



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Katie Johnston, Neighborhood and Community Services, Interim Director
COPY: Community Vitality and Safety (CVS) Committee
PRESENTER: Katie Johnston, Interim Director
Caleb Carbone, Homelessness Strategy, Systems and Services Manager
SUBJECT: City's Emergency and Temporary Shelter Update
DATE: May 8th, 2025

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) staff will present a briefing regarding emergency and temporary shelter operations and funding for 307 beds throughout the Tacoma shelter system.

BACKGROUND:

NCS provided a quarterly update during the Council Study Session on March 18th, 2025. The City allocated \$21.4 million for homelessness services and programs in the approved 2025-2026 Biennium Budget. Of which \$3 million was one-time funding from the state to support the extension of temporary emergency shelter sites through June of 2025. The City made an additional request through the legislative process for \$12 million in operating dollars to maintain 307 shelter beds through June 2027. The Legislative Session finished April 27th, 2025, that included a budget for an annual allocation of \$58.8 million that is designated for grants supporting homeless housing programs and services in cities and counties. Although Tacoma isn't explicitly named in the proviso, legislative staff have verified the City of Tacoma is eligibility to seek these funds.

ISSUE:

The Legislature's stated intent is to maintain FY25 funding levels and prioritize grants that prevent program or bed closures, but the timeline for awarding these grants and the amount of the grant remains unclear. As the City seeks to understand how much and the timeline of available funds, staff also recognizes the importance of having a clear and responsible approach for the wind-down of temporarily funded sites, an approach that focuses on individualized support for people who are experiencing homelessness and the providers who are working to support these individuals.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.