



TO: Hyun Kim, Interim City Manager
FROM: Vicky McLaurin, Interim Director
Neighborhood & Community Services Department (NCS)
COPY: **Community Vitality & Safety Committee**
PRESENTERS: Caleb Carbone, NCS, Community Resources Analyst, Principal; Liza Burell,
Uncommon Bridges, Policy & Program Development Lead
SUBJECT: Unified Regional Approach to Homelessness
DATE: September 25, 2025

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Uncommon Bridges will present an update on the regions Unified Regional Approach and work to agree on and launch a more unified response to homelessness in order to substantially reduce homelessness so that it is rare, brief, and non-recurring across Pierce County.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2022, Pierce County officially adopted a [Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness](#). This plan aims to document the scale of the need and design a system to end homelessness in Pierce County and the plans first goal for implementation is to create a unified homeless response system, including a unified regional approach with central decision-making authority of funding and services. In September 2022, Pierce County Human Services contracted with Social Change Partners who helped Pierce County with research on what a Unified Regional Approach would look like in Pierce County. In December 2023, the Pierce County Council budgeted \$1M towards consultant services to advance a Unified Regional Approach for coordinating a homeless response in Pierce County. After a competitive process, Uncommon Bridges was awarded the contract.

ISSUE:

[The City of Tacoma's Homelessness Strategy](#), published in September 2022, also described the significance of thinking strategically about aligning with a regional and local approach, especially with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness. This approach is to not only help increase shelter capacity and services across the system, but additionally to relieve the heavily weighted shelter capacity in the city while shifting our efforts to a central solution resulting in increased homeless services and resources.

Many factors are necessary to having an effective homelessness response system which include effective management, sufficient resources, coordination among those resources, accountability, transparency, and skilled leadership. A unified approach will enable an understanding of the entire need in the community and allow elected leaders, jurisdictional staff, providers, volunteer and community members, and businesses to allocate resources that meet the need.



ALTERNATIVES:

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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