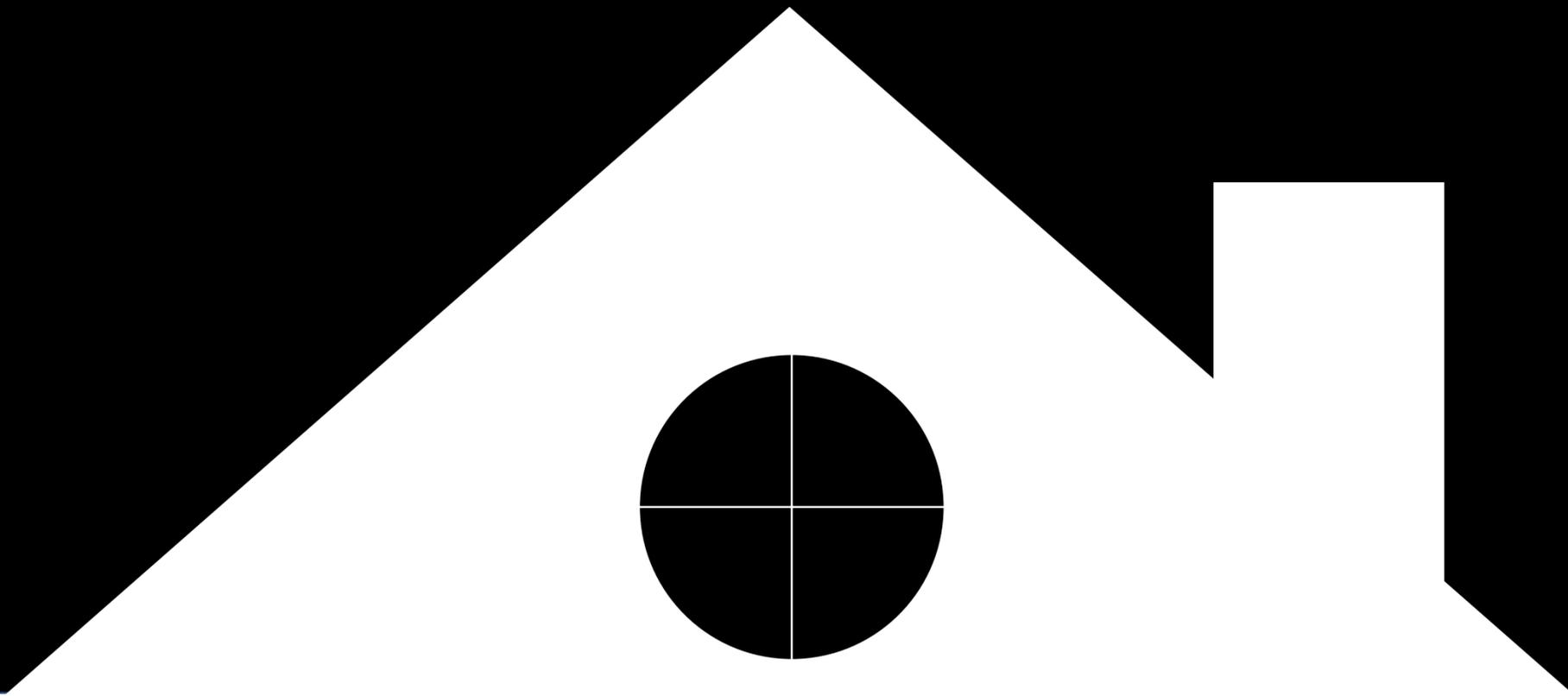
## Other Activities

- Affordable Housing development
- Public Housing ownership
- Homeownership Program
- Family Self Sufficiency Program



*The Viewfinder, Metro Affordable Housing Bond project located in Tigard*

# Public Meeting Law





# Public Meetings Law - Policy



“The Oregon form of government requires an informed public aware of the deliberations and decisions of governing bodies and the information upon which such decisions were made. It is the intent of [the Public Meetings Law] that decisions of governing bodies be arrived at openly.”

ORS 192.620



# How is Public Meeting Defined?



“Meeting” means the convening of a governing body of a public body for which a quorum is required in order to make a decision or to deliberate toward a decision on any matter.

“Meeting” does not include any on-site inspection of any project or program. “Meeting” also does not include the attendance of members of a governing body at any national, regional or state association to which the public body or the members belong.

ORS 192.610(5)



# Who is required to hold public meetings?



## Governing Body of any:

- State agency
- Regional government
- County
- City
- Special District
- Municipal corporation

## Any agency of these entities including:

- Boards
- Commissions
- Subcommittees
- Advisory Groups



# HB 2805 (Governor signed July 27, 2023)



Added the following to ORS 192.610:

(1) “Convening” means:

(a) Gathering in a physical location;

(b) Using electronic, video or telephonic technology to be able to communicate contemporaneously among participants;

(c) Using *serial* electronic written communication among participants; or

(d) Using an intermediary to communicate among participants.

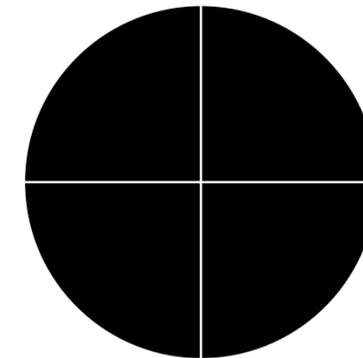


# Is this a public meeting?



- Telephone discussion between two members of the board?
- Email conversation in which all five members of a board are copied?
- Discussion between four members of the board at a holiday party?
- Training sessions?

# What's Next?



# → Shared Expectations



## For Members

- Participation needs
- Bylaws attendance requirement

## For Staff

- Materials in advance
- Hybrid meeting options





# Annual Meeting Schedule



Three options (best option bolded):

- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month 11 AM - 12 PM (Next Meeting: 2/28/24)
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month 2 - 3 PM (Next Meeting: 2/15/24)**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month 11 AM - 12 PM (Next Meeting: 2/7/24)
  - Can reschedule next meeting given short turnaround

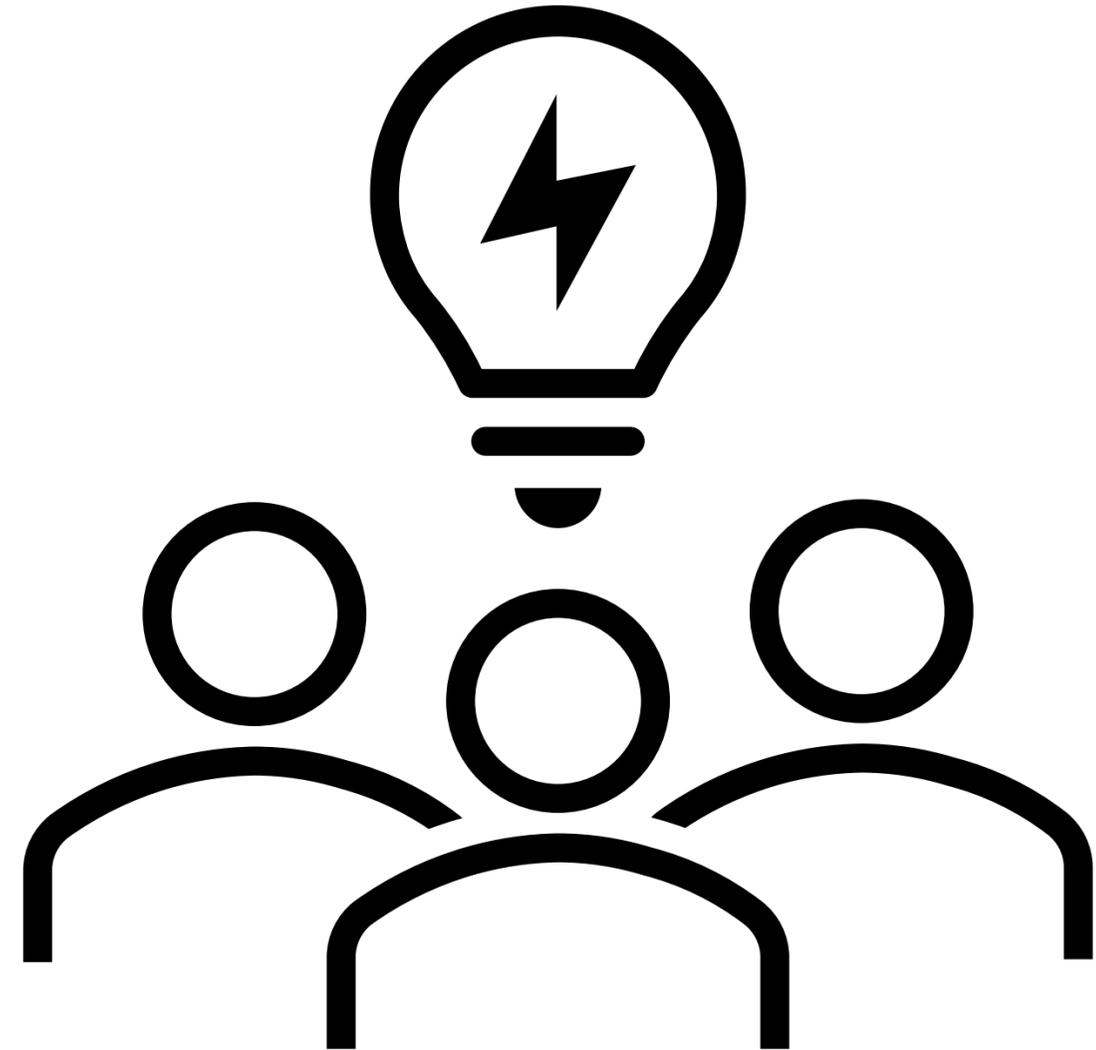
*February and March meeting may be 90 minutes instead of 30.*

# → Next Meeting



## Key topics for next meeting:

- Nominate Officers & Determine Terms
- Governance charter
- Sub-Committee Discussion
- Introduction to Yearly Homeless Services Division Work Plan
- Public Records Law





# Nominating Officers



**Nominate  
yourself or  
others! Please  
email Nadia  
by 2/5.**

## Chair

The Chair shall preside at all Solutions Council meetings, call special meetings as the Chair deems appropriate in consultation with County Staff Liaison, serve as spokesperson for the Solutions Council and act as liaison to the Washington County staff and Board of Commissioners and appoint all work groups committees or task forces, their tasks and duties in collaboration with the Executive Committee.

## Vice-Chair

The Vice Chair shall serve in the absence of the Chair, including serving as Interim Chair in the event of a vacancy in the Chair until such time that an election can be held.



Department Name  
[www.washingtoncountyor.gov](http://www.washingtoncountyor.gov)



# Homeless Solutions Advisory Council New Member Guide 2024



*Collage of Homeless Services Division program participants and partners.*

## **Mission**

The Homeless Solutions Advisory Council provides guidance on the county's homeless services system of care, encouraging collaborative partnerships across a wide array of systems to build a Washington County where the experience of homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time.

*The mission statement will be developed in the early launch phase of the Homeless Solutions Advisory Council. The statement above is a draft statement that will be revised.*



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## Welcome Letter

Hello esteemed Solutions Council members,

I am eager to welcome you to your new role as a member of the inaugural cohort of the Homeless Solutions Advisory Council (Solutions Council). As we embark into the new year, we also embark on a new chapter of our collective work to address homelessness with abundant options of housing stability in our community.

The Solutions Council represents a new approach for the Homeless Services Division. The preceding three years have been a time of rapid growth thanks to voter-approved Supportive Housing Services measure resources. Our system has grown and stretched to meet the moment and make good use of public funds. At the same time, the tried-and-true work of as the county's Continuum of Care has taken advantage of new opportunities to stretch resources and strengthen partnerships to better serve our community.

The Solutions Council brings together the work previously led by the Homeless Plan Advisory Committee and Continuum of Care Board into one integrated community advisory structure. The Homeless Solutions Council will guide the county as stewards of federal, state, and local resources strategically and equitably invested to make homelessness rare and brief in our community. The Solutions Council will include a structure of technical subcommittees, strategic work groups, and a new lived experience advisory body, and our trusted partners at HSSN. This structure of experts, partners, and community voices will work together with you to inform and lift-up best practices, aligned with our community values.

The year ahead will offer challenges and new opportunities. We in the county understand the gravity of this work and remain committed to continuous improvement. Thank you for joining us and being part of the solution in Washington County.

In partnership,  
Jes

Jes Larson  
Assistant Director of Homeless Services



Bylaws: Homeless Solutions Advisory Council

Members are encouraged to read through the Solutions Council Bylaws, linked below. The Bylaws include the roles of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the subcommittees, and more.

LINK: [Bylaws: Homeless Solutions Advisory Council](#)

Meeting Schedule

Meetings will occur monthly, typically for an hour, and will take place in person and via Zoon. The reoccurring meeting schedule for the Solutions Council will be determined January 26, 2024.

Roster of Members (as of January 2024)

Abelmar Garcia Gomez

Abel is a McKinney-Vento Liaison and Foster Care Point of Contact for the Hillsboro School District. He is the Co-Chair for McKinney-Vento Education Network and a current member of the Continuum of Care (CoC) board. Abel previously served as the Coordinator for Latino Youth Programs for the school district and would bring lived experience to this board. Abel resides in District 2 of Washington County.

Christina Matousek

Christina is the Co-Executive Director at National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI, Washington County). She has extensive experience in the education field as a teacher and has provided advisory to the State as a member of the State Advisory Council on Special Education, which advises the Oregon Board of Education. She has also been recently appointed to the State Mental Hospital Museum to gain a better understanding of the history of mental health treatment in Oregon. Christina resides in District 2 of Washington County.

Dayana Paz

Dayana Paz is the Director of Client Services at the Family Justice Center and is a HSSN member. Dayana has strong relationships with the 18+ agencies the Family Justice Center partners with and brings the critical skills of cross-agency coordination and collaboration. She also brings very significant experience with individuals/families fleeing abuse or domestic violence. Dayana resides in District 1 of Washington County.



Drew Williamson

Drew is the Senior Director of Shelter and Housing for Boys and Girls Aid. Drew is an active member of the Housing and Supportive Service Network (HSSN). Drew has partnered with a vast network of service providers over the years. Additionally, Drew has worked with Oregon Alliance at the State-Level to advocate for increased funding of homeless youth programs. Drew resides outside of Washington County but serves homeless youth across the County.

Hannah Leyshon

Hannah Leyshon (she/her) is a passionate leader who believes in thinking differently about housing, services, and community solutions to broad social problems driving inequity. Hannah specializes in planning, implementing, and evaluating housing services and operations across the metro area. She is experienced in collaborating with local service providers to fill critical service gaps, and through her lived experience, understands the barriers facing our homeless populations. She also has experience volunteering at shelters for Salvation Army and Transitions Projects Inc., which helps her understand the unique needs of those most impacted by homelessness. Hannah resides outside of Washington County, however, services community members all around the metro area. Hannah currently works as the Housing Services Director for Bridges to Change and is responsible for housing program operations, oversight of services, and leadership of the division.

James Bane

James is a retired physician who has spent the last 30+ years in the medical field. James worked at the VA and spent time working on the Healthcare for Homeless Program. Prior to that, he worked at the Multnomah County Health Department as a physician. Since retiring, he has volunteered with Street Roots, Transition Projects, the Medical Reserve Corps of Washington County, and Multnomah County providing health consultations to those experiencing homelessness. James resides in District 2 of Washington County.

Kim Marshall

Kim is the Executive Director for Project Homeless Connect and is a voice for change in the local community. She brings with her a great amount of board experience, all of which relate to different community-oriented topics. Kim has long been engaged in this work and is a participant in the Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN). She brings a large network of service provider partnerships to this board. Kim resides in District 3 of Washington County.

Stacey Triplett

Stacey is the Engagement Director for AARP Oregon. Stacey brings a lot of board/committee experience along with her, serving on Homeless Plan Advisory Committee, and the Board of Directors for Proud Ground. Stacey's experience in



workforce development and creating cohesion amongst partners will be valuable to this new advisory body. Stacey resides outside of Washington County but works across the county on behalf of seniors.

Vernon Baker

Vernon is the Executive Director for Just Compassion of East Washington County. Vernon is an active member of the HSSN and a current member of the CoC Board. He also brings a lot of other experience to the council, as he has worked with the City of Tigard and Multnomah County on numerous initiatives such as accountability for police departments, and transparency for oversight committees. Vernon continues to be a voice of equity and inclusivity for members of the community. Vernon resides outside of Washington County, but primarily works in Districts 1 and 3.

Zoila Coppiano

Zoila is the Director of Housing Stability at Community Action. She brings a plethora of board experience to the Council, serving on the Tri-County Planning Body and the Hillsboro 2035 Oversight Committee, a decision-making body on city planning and community engagement. She also engaged in statewide conversations, providing testimony to the legislature on the Rent Well program. Zoila resides in District 4 of Washington County.

The Department of Housing Services & the Homeless Services Division

**Homeless Services Division Mission**

The Homeless Services Division partners with community-based organizations, affordable housing owners and independent landlords to provide housing assistance and supportive service programs that help families and individuals achieve housing stability.

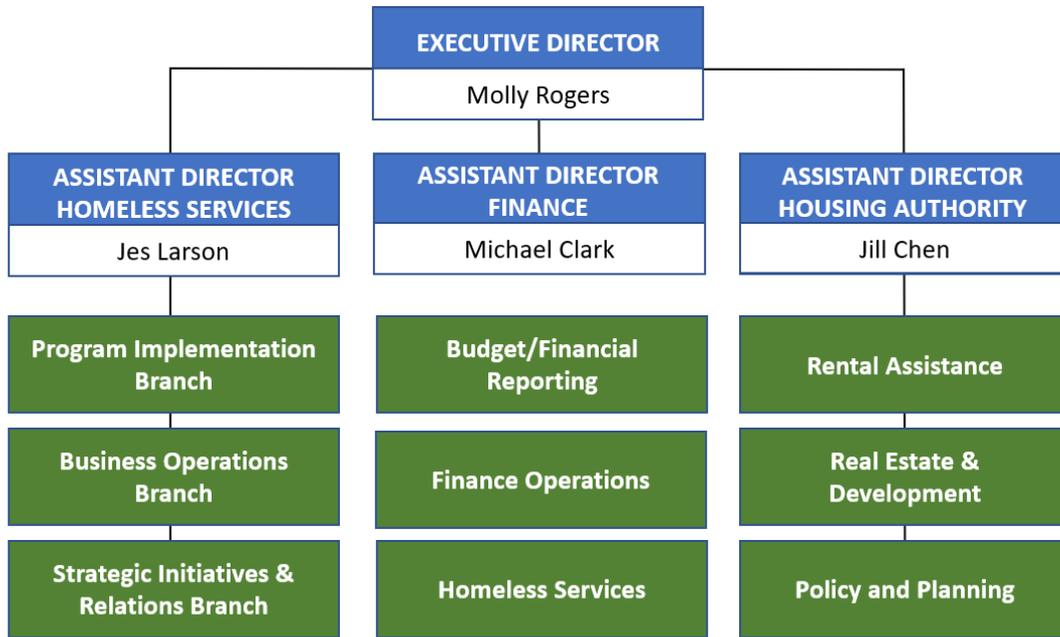
**Department of Housing Services Equity Statement**

The Department of Housing Services provides housing opportunities to all eligible persons no matter their race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, familial status, marital or domestic partnership status, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, legal source of income or type of occupation.

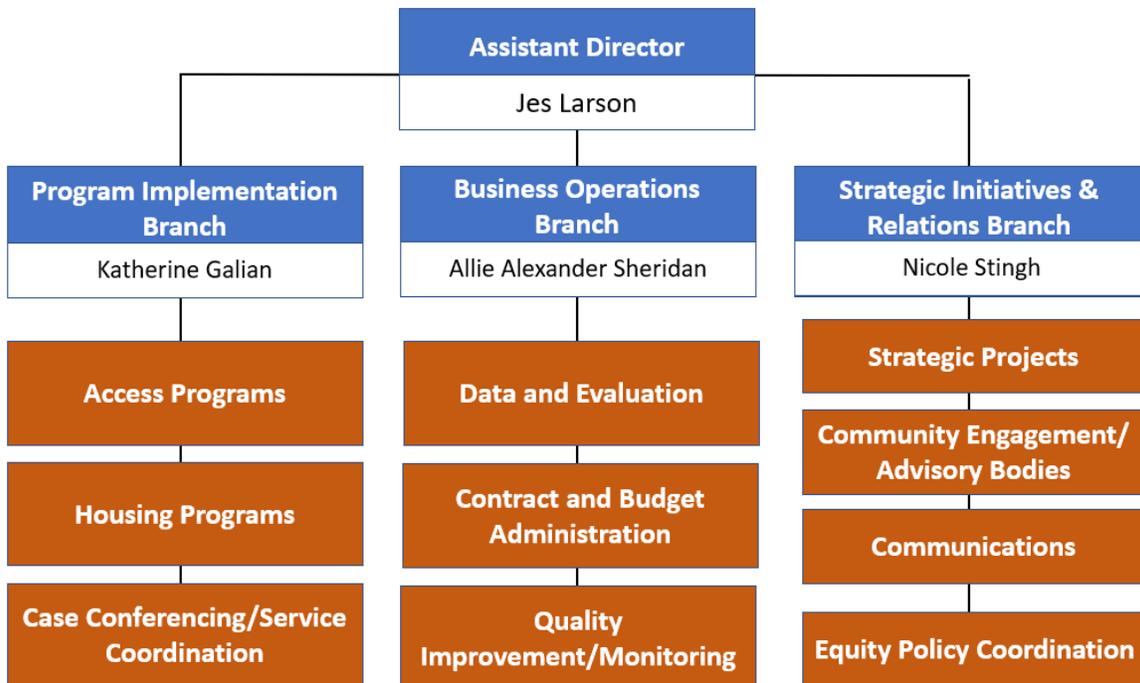
In order to be relevant and effective in a rapidly changing and increasingly diverse environment, the Department of Housing Services commits to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion for all members of the community we serve. Equitable access to resources and opportunity is the means to healthy, economically vibrant people and communities. We believe that authentically listening to, working inclusively with, and being accountable to the community we serve increases innovation and effectiveness and leads to more successful outcomes.



Department of Housing Services: Leadership



Homeless Services Division





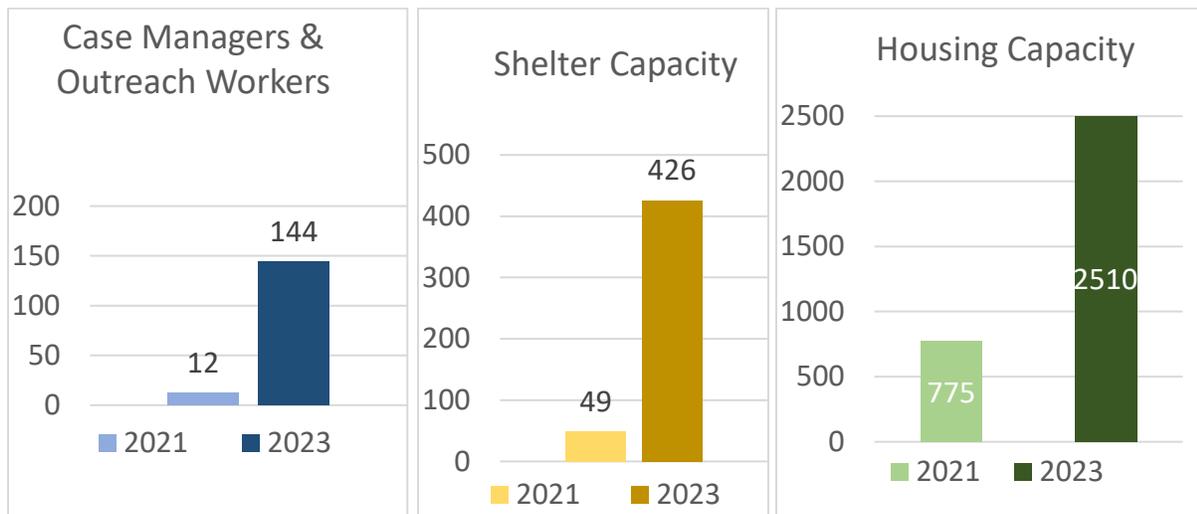
## Homeless Services System of Care: Values & Vision, Progress, Point-in-Time Count, Partners

### Values & Vision

Washington County's homeless services system is built on cross-sector collaboration and innovative approaches to create a future where homelessness is brief and rare. We use data-driven decisions to leverage multiple funding sources, each with complex requirements, to ensure a complete system of care for those experiencing homelessness. Washington County braids programs and resources together, allowing community-based service providers to focus on service provision.

### Progress

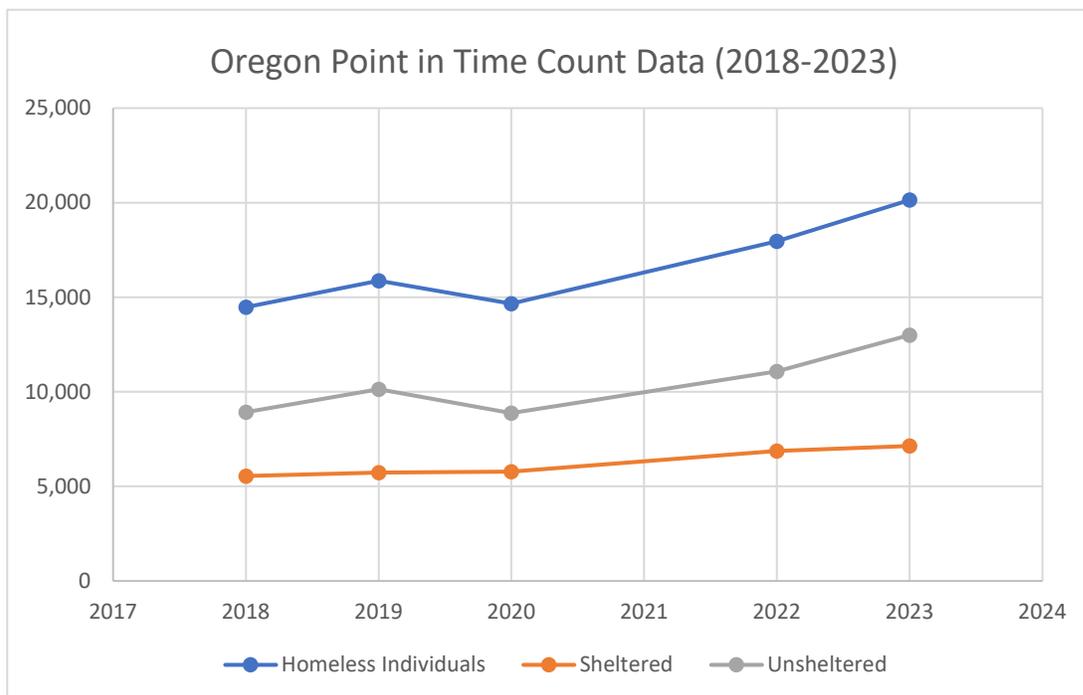
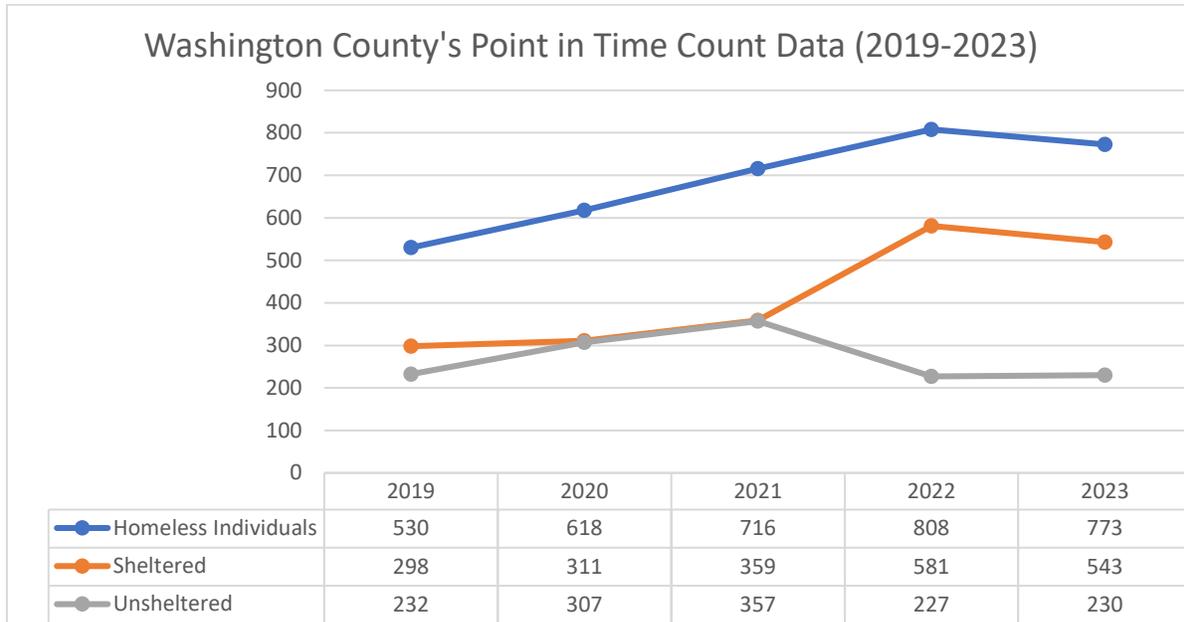
Below is a chart displaying the growing capacity of Homeless Services.





Point-in-Time Count

Also known as PIT, the point-in-time count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night. The count is conducted in January of odd-numbered years. The most recent data from Washington County's count on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is below.





Sheltered and Unsheltered by Race and Ethnicity (Washington County, 2023)

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Grand Total
Hispanic/Latino	110	26	136
No Data	0	0	0
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	433	204	637
American Indian or Alaska Native	6	9	15
Asian	5	7	12
Black or African-American	61	13	74
Multiple Races	38	11	49
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	33	3	36
No Data	0	0	0
White	400	187	587



Contracted Partners

The Homeless Services Division partners with the following organizations.

<i>Updated January 2024</i>	Housing Case Management Services (HCMS)	Enhanced Rapid Rehousing (ERR) Services	Outreach Services	Shelter Services	Resident Services	Housing Liaison Services	Regional Long-Term Rent Assistance (RLRA)	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	Eviction Protection	Quality Assurance	Other Services	CoC Programs
Bienestar	X	X				X	X			X		
Boys & Girls Aid	X	X		X		X	X			X		X
Community Development Partners					X							
Centro Cultural	X	X		X		X	X		X	X		
Community Action	X					X	X		X	X	X	X
Community Partners for Affordable Housing	X	X			X		X	X		X		
Easter Seals	X	X					X			X		
Family Promise GWC	X	X					X			X		
Family Promise TV	X	X		X		X	X			X		
Forest Grove Foundation			X									
Good Neighbor Center	X	X					X			X		X
Greater Good Northwest	X	X	X	X		X	X			X		
HomePlate	X	X	X				X			X		
Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization	X	X	X				X			X		
Just Compassion	X	X	X	X		X	X			X		X
Native American Rehabilitation Association	X	X					X			X		
New Narrative	X	X	X			X	X			X		X
Open Door HousingWorks	X	X	X	X		X	X			X		
Oregon Community Warehouse												
Project Homeless Connect	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		
Sequoia Mental Health Services	X						X	X		X		
Urban League	X	X					X			X		
Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center											X	
Worksystems Inc.											X	



<i>Updated January 2024</i>	Housing Case Management Services (HCMS)	Enhanced Rapid Rehousing (ERR) Services	Outreach Services	Shelter Services	Resident Services	Housing Liaison Services	Regional Long-Term Rent Assistance (RLRA)	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	Eviction Protection	Quality Assurance	Other Services	CoC Programs
Domestic Violence Resource Center	X	X		X								X
The Salvation Army	X		X									
Housing Independence	X											
LifeWorks NW	X											X

Other Services includes Community Connect, Housing Careers Pilot Program, Recuperative Care Program, and Culturally Specific Administrative Support.

**Continuum of Care**

The Continuum of Care (CoC) is a federally defined structure designed to bring partners across systems of care and agencies together to coordinate in the provision of homeless services. In Washington County, our continuum includes nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and community members with lived experience of homelessness and housing instability.

The Homeless Solutions Advisory Council (Solutions Council) serves as the CoC Board and provides high level oversight to the large suite of programs and services provided to Washington County households who are at risk of losing their housing or are unhoused. The Solutions Council also advises on the implementation of state funding to address homelessness, acting as the Multi-Agency Collaborative Agency Group (MACG) and other funds received, including the regional Supportive Housing Services tax.

The Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN) is a convening of community-based service providers, partners, and stakeholders that serves as a forum to provide information and educational opportunities about topics and issues that impact the homeless services system. This shared learning space is an opportunity for program updates, system changes, and other collaboration to support the workforce providing direct services and working across the county. The HSSN meets monthly on the first Wednesday of each month; 8:30am – 10:00am.

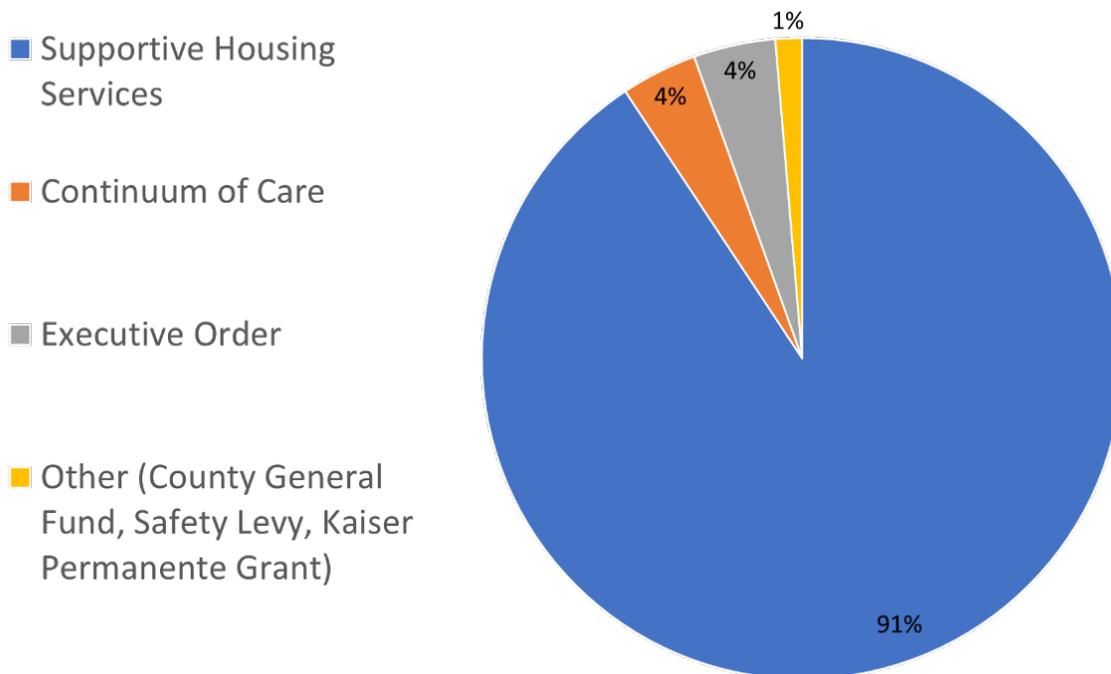


The HSSN also maintains an email list (HSSN listserv) through which partners keep each other updated on events, programs and other announcements. Requests to be added to the listserv can be submitted to [homeless\\_services@washingtoncountyor.gov](mailto:homeless_services@washingtoncountyor.gov).

All agencies and individuals attending Solutions Council meetings, registrants on the HSSN listserv, and others requesting to become stakeholder/members are deemed members of the Continuum of Care.

## Funding Sources

The pie chart below details the Division's Fiscal Year 2024-25 revenue sources by the overall percentage of the yearly budget. The amount of a given funding source may change year-over-year, but the general percentages are likely to be consistent.



- **Supportive Housing Services Measure:** In May of 2020, voters approved the largest per capita investment in ending homelessness in the United States. Washington County receives 33.3% of this tax, approximately \$90 million- \$134 million annually. Metro collects the taxes from the SHS measure and distributes funds to the three County's based on the estimated tax revenue to be collected from individuals in those counties. Because this revenue source has a high degree of variability, revenue can fluctuate year over year.



- **Federal Continuum of Care Grant:** The Homeless Services Division serves as the Collaborative Applicant for HUD’s Continuum of Care (CoC) Competitive Grant. Through this grant, Washington County receives approximately \$4.8 million annually to invest in the wider array of housing and services provided by the County. This funding source is subject to limited variability as the award value from HUD may shift based on new or expanded projects awarded.
- **Washington County Public Safety Levy:** Approximately \$2 million annually is invested into Homeless Services directly related to public safety. These funds typically help fund our emergency shelter network and housing programs.
- **Federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG):** Washington County’s Office of Community Development is the designated grantee for ESG block grant funds used for five program components: homeless prevention, street outreach, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing assistance and data collection (Homeless Management Information System, HMIS). Total funds for the 23/23 fiscal year are \$155,907.
- **FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP):** EFSP is a FEMA-funded program authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. The program supplements and expands ongoing work of local nonprofit and governmental social service organizations to provide shelter, food and rent assistance to individuals and families who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, hunger and/or homelessness.
- **Executive Order 2023-02:** On January 10th, 2023, Gov. Tina Kotek signed an executive order declaring a state of emergency in much of Oregon due to homelessness. The Governor’s office directed Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) to support local Continuums of Care (CoCs) and their partners to implement the order. The funding, nearly \$8 million for the County, and directives accompanying the order expanded and enhanced existing homeless services programming, primarily funded with Supportive Housing Services revenue. The Emergency Order provided the impetus for a specific focus on serving people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and allowed Washington County to convert their winter shelters to year-round shelters, implement intensive outreach and engagement to assist unsheltered with moving inside, and targeted rapid rehousing funding for those in shelter. EO 23-02 was renewed by Executive Order 2024-02 . Senate Bill 5511 appropriated additional resources to sustain the activities developed through EO 23-02.



## Housing Programs – Homeless Services

**Eviction Prevention:** This program helps people who are already housed avoid homelessness. This is short-term support that includes rent assistance and, in many situations, also includes a case manager who provides support and connection to other resources that help a person stay housed.

**Housing Liaisons:** The Housing Liaison program fills a critical gap in services to households and individuals struggling with housing insecurity and/or homelessness but are not enrolled in a housing program. Housing Liaison program is a short-term intervention that primarily works with staff in other departments, such as Health and Human Services or Corrections, and shelter staff to assist them with resolutions for their participants. The Housing Liaisons work with staff to provide coordinated support to participants. Liaison’s answer questions, offer information, and assist with navigating housing resources as well as provide direct assistance to participants when necessary.

**Rapid Rehousing (RRH):** Rapid Rehousing is a time limited supportive housing program (up to 24 months) for individuals and families who have experienced homelessness. Participants are matched with a case manager who works with them to assist them to fully get back on their feet. As of July 2023, the program has served almost 400 people.

**Regional Long-Term Rent Assistance (RLRA):** RLRA rent assistance vouchers are funded by the Metro SHS Program and provide rent subsidy to qualified low-income tenants and allows private landlords to rent apartments and homes to these tenants at fair market rates. It can be either a tenant-based subsidy to help households find market homes, or a project-based subsidy that helps households who need on-site supportive services in a specific building. Participants work with a HCMS case manager to assist in locating a unit and other services. In Fiscal Year 2023-2034 (July 2023 – June 2024), 989 people were housed through this program.

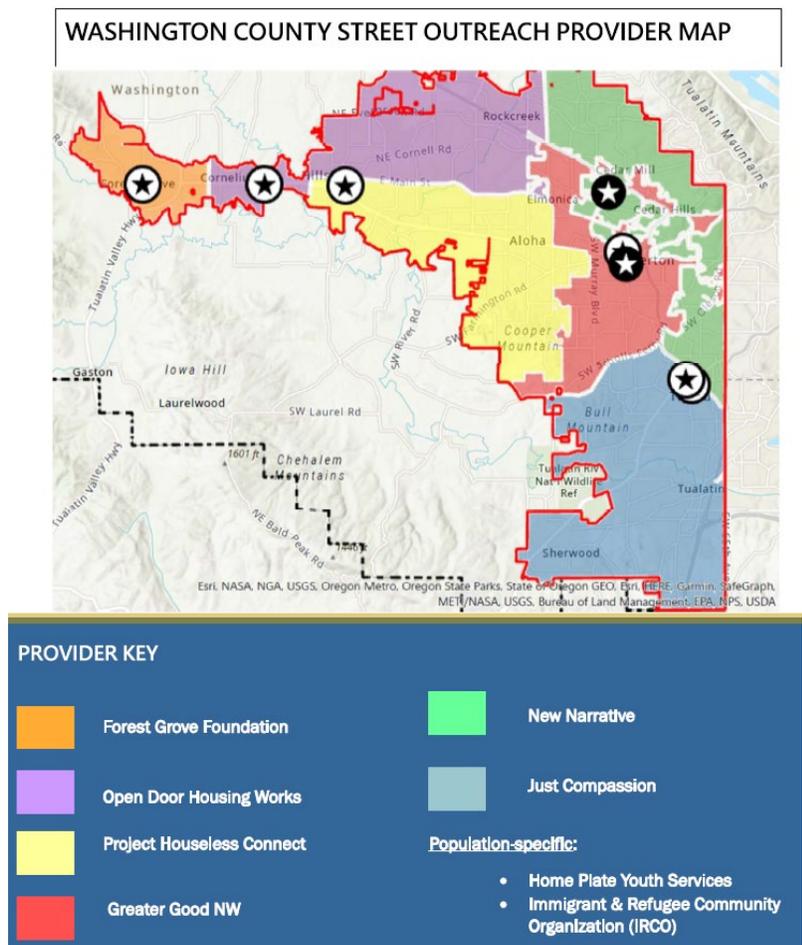
**Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** Permanent Supportive Housing is a proven model to help people experiencing chronic homelessness succeed in housing. It pairs a housing unit with long-term rent assistance, making the home affordable to no to little income households, and long-term onsite health and social services that help individuals maintain housing stability. PSH is a proven strategy and prioritized for individuals who have barriers to housing stability and results in cost savings in other public systems. The SHS fund prioritizes PSH for individuals who have experienced literal homelessness for extended periods of time, have at least one disability and little to no income. SHS currently helps funds onsite services for 54 households at the Heartwood Commons, 20 households at the Viewfinder, and will be soon funding 28 units at the Opal.



**Shelter Plus Care:** The Shelter Plus Care program is a Permanent Supportive Housing program funded through the HUD CoC program and provides around 200 households with rent assistance paired with services. This program has both project-based and tenant-based housing vouchers and support services.

**Housing Case Management Services (HCMS):** The HCMS program provides wrap around support services for households that are chronically homeless or at risk of chronic homelessness. HCMS Case Managers provide supports from outreach and engagement, housing search and navigation, and on-going stabilization supports including resource navigation and financial assistance.

**Outreach:** Washington County leads and collaborates with partner agencies to implement a county-wide outreach system. A network of outreach providers regularly visits encampments and areas frequented by unsheltered individuals and identifies and responds to reports of new encampments, to connect with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Outreach providers build relationships with unsheltered individuals, complete coordinated entry assessments, and provide supports to move them inside and into the homeless services system to provide housing and services.





**Locally Coordinated Command Centers (LC3):** LC3s were established through Executive Order 2023-02 and implemented a process to focus on areas of concentrated unsheltered homelessness throughout the county. Using a collaborative approach the process included municipal representatives, outreach provider agencies and county staff to engage with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to develop a ‘By-Name List’ of individuals and identify and address barriers to move them into shelter and housing.

## Washington County’s Shelter System

Shelter provides an invaluable steppingstone for people experiencing homelessness in our community to stabilize and work towards long-term housing. Our Shelter Program serves a diverse array of participants using a variety of shelter models including shared space (also called congregate) shelter, motel-based shelter, and pod style (also called alternative) shelter. Between these three models, we serve families, youth, and adults (including medically fragile adults and veterans). Currently, our shelter system offers over 400 beds/rooms across our community. The map below shows the distribution of shelters throughout Washington County.





In collaboration with shelter and outreach providers, Washington County activates inclement weather shelters. This temporary surge capacity serves as a life-saving measure to minimize potential harm to unsheltered individuals during periods of extreme cold, extreme heat, or unhealthy air quality conditions.

### Community Connect and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Community Connect is the coordinated entry point for emergency housing – which includes accessing shelter and housing programs – for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Washington County. Individuals are assessed and matched to the programs that best fit their situation and where there may be openings. The system utilizes a phased assessment process:

- Phase I: The initial assessment determining eligibility and referral to a housing resource.
- Phase II: Housing Placement assessment completed at program enrollment to include housing barriers, if any, tenant screening report. Prioritizes high barrier households to project-based units.
- Phase III: Housing Stabilization Plan completed after a household moves into a housing unit encompassing housing needs (physical and behavioral health, education, employment, social supports) and creates referrals to resources accordingly.
- Phase IV: Housing Needs Review to determine continued level of assistance/services needed.

Community Connect assessments are provided by outreach workers, shelter providers, day centers, the Beaverton Central Library, and by calling (503) 640-3263, or via email at [communityconnect@caowash.org](mailto:communityconnect@caowash.org)

Most contracted partner agencies are also trained to provide Phase I assessments.

Community Connect holds bi-weekly case conferencing for chronically homeless individuals using a By-Name List. The Case Conferencing includes outreach, shelter, housing and service providers and is designed to ensure coordinated support for engagement and housing. All Community Connect data is entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Homeless Management Information System is utilized within Washington County to track homeless data and is required for US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs. All providers who are contracted to provide services specifically focused on serving homeless populations are required to enter data into HMIS. Washington County Housing Services manages the system and provides system training and support.



Washington County is currently in the process of moving to a Tri-County implementation of the HMIS system with Multnomah County's Joint Office of Homeless Services as HMIS Lead. It is important to note that a separate, comparable database is used to store and track data for service providers serving victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.

## Housing Services Department / Housing Authority of Washington County

**Affordable Housing:** Housing Services owns and operates nearly 900 affordable rental homes in 16 buildings across the county. Between 2021 and 2023, five brand new affordable housing buildings totaling 373 affordable homes were completed. Six more buildings (500 affordable homes) are planned for the next two years. The department also works diligently to preserve the existing affordable housing in our community. Many low rent apartments need significant construction updates, and some are facing expiration of the affordability restrictions.

**Rent Assistance:** Supports households by paying a portion of their rent, allowing families to find housing that is suitable for their needs. Housing Services administers rent assistance to nearly 5,000 households in Washington County, through a variety of programs.

**Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) or Section 8,** helps households pay rent at the apartment or home of their choice. The household portion of rent responsibility is based on income – so households with lower incomes receive more assistance to stay stably housed and work toward individual goals. The Housing Authority contracts 2,732 Housing Choice Vouchers.

**Special Purpose Vouchers (SPV)** provide rent assistance for specific populations and include the following:

- **Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)** program serves veterans exiting homelessness. The Housing Authority contracts 247 VASH vouchers in coordination with the local Department of Veteran Affairs.
- **Shelter Plus Care (SPC)** program provides permanent housing vouchers for people with disabilities experiencing literal and chronic homelessness. The Homeless Services Division works closely with service providers to ensure support services to all SPC voucher holders.
- **Foster Youth to Independence (FYI)**, a HUD program, provides 30 Housing Choice Vouchers to foster youth ages 18 – 24, who are at risk for homelessness, with the possibility of 25 more vouchers if 90% of the initial quantity is utilized. Participants receive 3 years of rental assistance pairs with wrap-around supports through the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and other community-based agencies.



**Project Based Vouchers (PBV)** are a component of the housing choice voucher (HCV) program, but rather than being allocated directly to an individual or household they are attached to a specific unit. Washington County currently has 437 units that are under designated under Project-based. There are 32 active contracts with 411 units allocated from HCV and 26 allocated from VASH.

**Public Housing:** The Public Housing program is similar to rent assistance programs, but the Housing Authority of Washington County (HAWC) owns the properties. We have over 200 public housing homes, where the rent is set based on the family's income. Public housing is federally funded, but in a different way than rent assistance – since we also need to use the federal funds to maintain the properties.

**Homeownership Program:** Housing Services currently operates a federally funded program that supports families in achieving homeownership. However, the program is difficult to navigate and currently used by only a few families. We hope to redesign the homeownership program in 2024 to serve a greater number of households more effectively in achieving homeownership goals.

**Family Self Sufficiency Program:** The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program is a five-year, voluntary program designed to assist low-income families currently living in public housing or receiving rent assistance. The program helps families progress toward economic independence by offering education, planning and community support. Currently 77 families are active in the FSS program.

Oregon Government Ethics Law – A Guide for Public Officials

**To see the full guide, please visit:**

<https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/Documents/2021%20PO%20Guide%20Final%20Adopted.pdf>.

**Below is an overview of the guide for public officials, covered by Oregon's government ethics laws:**

Council members fall within the definition of "public official" pursuant to Oregon's public meetings law. As a result, the provisions in Oregon Government Ethics law restrict some choices, decisions or actions of a public official. The restrictions placed on public officials are different than those placed on private individuals because service in a public office is a public trust and the provisions in ORS Chapter 244 were enacted to provide one safeguard for that trust.

Public officials must know that they are responsible for compliance with the provisions in Oregon Government Ethics law. This means that each public official must make a personal judgment in deciding such matters as the use of official position for financial gain or avoidance of a financial detriment, what gifts are appropriate to accept, when to disclose the nature of



conflicts of interest, and the employment of relatives or household members. It is important for both public officials and members of the general public served by public officials to know that the provisions in Oregon Government Ethics law apply to the actions and conduct of individual public officials.

One provision, which is the cornerstone of Oregon Government Ethics law, prohibits public officials from using or attempting to use their official positions or offices to obtain a financial benefit, or avoid a financial detriment, for themselves, relatives, or businesses with which they are associated if that financial benefit or opportunity for financial gain would not otherwise be available but for the position or office held.

Oregon Government Ethics law limits and restricts public officials and their members of the household and relatives as to gifts they may accept. Under certain narrow circumstances, public officials may accept certain gifts. This guide will discuss those provisions. Public officials are allowed to receive salary and reimbursed expenses from their own government bodies.

For some public officials who are elected to offices or hold other select positions, there is a requirement to file an Annual Verified Statement of Economic Interest. This guide will discuss that filing requirement.

Another provision that frequently applies to public officials when engaged in official actions is the requirement to disclose the nature of conflicts of interest. This guide will discuss the definition of a conflict of interest, the distinction between actual and potential conflicts of interest, and describe how a public official must disclose and dispose of a conflict of interest.

The statutes and rules discussed or illustrated in this guide do not and cannot address every set of circumstances public officials may encounter. Since compliance is the responsibility of each public official, public officials need to familiarize themselves with the wide variety of resources that offer information or training on the provisions in Oregon Government Ethics law.

In addition to the statutes in ORS Chapter 244 and the Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) in Chapter 199, see <https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/Pages/default.aspx>, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) website. OGEC's website offers information, training and links to this guide, ORS Chapter 244 and OAR Chapter 199 and is a valuable resource for public officials. The Commission offers a variety of free training resources, and many government agencies also offer internal training to their employees or the agencies may request training from the Commission's trainers. There are a number of membership organizations, such as The League of Oregon Cities, Association of Oregon Counties, Oregon School Boards Association and the Special Districts Association of Oregon, that provide training to public officials. It is imperative for government bodies that employ or represent public officials to ensure their public officials receive training in Oregon Government Ethics law. Those that fail to provide this training do a disservice to the public officials who employ or represent them.



### Public Records and Meetings Law

State statute provides that “Every public body, including every state officer, agency, department, division, bureau, board, and commission,” as well as “every county and city governing body, school district, special district, municipal corporation, or any board, department, commission, council, or agency” is subject to Public Records Law (Oregon Revised Statute 192.311 (4)) – including the Solutions Council! A public record is any writing with information about the conduct of public business that is prepared, owned, used, or retained by a public body. Members of the public, including corporations or other business entities, can request the government agencies or officials to produce these records. This is called a public records request. Please note that all written or recorded communications related to the Solutions Council is a public record and must be appropriately archived by the County.

Public meetings are gatherings of a quorum or more members conducted by a state, regional, or local governing body to decide or consider any matter. County staff uses a protocol designed to ensure compliance with public meeting laws, but please be mindful if Solutions Council members gather with enough representation to constitute a quorum. The Oregon Court of Appeals has determined that an unlawful public meeting occurs if a quorum of public officials engage in a group telephone call or email conversation. In fact, a series of emails over time may constitute an unlawful public meeting depending on the facts and circumstances.

LINK: [Public Records and Meetings Law](#)

### Workplace Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Prevention

Washington County is committed to providing a work environment that is fair, civil, and respectful of each person’s dignity and is free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, sexual assault, or retaliation on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, genetic information, use of protected leave, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, sex, including gender or gender identity, or age. All public officials representing Washington County must abide by the County’s Workplace Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Prevention policy, linked below.

LINK: [Workplace Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Prevention](#)