



Homeless Services and Strategy Update

City of Tacoma | Neighborhood and Community
Services

City Council Study Session
September 9, 2025



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OVERVIEW



- Strategy Update
- Point-in-Time Count Data
- Inclement Weather Response
- Shelter Update

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Strategy Implementation

2025: 3rd Quarter Highlights

Goal 2: Access services and support


- Expanded inclement weather services with Saint Vincent DePaul Community Resource Center (Objective 2.1)
- Tacoma Rescue Mission & Pierce Transit Shuttle Van Transfer (Objective 2.4)
- Inclement Weather Taskforce and implementation (Objective 2.4)

Goal 3: Shelter system offers a safe and dignified experience

- Expand permanent shelter capacity with existing providers and shelters (Objective 3.1)
- Maintained 140 emergency and temporary shelter beds with Washington State Legislative Support
- Increasing ADA accessibility, meeting space, and inclement weather support at the Stability Site

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Strategy Implementation

2025: 4th Quarter Focus

Goal 2: Access services and support

- Increase inclement weather shelter access for unsheltered residents (Objective 2.1)
- Continue to work with local partners to collaborate and develop solutions for supportive housing units in Tacoma/Pierce County (Objective 2.4)
 - Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness Implementation Advisory Board
 - Pierce County Continuum of Care Board
 - Unified Regional Approach Participation
 - Pierce County Human Services Department

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Strategy Implementation



2025: 4th Quarter Focus

Goal 3: Access to Shelter

- Continue to engage with vulnerable populations to identify needs and find alternative solutions and providers (Objective 3.3)

Goal 4: Continuum of tailored supports

- Address disparities and disproportionalities in behavioral health, mental health, and substance use disorder treatment models (Objective 4.1, 4.2)
 - Additional Street Medicine funding award of \$1,432,000 for SFY 26-27 from Health Care Authority

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Point-in-Time Count



2024 & 2025 Pierce County PIT Count Data

	2024 Point-in-Time	2025 Point-in-Time
Individuals Experience Homelessness	2,661	2,955
Unsheltered	1,216 (46%)	1,433 (48%)
Sheltered	1,445 (54%)	1,522 (52%)
Total Households	2,184	2,534
Single Adults	2,025 (93%)	2,372 (94%)
Families with Children	143 (7%)	153 (6%)
Individuals 55 and older	541 (20%)	581 (20%)
Last Report Zip Code: Tacoma	626 (24%)	544 (18%)

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Point-in-Time Count



2024 & 2025 Tacoma PIT Count Data

	2024 Point-in-Time	2025 Point-in-Time
Individuals Experience Homelessness	1,864	2,037
Unsheltered	592 (32%)	878 (43%)
Sheltered	1,272 (68%)	1,159 (57%)
Total Households	1,528	1,707
Single Adults	1,390 (91%)	1,569 (92%)
Families with Children	116 (8%)	128 (7%)
Individuals 55 and older	408 (22%)	408 (20%)
Last Report Zip Code: Tacoma	604 (32%)	451 (22%)

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Inclement Weather Response Protocols



- Pierce County Human Services published a document that outlines criteria for escalating interventions and coordinated actions with partner agencies.
- During inclement weather events, daily conference calls will be coordinated by Pierce County Human Services and will include homeless services staff, volunteers, and other local jurisdictions and partnering agencies.
- Lastly, the City has reviewed the regional response and will align as much as possible with how it supports its services.

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Cold Weather Response



	Readiness Response	Tier 1 Response
Weather Thresholds	Three days before anticipated severe weather, will begin coordinated outreach efforts.	40°F daily low or below for three or more consecutive days, or when high wind events are anticipated.
Coordination	Provider Communication	Daily briefings; update and share communication materials. Flyers published and distributed with resources to services providers and volunteers.
Shelter activations	N/A	None
Supplies	Supplies are coordinated for delivery and/or drop off before readiness.	Funded providers, coalitions, and community partners will be notified and asked to share information and distribute emergency supplies to unhoused individuals.

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Cold Weather Response



	Tier 2 Response	Tier 3 Response
Weather Thresholds	35°F or below for 3 or more consecutive days; or snow/rain accumulation greater than 1 inch in a 24- hour period	32°F or below for 3 or more consecutive days; or snow/rain accumulation greater than 2 inch in a 24- hour period
Coordination	Daily briefings; update and share communication materials.	Daily briefings; update and share communication materials. Coordinate with EOC to waive public transportation fees to emergency shelter/center sites.
Shelter activations	Open short-term overnight emergency shelters in the City of Tacoma	Open emergency daytime and overnight warming centers and other public facilities
Supplies	Continue to pass out water, handwarmers, blankets, gloves, hats, and other supplies as needed.	Continue tier 2 supplies and distribution and coordination of Narcan, food, emergency/medical supplies, and pet supplies.

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2025-2026 Shelter Update

Funding	Shelter	Capacity	Anticipated Project Standdown
2025-2027 Legislative.	Bethlehem Baptist Church	40	June 2026*
2025-2027 Legislative.	Tacoma Emergency Micro-Shelter Site #3 - Low Income Housing Institute	60	June 2026*
2025-2027 Legislative.	Holy Rosary Safe Parking- Catholic Community Services	40	June 2026*
Baseline Budget	Stability Site- Catholic Community Services	100	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	Nativity House- Catholic Community Services	167	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	The Rescue Mission Adams Street Family Shelter	120	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	The Rescue Mission Adults Shelters	160	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	The Salvation Army	40	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	Beacon Young Adult Shelter- Valeo Vocations	50	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	Youth Crisis Residential Center	8	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter	56	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	Korean Women's Association Domestic Violence Shelter	19	Ongoing
Total beds		860	

*Shelter Beds are part of state funding (locations may need to change due to site planning)



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