

A Road Home



10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

**2013 Homeless Assessment Report
to the
Board of County Commissioners**

**Year 5: A Summary of Outcomes
and Challenges**

September 2013



**WASHINGTON COUNTY
OREGON**

September 2013

This publication was produced by the Washington County Department of Housing Services, in collaboration with the Homeless Plan Advisory Committee (HPAC) and the Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN).

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To learn more about the homeless programs in Washington County, visit the county's website at

<http://www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/10-year-plan-to-end-homelessness.cfm>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The 2013 Homeless Assessment Report provides the latest demographics of homelessness in Washington County, and the demonstrated outcomes of public and private partnerships working collectively through the Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN) to prevent first-time and a recurrence of homelessness, and the alignment of housing and services to provide a system of care for people experiencing homelessness.

At this mid-point of implementing *A Road Home: 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness*, the Washington County Department of Housing Services has published a series of Homeless Assessment Reports in an effort to chart our community's progress in addressing the socioeconomic factors that lead to and keep people in a situation of homelessness. This annual report includes testimonials provided by homeless program participants, homeless demographics and trends, 10-Year Plan accomplishments and outcomes, alignment with federal and state strategic plans, and a preview of the work identified for Year 6.

Major Findings

HOMELESS DEMOGRAPHICS AND TRENDS

Using the unduplicated homeless data collected in January 2013, this report chronicles changes in overall homelessness as compared to previous point-in-time homeless census activities. While the point-in-time methodologies vary and are imperfect, this data provides the tools necessary to assess the changes in homeless populations.

- **Lowest number of homeless people reported in five years.** Homelessness decreased 7% with 1,153 people reported homeless in 2013, as compared to 1,243 people in January 2009 (Year 1 of the 10-Year Plan implementation). A 17% decrease is reported as compared to the 1,383 people in January 2010 (recession).
- Between 2009 and 2013, a **42% decrease in literally homeless populations** is reported with 432 people in 333 households literally homeless (living on the street or in shelter), as compared to 748 people in 479 households in 2009.
- **58% decrease in chronic homeless populations** as a result of prioritizing housing and services for this high-cost user population, with 77 people reported as chronically homeless with disabling conditions, as compared to 182 people in 2009.
- **Veteran homelessness continues to increase with 106 veterans reported in 2013** with 77 veterans between 45 to 69 years of age, as compared to 49 veterans in 2009. **73 people (12% decrease) reported fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence**, as compared to 83 people in 2009
- **72 people reported having involvement in the Foster Care system**, a new data factor being collected during the point-in-time homeless count.

HOUSEHOLD FACTORS LEADING TO HOMELESSNESS

The subpopulation demographics continue to reflect the economic impacts of the recession on households, to include poor households that are living in doubled-up situations. This is demonstrated with the increased number of homeless people living in shared housing situations.

- **Majority of Washington County homeless live doubled-up.** 62% or 721 of the 1,153 reported homeless in January 2013 were living “doubled-up” or sharing the housing of other people, as compared to 495 people in 2009.
- **Poverty increased** with 13% or 69,607 people¹ of the Washington County population with income below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The 2013 FPL for a family of three is \$19,536 annual income.
- **Causes of homelessness**² reported in January 2013, with some households reporting more than one cause, include:
 - Inability to Pay Rent - 361 households
 - Underemployed/Unemployed - 306 households
 - Kicked Out by Family/Friends – 157 households
 - Alcohol/Drug Addiction - 139 households
 - Criminal History - 122 households
 - Evicted by Landlord – 89 households
 - Fleeing or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence – 73 households

ECONOMIC AND HOUSING FACTORS

This report considers many of the economic and housing indicators that affect people at risk and those experiencing homelessness.

- The **6.3% unemployment**³ rate reported in June 2013 is favorable to the 9.8% unemployment reported in June 2009. While employment opportunities improve, under-employment (part-time and low wage positions) keeps many people from affording housing.
- **795 Trustee’s Deed and General Judgment foreclosures**⁴ recorded with 1,920 Notices of Default and Judicial Election to Sell filed. While the indicator represents a 50% decrease in foreclosures as compared to the 1,591 foreclosures recorded in 2009-10, this is a 142% increase as compared to 328 foreclosures in 2007-08.
- A **26% decrease or 3,235 eviction court cases filed**⁵ in calendar year 2012, as compared to 4,348 eviction cases filed in calendar year 2008 (baseline year). Eviction, underemployment and poor credit history continue to be a barrier for re-housing homeless households.

¹ 2013 Issues of Poverty Report published by Community Action, 2011 US Census American Community Survey

² January 2013 Washington County Point-In-Time Homeless Count

³ Oregon Department of Labor, <http://www.qualityinfo.org/olmisj/labforce?key=startregion&areacode=4101000000>

⁴ Washington County Assessment and Taxation and Washington County Circuit Court; July 2012 to June 2013

⁵ Washington County Circuit Court; January 2012 to December 2013

Moving Forward

In Year 6 of the 10-Year Plan implementation, community leaders and stakeholders will prioritize funding and efforts to implement the Plan's strategies, that include:

- As a prerequisite for federal homeless assistance funds, by July 2014 fully **implementing new regulatory requirements of the Homeless Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act**, a reauthorization of the federal McKinney-Vento Act.
- **Developing a Coordinated Intake and Centralized Assessment System (CCAS)** that will provide a central access point with a comprehensive assessment for housing and services that leads to housing placement, as required by the HEARTH Act.
 - This system will link households to the most appropriate intervention to resolve their housing crisis – with a focus on housing first and diversion from the shelter system. The alignment of housing, services and health care will provide an integrated and comprehensive system that promotes cost savings and a client-oriented focus on wellness and self-sufficiency.
 - The HSSN will research other institutional systems that should align with the CCAS, e.g. homeless discharge from hospitals, jail/prison, foster care.
- **Prioritizing resources in support of “housing first” and leveraging mainstream and community resources** to provide capacity in the homeless continuum.
 - Assist homeless individuals and families access health insurance under the provisions established in the Affordable Care Act, to include commercial qualified health plan coverage available through Cover Oregon and Medicaid expansion programs (Oregon Health Plan and Healthy Kids) delivered by Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO).
 - Prioritize resources to end veteran and chronic homelessness by 2015, in alignment with the Federal Strategic Plan: Open Doors. Research reported in the county's Homeless Cost Study point to areas of potential cost-savings in serving the high-user chronic homeless population.
- **Researching the continuum of risk factors leading to housing instability.** Use data to inform policy and funding to effectively prevent homelessness. Risk factors include the socioeconomic elements of poverty, to include insufficient education (less than GED or high school degree), underemployment and lack of job skills. The working poor with these housing instability risk factors are challenged in meeting the rising cost of housing, food, child care, etc.

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YEAR 5: “A ROAD HOME” - AN EXIT FROM HOMELESSNESS

The call for safe and affordable housing is fundamental to preventing and ending homelessness. However, there is no “single” housing solution, but rather a need to offer a continuum of housing and supports to meet people where they are.

The following compelling “life” stories written by persons participating in prevention assistance and homeless housing programs within Washington County underscore the urgency of this plan. During this Year 5 reporting period, 1,626 homeless people began their personal journey from homelessness to lives that speak of hope, stability, opportunity, and self-sufficiency.

HomePlate Youth Services



Travis

Travis’s first encounter with HomePlate occurred at the Project Homeless Connect resource fair in January 2013. He was staying with a lot of people in a small apartment where everyone was being evicted. He took interest in the resources and support that HomePlate provided, and shortly after became a regular at all three weekly drop-in dinners provided by HomePlate.

During this time Travis was referred to the transitional program entitled Bridges to Change. Bridges provided Travis with a secure living environment, while he searched for employment. However, with limited work experience, Travis was finding it difficult to gain employment. It was during this time that HomePlate created the work experience program, Sit-n-Stay, which while providing a dog sitting service to the visitors of the Beaverton Farmers Market, also allowed for youth to gain further work experience that would benefit them in their search for employment. Travis improved greatly in his comfort talking with people and providing good customer service, as well as exceptional dog care skills. He applied and was accepted to the Tongue Point Job Corps work program, and is currently residing and taking classes at their facility and pursuing his goals, something he thought wouldn’t be possible.

Project Bloom Housing Program



Jen

Jen moved from California to Oregon and managed to find good full-time work at two different school districts, but the contracts were temporary. After her second lay-off with the end of her unemployment benefits looming and no chance for an extension, Jen didn’t know what to do. She was interviewing at any place that offered but could not find work. Being fairly new to Oregon, she had few friends and no family. She grew up here, but was in foster care from age 8 to 18, leaving an empty space when things got rough.

Jen was living with one of her only friends, who was also her landlord. When Jen’s money and benefits dried up, so did the friendship. Her roommate told her that she had 14 days to move out and refused to follow any type of eviction law. Jen was familiar with social services and immediately started looking for help. In her search, she found most programs/shelters had eligibility requirements that she did not meet,

such as battles with addiction, caring for small children or a history with domestic violence. There was very little help for single women like her, and often when she did find a resource there was a very long wait, but she went on every waiting list possible.

Jen had no money, no friends and no place to go. She felt that she had hit rock bottom and for three months she was without hope and on the street. She was sleeping very little, mostly just walking around scared, not knowing she would survive. She was able to connect with Open Door Counseling Center where she could find food, a shower and a nice smile. Open Door was a big help, and one day there was a visitor at Open Door from another agency mentioning a new program called Project Bloom. Open Door assisted Jen in filling out the program application. Finally, there was a program that she qualified for and an opportunity to leave the streets. When accepted into Project Bloom, Jen received her own apartment in a safe environment where she could look for work and be part of a community, and most of all she was able to feel hope again. Although it didn't always feel like an easy journey, she was constantly filling out applications, and interviewing. First, she started a very low paying full-time job, and continued to look for work. Then, with the support of the program staff and lots of hours of effort, she was offered a full-time high salaried position in the field of her profession.

All the while, Project Bloom offered safety and hope that one day Jen would live independently. It was a place to find herself again and bloom into the person she knew she was all along.

YEAR 5: HOMELESS DEMOGRAPHICS AND TRENDS

2013 POINT-IN-TIME HOMELESS COUNT (CENSUS)

Data Collection Performed: January 22 to January 31, 2013

The annual homeless count data provides a basis for planning homeless services and is used in weighted formulas for distribution of state and federal funds to jurisdictions. Implemented in January 2009, Washington County continues to enumerate, de-duplicate and ensure quality of the county's annual homeless count data using the *ServicePoint* Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Year 5 of the 10-Year Plan reports a fourth year in declining homelessness with 1,153 people.

	Total Homeless	[Family] At Least One Adult and One Child ≤17 Years	[Adult Only] Single Adult and Couples without Children	[Youth Only] Only Children <18 Years
# of Homeless Households	748	165	548	35
# of Homeless People	1,153	529 (8 chronic ⁶)	585 (69 chronic)	39
<i>Literally Homeless: Sheltered⁷</i>	200	85	113	2
<i>Literally Homeless: Unsheltered</i>	232	44	186	2
<i>Doubled-up Homeless⁸</i>	721	400	286	35

Source: Washington County Point-In-Time Homeless Count, January 2013

Literally homeless populations decrease 42% (432 people) as compared to 748 people in 2009.

	Federal Definition (Literally Homeless)	State Definition (Doubled-up & Literally)	Literally Homeless (% of Total Homeless)
2013	432	1,153	38%
2012	751	1,331	56%
2011	752	1,356	55%
2010	950	1,383	69%
2009	748	1,243	60%

Source: Washington County Point-In-Time Homeless Count, January 2013

⁶ **Chronic homeless definition** includes literally homeless people living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, and has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least one year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, and can be diagnosed with one or more disabling conditions. [March 2013, 24 CFR 579.3]

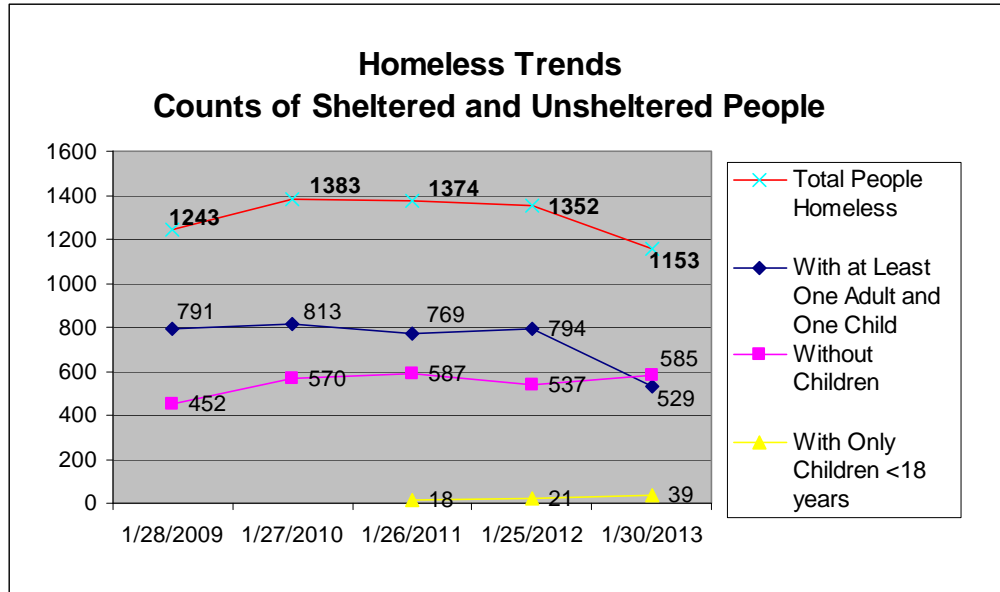
⁷ **Federal homeless definition** includes literally homeless people living in shelter and housing designated to provide temporary living arrangement, and people with a primary nighttime residence that is a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (place not meant for human habitation). [December 2011, 24 CFR 585.5]

⁸ **State of Oregon homeless definition** expands the Federal definition to include people sharing the housing of other persons (living "doubled-up") due to loss of housing, economic hardship, personal safety, or facing impending eviction from a private dwelling unit and has not found a subsequent residence and resources needed to obtain housing. [June 2008, A Home For Hope]

Homeless Population Trends

In January 2013, the point-in-time homeless count (census) illustrates a shift in homeless households, with a reduction in homeless families (a household with at least one adult and one child <18 years) that is offset by an increase in homeless adult only households (a household with unaccompanied adult or couple without child) and homeless youth <18 years.

Overall, the system changes and prioritization of resources for chronically homeless outlined in the *A Road Home: 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* have demonstrated a trend in declining homelessness.



Source: Washington County Point-In-Time Homeless Count

The decline in family homelessness is a direct correlation to the improving employment situation in Washington County (6.3% unemployment rate⁹ - one of 4 counties in the State with the lowest unemployment rate), as well as new funding through the Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) that provides rent assistance for prevention and rapid re-housing. The decrease in family homelessness also has an indirect correlation to a slight increase in the average age of Washington County's homeless populations.

Trends in Age Distribution of the Homeless Population (Years of Age)

	0 - 5	6 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 23	24 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 69	70+	Age Unknown	Average Age (Years)
2013	68	163	130	129	386	166	84	3	24	29
2012	107	164	180	147	483	145	78	1	26	27
2011	98	177	148	123	463	194	77	5	71	28
2010	124	170	155	127	493	180	95	5	34	n/a
2009	114	183	142	106	382	167	47	4	98	n/a

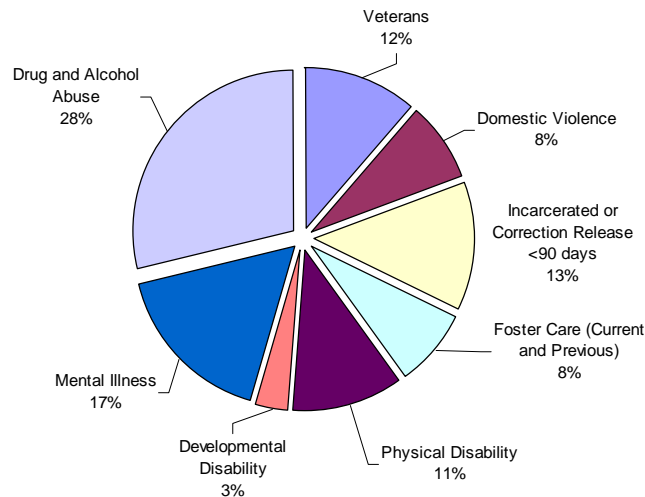
Source: Washington County Point-In-Time Homeless Count

⁹ Oregon Employment Department Unemployment Rate as of June 2013

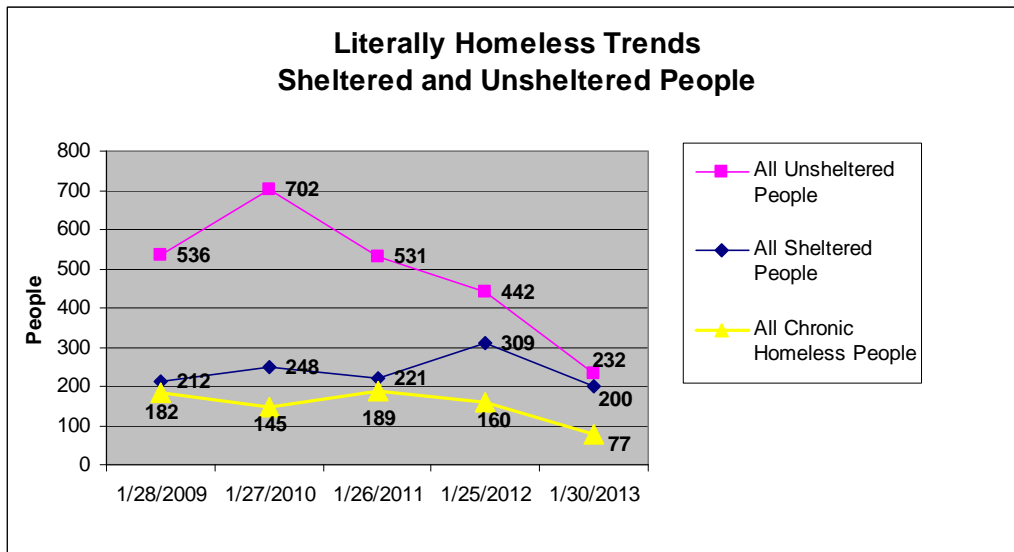
Homeless Population Characteristics and Special Populations

People experiencing homelessness tend to have special needs for housing and services to address physical, psychological and physiological disabilities. Additionally, a range of housing barriers keep people homeless as a result of poor credit and/or eviction history, criminal background, lack of education and job skills to obtain or retain employment, fleeing domestic violence, and other socioeconomic factors.

**2013 Street and Shelter Homeless Population Characteristics
1,153 People**



- **58% decrease in chronically homeless people** over 5 years as a result of increased outreach to urban and rural areas, and prioritizing housing and services for this population to address their housing barriers and disabling conditions.



Source: Washington County Point-In-Time Homeless Count, 2013

Ethnicity and Race of Washington County Populations

The diversity of the homeless population reflects the overall diversity of Washington County's population, as reported in the January 2013 Point-In-Time Homeless Count (1,153 people) and the data for newly homeless individuals (1,626 people) who entered shelter and housing programs during Year 5 of the 10-Year Plan.

Characteristics of Washington County Populations	Percentage of the Point In Time Street/Shelter Homeless Count 1/30/2013 1,153 people	Percentage of Newly Homeless Persons in Shelter/Housing Programs 2012-13 1,626 people	Percentage of Persons living below Federal Poverty Level 2011 ACS 69,607 people	Percentage of the County Population 2011 ACS Census 533,620 people
Ethnicity				
Hispanic/Latino	26%	19%	40%	31%
Non-Hispanic/non-Latino	74%	81%	60%	69%
Race				
American Indian/Alaskan Native	6%	2%	3%	1%
Asian	1%	1%	8%	9%
Black or African American	7%	8%	2%	2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1%	2%	N	1%
White	54%	78%	60%	76%
Other Multi-Racial/Unknown	5%	10%	27%	3%
Special Populations				
Veteran (Adults Only)	5%	7%	5%	7%
Disabled (Children and Adults)	37%	42%	9%	2%
Elderly 65+ years	6%	2%	7%	10%
An "N" entry indicates that data cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.				

Source: Washington County Point-In-Time Homeless Count data, January 2013
Homeless Management Information System data, July 2012 through June 2013
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate
U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate

Homeless Student Population

HOMELESS STUDENTS (GRADE K-12): SCHOOL YEAR 2012-2013

Total = 2,138 students in Washington County

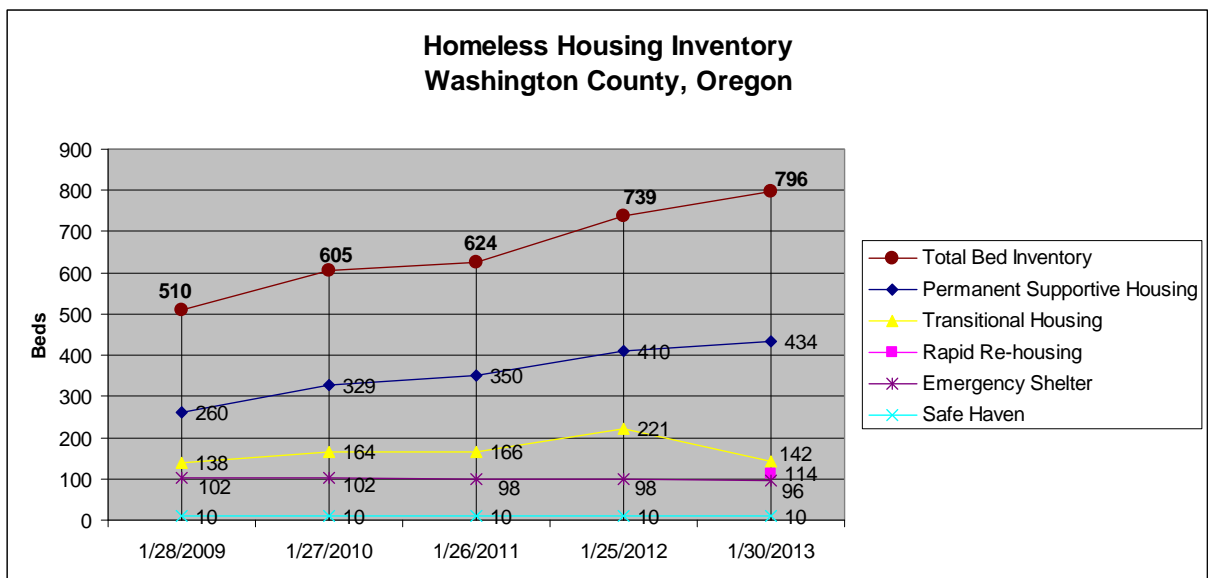
The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is part of the No Child Left Behind Act and is more commonly called the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program. Each school district is required to have a McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison to assist children and youth experiencing homelessness to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. Liaisons ensure students are enrolled in school, have the supplies they need and provide referrals to the community services for shelter, health care and counseling. This effort includes data reporting to state and federal officials.

See Appendix B for a summary of homeless students by school district.

YEAR 5: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OUTCOMES

In Year 5, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) enacted into law the new federal **Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act**, a reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Act. The HEARTH Act codifies in law the CoC planning process to provide greater coordination in responding to the needs of homeless people, and consolidates three of the separate homeless assistance programs administered by HUD into one program – the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. Washington County received \$2.4M in FY2012 HEARTH Act funds to provide housing and services programs. These funds leveraged an additional \$2.1M in public and private funds.

Capacity planning and prioritizing resource allocations for shelter and housing programs are carried out by the Washington County Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN), the CoC governance comprised of cross-sector public and private representation. During the first five-years of implementing the *A Road Home*, the HSSN has re-tooled the homeless system to create a coordinated access point for homeless resources and increased the beds/units available to effectively provide an intervention that minimizes the trauma people experience, and promotes self-sufficiency through greater access to mainstream resources, education and employment programs.



Source: OR-506 CoC Housing Inventory Chart (HIC), January 2013

A Road Home: 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness includes six goals with integrated strategies, many which are considered national best practices with proven effectiveness in reducing homelessness in other cities and counties nationwide. This section of the report will highlight the goals and performance outcomes in *outreach*, *prevention*, *diversion* (rapid re-housing) and *intervention* through a continuum of care planning model.

The HEARTH Act stipulates that all jurisdictions receiving McKinney-Vento funds shall implement the system changes and policy requirements of the Act by August 2014. The goals and strategies identified in *A Road Home* emulate the HEARTH Act requirements, with inclusion of the new rapid rehousing (e.g. a housing first model) serving individuals and families.

Goal 1: Prevent People from Becoming Homeless

Eviction Court Cases Filed (By Calendar Year)	Number of Eviction Cases Filed
CY 2008	4,348
CY 2009	4,194
CY 2010	3,819
CY 2011	3,422
CY 2012	3,235 ↓

Source: Washington County Circuit Court

Two main factors contributing to homelessness in Year 5 are a rise in poverty as a result of underemployment and barriers to housing that people experience who have background issues; e.g. poor credit, criminal history, eviction from housing. Washington County, much like the metropolitan region, is experiencing very low vacancy rates (<3% in Washington County).

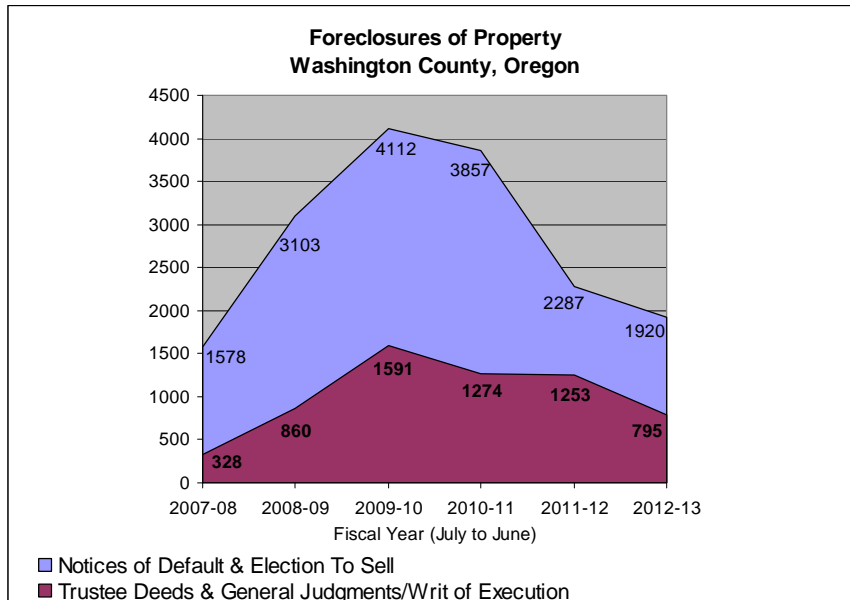
Effective prevention programs address *situational poverty*¹⁰ and encourage cross-sector results; e.g. evictions cases reduced to five-year low of 3,235.

Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Programs:

- ✓ **Emergency one-month rent assistance served 2,166 persons (651 households)** facing eviction. Community Action is a lead nonprofit agency providing emergency rent assistance (\$318,168 administered July 2012 to June 2013). Baseline Year 2007-08: 478 households.
- ✓ **6,737 people (1,795 households) received emergency rent assistance** provided by the St. Vincent dePaul Washington County Conference with locations in Aloha, Beaverton, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, and Tigard. The \$188,662 in funding included \$154,270 in private funds.

Oregon Homeownership Stabilization Initiative (OHSI) Mortgage Payment Assistance (MPA) Program and Loan Preservation Assistance (LPA) Program: The OHSI programs transitioned to the “Home Rescue Program” providing five-year forgiveness loans to income eligible homeowners to avoid home foreclosure by paying mortgage up to one year (maximum \$20,000), or funds to bring mortgage current if less than

\$10,000. **In Washington County, program borrowers include 357 households receiving \$4,523,164 in assistance.** Statewide more than \$9 million in MPA and \$2 million in LPA were provided to households.



Source: Washington County Assessment and Taxation ‘Notice of Default’ and ‘Trustee Deeds’
Washington County Circuit Court ‘Election to Sell’ and ‘General Judgments/Writ of Execution’

SB1552 Oregon

Foreclosure Reform¹¹: Senate Bill 1552 (2012) directed the Attorney General of Oregon to establish a residential Foreclosure Avoidance Mediation Program. The Foreclosure Avoidance Mediation program lends a structured process for communicating with the lender, submitting financial documentation to the lender, working with a financial counselor, and meeting with the lender face-to-face with a mediator at a neutral location. This program was implemented July 11, 2012, and is available to homeowners who have received a “Notice of Mediation” from their lender; and, homeowners who are at-risk of default and who wish to mediate with their lender.

¹⁰ Situational Poverty happens when a household suffers negative financial changes due to illness, job loss, and other temporary events.

¹¹ Oregon Loan Mediation <http://oregonloanmediation.com/tag/oregon-foreclosure-mediation-program/>

EMERGENCY SHELTER

32 Days - Average Length of Stay (Shortest=1 day, Longest=174 days)

The Family Shelter Network, comprised of beds operated by Community Action, the Good Neighbor Center, and Family Bridge, operates through a unified shelter wait list that averages 20 families per month. The family shelter capacity will serve up to 17 homeless families (adults with children) at a point in time. A gap exists in the homeless response system with zero emergency beds available for homeless adults without children.

- ✓ The Severe Weather Shelter Response Plan was activated for 111 days during the winter months of 2012-2013, with faith-based shelters enlisting 14,362 volunteer hours that provided 5,629 overnight shelter bed stays. The shelter sites in five major cities include: Beaverton First Baptist (Beaverton), Forest Grove United Church of Christ (Forest Grove), SOS-Shelter at Sunrise Church (Hillsboro), St. Francis Catholic (Sherwood), Calvin Presbyterian and St. Anthony's Catholic (Tigard), and Rolling Hills Community (Tualatin).
- ✓ A weekly Community Resource Orientation offers a single-point of entry for providing housing and services information and screening for *diversion* (e.g. rapid re-housing in private market units, bypassing the shelter system) and *intervention* (shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing) programs. This system change has resulted in outcomes that rapidly move homeless people to housing opportunities.
- ✓ To accommodate the current household demographics of people fleeing domestic violence, DVRC reduced single beds from 5 to 3 and increased family units from 5 to 6 units.

Shelter Provider Agency	Population Served	# Units	# Beds
Community Action Family Shelter	Family	5	20
Family Bridge/Interfaith Hospitality Network	Family	3	12
Good Neighbor Center Shelter	Family	9	36
<i>Subtotal Beds</i>		<i>17 Units</i>	<i>68 Beds</i>
SafePlace Youth Shelter (<19 years of age)	Youth	-	4
Domestic Violence Resource Center (DVRC)	Family	6	21
Domestic Violence Resource Center (DVRC)	Singles	-	3
<i>Total Bed (Adult with child, youth and DV)</i>		<i>23 Units</i>	<i>96 Beds</i>

YEAR 5 OUTCOMES (Family Shelter Network and DVRC)

344 adults and 398 children (298 households) entered emergency shelter services

Of the 344 adults that exited:

98 adults (29%) exited to permanent housing

313 adults (91%) adults exited shelter with economic support¹²

72 adults (21%) adults employed at program exit

YEAR 5 OUTCOMES (Youth Shelter)

62 unaccompanied homeless youth (age 12 to 19 years) entered SafePlace Shelter

19 youth (33%) exited shelter to permanent housing, 22 youth (39%) exited to transitional housing

¹² Economic Support is defined as income from one or more of the following: Social Security, TANF, Food Stamps, Veterans Benefits, Employment, Unemployment, Medicaid, and other income.

Goal 2: Move People Into Housing

It is informative to know people's living situation prior to entering shelter and/or housing programs for the period of July 2012 to June 2013. This data reflects those programs that enter client data into HMIS.

Sheltered and Housed Homeless Population: Prior Living Arrangement the Night before Program Entry	People Entering Shelter and/or Housing (Adults Only)	
		%
	882 Adults	
Total from Street and Shelter		
Place not meant for human habitation	174	20%
Emergency shelter or transitional housing	165	19%
Domestic violence shelter	0	0%
Total from "Housing"		
Rented or owned housing unit (voluntary/eviction/foreclosure)	117	13%
Staying with family/friends	273	31%
Total from Institutional Settings		
Psychiatric hospital	3	0%
Hospital	3	0%
Inpatient alcohol and drug treatment facility	10	1%
Jail, prison or juvenile detention center	14	2%
Other		
Other, unknown, or not reported by homeless	123	14%

Source: Washington County Homeless Program Homeless Management Information System data, July 2012 through June 2013

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

227 Days - Average Length of Stay (Shortest =5 day, Longest =1,281 days)

Transitional homeless programs operate under the administration of public, nonprofit and faith-based organizations that provide an array of supportive services to homeless households with moderate barriers to housing. The data reflects the homeless households that participated in the new HEARTH Act Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Rapid Re-Housing program.

- ✓ 5 units – Project Bloom is a new privately-funded transitional housing program that opened in September 2012.

YEAR 5 OUTCOMES

391 adults and 275 children (321 households) entered transitional housing

Of the 389 adults that exited:

184 adults (47%) exited to permanent housing

291 adults (75%) exited transitional housing with economic support

103 adults (26%) employed at program exit

RAPID RE-HOUSING (DIVERSION FROM THE HOMELESS SYSTEM)

Consistent with housing first, rapid re-housing provides short-term rent assistance and helps households locate affordable housing with the lease between the homeless household and landlord. This diverts the household from accessing more costly resources (e.g. shelter, transitional housing) and allows household to retain housing when re-housing assistance ends.

YEAR 5 OUTCOMES

78 adults and 48 children (64 households) entered a *diversion* program and received rapid re-housing assistance

Of the 51 adults that exited:

46 adults (90%) exited to permanent housing

40 adults (78%) exited with economic support

20 adults (39%) employed at program exit

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The national focus continues to prioritize funds to develop housing with supportive service programs for the chronically homeless populations. Washington County provides permanent supportive housing in a “housing first” model through rent assistance (housing at <30% AMI) linked with intense wrap-around client specific supportive services that assist homeless persons with disabling conditions move toward self-sufficiency.

Aligned with the federal priorities to end veteran and chronic homelessness by 2015, Washington County prioritized resources to serve these populations. New programs in Year 5 include:

- ✓ 35 units – A second round of HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program vouchers awarded May 2013, serving homeless veterans and their families. The Housing Authority of Washington County will administer the rent assistance for a total of 60 HUD-VASH units.
- ✓ 35 households – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs awarded \$176,615 to implement a new Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program for low-income and homeless veteran households in Washington County. Community Action is the local lead agency providing services and housing assistance under the SSVF program.
- ✓ 20 units – The Housing Authority of Washington County awarded Luke-Dorf, Inc. 90 units of Section 8 Project-based rent assistance to be phased-in over 3 years and leverages a special initiative funded by federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Cooperative Agreements for Benefits Homeless Individuals (CABHI) funds to provide permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals with mental illness. The new 90-unit Housing TEAM program will include 20 units in the first-year of the program, with an additional 30 units in year 2 and 40 units in year 3.
- ✓ 3 units – Shelter Plus Care Program, a rental assistance program administered by Washington County Housing Services in partnership with eight nonprofit service provider agencies, was awarded \$126,060 to serve chronically homeless individuals.
- ✓ 20 households - Springboard to Stability, Self-Sufficiency and Health (S4H) Program is a \$1.36 million HUD grant that will serve people with HIV/AIDS in the tri-county region, providing housing and services. This collaborative initiative combines the work of Cascade AIDS Project in providing rent assistance, case management and employment services, with employment and training services offered at WorkSource Portland Metro funded by WorkSystems, Inc.

- ✓ Tax Exemption Policy – The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved Ordinance 761 enabling the nonprofit low-income property tax exemption program on March 26, 2013. The City of Beaverton approved an ordinance enabling tax exemption in July 2013, with similar initiatives before local cities, Metro, and the Beaverton School District.
- ✓ Homeless Cost Study – To further support public policy and resource development, the Vision Action Network (VAN) and the Washington County Department of Housing Services convened a Homeless Cost Study Advisory Committee to provide oversight to the development of research on the high cost of providing services to chronically homeless individuals and families without a housing plan in-place. The Northwest Economic Research Center (NERC) with the Portland State University College of Urban and Public Affairs completed the research with a report due to be published in September 2013.

YEAR 5 OUTCOMES

126 adults and 29 children (116 households) entered housing

65 chronically homeless adults (52%) with disabilities entered housing

Of the 100 adults that exited:

58 adults (58%) exited permanent “supportive” housing to independent housing

100 adults (100%) exited with economic support

20 adults (20%) employed at program exit

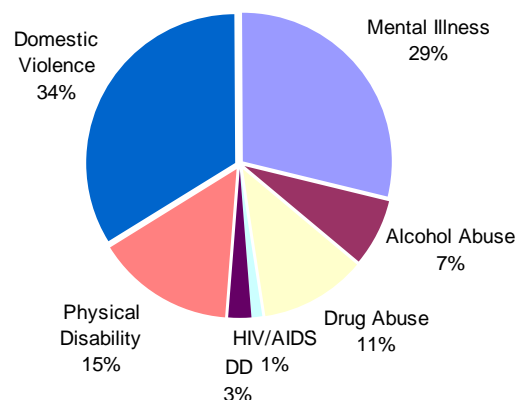
Goal 3: Link People to Appropriate Services and Remove Barriers

YEAR 5 OUTCOMES

559 adults entering homeless programs received specialized services.

- ✓ Provider agencies developed partnerships with the Oregon Health Authority to receive information on the Affordable Care Act. They will receive training on how to assist people to access insurance delivered by Cover Oregon and the Medicaid expansion programs administered by the Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO), to include Health Share of Oregon and Family Share Inc.
- ✓ Nearly 500 people received housing information and accessed on-site services at the 7th Annual Project Homeless Connect held January 25, 2013.
- ✓ HomePlate Youth Services expanded outreach services and opened a second drop-in center in Beaverton.
- ✓ 253,066 meals were provided in the 2012 Summer Lunch Program serving low-income and homeless youth below the age of 18 years. The program has expanded to affordable housing sites where extremely low-income and low-income households reside.

Services Provided for Special Need Populations



Goal 4: Increase Income Support and Economic Opportunities

YEAR 5 OUTCOMES

84% of participants left homeless programs with financial resources, as compared to 70% in 2008-09 (Year 1 of the 10-Year Plan).

SELF-SUFFICIENCY AT PROGRAM EXIT: ADULTS WITH EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT				
EMERGENCY SHELTER	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2012-13
Number of Adults (18+ Years)	279	343	358	344
Number of Adults with Employment Income	39	41	55	72 21%
Number of Adults with Economic Support*	243	284	286	313 91%
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2012-13
Number of Adults (18+ Years)	69	195	221	389
Number of Adults with Employment Income	36	68	72	103 26%
Number of Adults with Economic Support*	44	129	164	289 74%
RAPID RE-HOUSING* (PERMANENT HOUSING)	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2012-13
Number of Adults (18+ Years)				51
Number of Adults with Employment Income				20 39%
Number of Adults with Economic Support*				40 78%
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2012-13
Number of Adults (18+ Years)	27	62	73	100
Number of Adults with Employment Income	17	9	10	20 20%
Number of Adults with Economic Support*	21	44	64	100 100%

*Economic Support includes TANF, SSI/SSD, Food Stamp, Veteran Benefits, Medicaid, SCHIP (State Children Health Insurance), Employment Income

Note: *Rapid Re-Housing implemented in 2012-13. **Year 2011-12 data is not available

Source: Washington County Homeless Program Homeless Management Information System data, July 2012 through June 2013

Goal 5: Expand Data Collection

The 10-Year Plan embraces the concept that a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) will improve services by establishing and maintaining an information sharing system that supports quality programs, fosters cooperation, ensures privacy, and creates accurate information about homelessness and housing. Washington, Clackamas, and Multnomah counties each use *ServicePoint* HMIS, creating a contiguous jurisdiction within the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).

With the implementation of the HEARTH Act, data was extrapolated from HMIS to develop a “benchmark” that will be used for analysis on effectiveness in system changes and program performance. Benchmark data includes the “length of stay in homelessness” for all homeless participants in shelter and transitional housing programs, and agency “bed utilization rates”. The HSSN will use this data to promote a high performing CoC that quickly re-houses homeless people while minimizing trauma and dislocation, promotes greater access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs, and optimizes self-sufficiency among people experiencing homelessness.

In Year 6, HMIS data will gauge system and program performance as indicated by:

- ❖ The length of stay in homelessness being less than 20 days, or decreasing by 10% annually.
- ❖ Less than 5% of people leaving homelessness become homeless again within the next 2 years, or the percentage of people doing so decreases at least 20% annually.
- ❖ The HMIS having both a bed coverage rate and service coverage rate of at least 80%.

YEAR 5 OUTCOMES

2012 client data from Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for inclusion in the national 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report. The AHAR responds to a series of Congressional directives calling for the collection and analysis of data on homelessness at a local and national level, and informs Congress on future policy and funding decisions.

2013 Point-In-Time Homeless Count data entered into HMIS for de-duplication and submitted to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) for inclusion in the Oregon Homeless Count Report.

17 Annual Performance Reports (APR) prepared using HMIS and submitted to HUD on homeless demographics for clients receiving assistance in federally-funded McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance projects.

16 HMIS user licensed agencies (54 user licenses) provide data on clients accessing shelter, housing and service programs in Washington County, as compared to 11 user licensed agencies in Year 1 of the 10-Year Plan.

Goal 6: Implement Public Education on Homelessness

Through the collaborative efforts of the provider organizations participating in the Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN), the Interfaith Committee on Homelessness (IFCH), private citizens, and community advocates, a sustained community vision and prioritization of resources exists that works to address the issues around homelessness. Through education provided at community forums and service events, the public is informed and connected with opportunities to serve vulnerable populations seeking basic needs to address hunger, lack of housing and the need for health care services.

YEAR 5 OUTCOMES:

Real Choice: Building Sustainable Partnerships for Housing. On November 16, 2012, the Oregon Health Authority, in partnership with Sequoia Mental Health Services, Inc., hosted a one-day forum entitled Real Choice. The community-based initiative supports the Olmstead Decision and the Melville Act to encourage greater access to and more integrated housing and services for individuals with disabilities. Community stakeholders focused on existing policy, practice, partnership and program barriers related to housing and services for individuals with disabilities. The barriers identified will be addressed in a planning project beginning in July 2013 by Washington County Department of Housing Services, Community Action and Luke-Dorf, Inc.

ALIGNMENT WITH STATE AND NATIONAL PLANNING EFFORTS

STATE OF OREGON

The State of Oregon believes all people in Oregon should have the opportunity to be at home in their communities and to be physically, emotionally and economically healthy. **A Home For Hope: A 10-year plan to end homelessness in Oregon** was adopted in June 2008.

The Ending Homelessness Advisory Council (EHAC), created through Executive Order #06-05 on April 4, 2006, prepared the state's plan in partnership with representation from nonprofit, faith-based, state and local jurisdictions. The EHAC's goals and strategies identify key areas where state government will take the lead in eliminating barriers and improving systems. In April 2010, the Washington County Homeless Program Coordinator, Annette Evans, was appointed as an ex-officio member of the state EHAC.

The Legislature tasked two state agencies with carrying out the policy of preventing and ending homelessness under ORS458-528, Policy on Homelessness¹³, and created an Interagency Council on Hunger and Homelessness¹⁴ (ICHH) to coordinate their efforts. The ICHH is charged with engaging local governments to work towards preventing and ending homelessness.

The Housing and Community Services Department and the Department of Human Services shall serve as the lead agencies in administering the state policy regarding homelessness. The Interagency Council on Hunger and Homelessness shall advise the departments in carrying out the policy.”

“The departments and the council work to encourage innovation by state, regional and local agencies that will create the comprehensive and collaborative support system and housing resources vital for a successful campaign to end and prevent homelessness.

To view a copy of A Home For Hope or for more information on the EHAC, visit the state website. <http://www.ehac.oregon.gov/>

NATIONAL

On May 20, 2009, President Obama signed into law the **Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act**, which amends the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to change HUD's definition of homelessness, increase prevention resources, and emphasize outcomes. HEARTH Act regulations were released in 2012.

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness 2010 was released on June 22, 2010, and reflects interagency agreements on a set of priorities and strategies. The plan calls for agencies to end homelessness for veteran and chronic homeless persons by 2015 and among families and unaccompanied youth by 2020.

To view a copy of the Federal Strategic Plan
http://www.usich.gov/PDF/OpeningDoors_2010_FSPPreventEndHomeless.pdf

¹³ Oregon Policy On Homelessness, ORS 458.528 <https://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/458.528>

¹⁴ Oregon Interagency Council on Hunger and Homelessness, ORS 458.525
<https://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/458.525>

Acknowledgements to the 2013 Homeless Assessment Report

The 2013 Homeless Assessment Report is prepared by the Washington County Department of Housing Services in partnership with members of the Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN) and oversight provided by the Homeless Plan Advisory Committee (HPAC). Washington County gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution of time and expertise from many individuals and agencies that provide housing and services to the homeless men, women, and children living in our community. *A Road Home* recognizes the involvement of elected officials, community leaders and partner agencies who share the same vision to one day end homelessness for those persons seeking safe and stable housing.

HOMELESS PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HPAC)

- Commissioner Dick Schouten, Washington County
- Councilor Betty Bode, City of Beaverton
- Sheriff Pat Garrett, Washington County Sheriff Office
- Adolph 'Val' Valfre, Jr., Housing Authority of Washington County
- Eric Canon, Interfaith Committee on Homelessness
- Jerry Jones, Jr., Lanphere Construction
- Karen Shawcross, Bienestar
- Janice Burger, Providence Health System
- Jerralynn Ness, Community Action
- Reed Ritchey, Community Corrections, Washington County
- Michelle Whitney, Tuality Community Hospital
- Ramsay Weit, Citizen At-Large/Community Housing Fund
- Robin Shultz, Oregon Dept. of Human Services
- Roserria Roberts, United Way of the Columbia Willamette
- Russ Dondero, Citizen At-Large
- Stan Miller, Citizen At-Large
- David Roberts, Homeless Advocate

HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK (HSSN)

- 211info
- Beaverton First Baptist Church
- Beaverton School District
- Bienestar
- Boys And Girls Aid
- Boy Scouts of America, Troop 208
- Bridges To Change
- Calvin Presbyterian
- Cascade AIDS Project
- City of Beaverton
- City of Tualatin
- CODA, Inc.
- Commission on Children and Families
- Community Action Organization
- Community Partners for Affordable Housing
- Daytime Enrichment Activities & Recreation (DEAR)
- Department of Community Corrections, Wash. Co.
- Department of Housing Services, Wash. Co.
- Disability, Aging and Veteran Services, Wash. Co.
- Domestic Violence Resource Center
- Elders in Action
- Fair Housing Council & Housing Connections
- Families for Independent Living (FIL)
- Family Bridge/Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Forest Grove School District
- Forest Grove United Church of Christ
- Good Neighbor Center Shelter
- HomePlate
- Housing Authority of Washington County
- Housing Independence
- Impact NW
- Interfaith Committee on Homelessness
- Job Corps
- Jubilee Transition Homes
- LifeWorks NW
- Love Inc.
- Luke-Dorf, Inc.
- Lutheran Community Services NW
- Department of Mental Health, Wash. Co.
- Office of Community Development, Wash. Co.
- Oregon Department of Human Services
- Open Door Counseling Center
- Oregon Department of Education
- Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles
- Oregon Food Bank
- Oregon Housing and Community Services
- Pacific University
- Portland Community College
- Project Bloom
- REACH Community Development, Inc.
- Recovery Association Project (RAP)
- Rolling Hills Community Church
- Sequoia Mental Health Services Inc.
- Sheriff's Office, Washington County
- Social Security Agency
- Sunrise Church
- St. Anthony's Catholic Church (Tigard)
- St. Francis Catholic Church (Sherwood)
- SW Community Health Clinic
- The Salvation Army
- U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center
- Washington County Cooperative Library Services
- Washington County Reentry Council
- Willamette West Habitat for Humanity, Inc.
- Worksource Oregon

Appendix A

Oregon Department of Education

Students Experiencing Homelessness

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HOMELESS STUDENTS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Definitions of Homeless Children and Youth

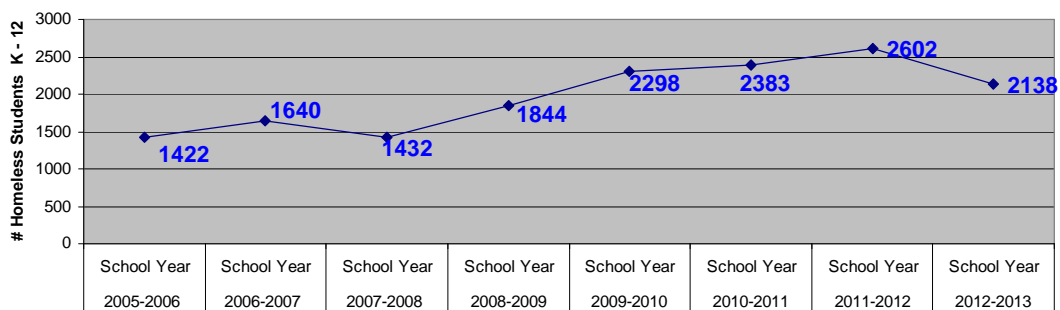
The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is part of the No Child Left Behind Act and is more commonly called “the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program”. Each school district is required to have a McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison to assist children and youth experiencing homelessness to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. Liaisons ensure students are enrolled in school, have the supplies they need and provide referrals to the community services for shelter, health care and counseling. This effort includes data reporting to state and federal officials.

As provided by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Liaison, the data below reflects those homeless children and youth (Kindergarten through 12 grade) who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who:

- *are sharing the housing of other persons (“doubled-up”) due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;*
- *are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of adequate alternative accommodations;*
- *are living in emergency or transitional shelters;*
- *are abandoned in hospitals; or*
- *are awaiting foster care placement;*
- *have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;*
- *are living in vehicles, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and*
- *are migrant children and youth (as defined under NCLB Title IC – Migrant Education) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described above.*

The Oregon Department of Education reports the following homeless students in Washington County:

Total Homeless Children in Washington County Schools



Homeless Students by School District (Washington County)

HOMELESS STUDENT COUNT (K-12): SCHOOL YEAR 2012-2013
 Total = 2,138 students in Washington County

Homelessness as a percent (%) of School District total Student Enrollment

School District	2011-12 School Year – Total Enrollment	2011-12 School Year (Homeless)	2011-12 % Homeless	2012-13 School Year – Total Enrollment	2012-13 School Year (Homeless)	2012-13 % Homeless
	84,715	2,602		84,087	2,138	
Banks	1,136	11	1.0%	1,138	2	0.2%
Beaverton	38,845	1,840	4.7%	39,417	1,379	3.5%
Forest Grove	6,017	102	1.7%	5,614	110	2.0%
Gaston	459	16	3.5%	564	12	2.1%
Hillsboro	20,723	411	2.0%	20,052	351	1.8%
Sherwood	4,844	94	1.9%	5,046	82	1.6%
Tigard-Tualatin	12,691	128	1.0%	12,256	202	1.6%

Source: District Total Student Enrollment and Homeless Student data provided by McKinney-Vento School Liaisons, September 2013

Tri-County and State of Oregon Homeless Student Data

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) reports the comprehensive statewide homeless data for School Year 2012-2013 will be published in December 2013.

This 2013 Homeless Assessment Report will be updated upon release of the ODE statewide data.