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FROM: Vicky McLaurin, Interim Director
Neighborhood & Community Services Department (NCS)
COPY: **Community Vitality & Safety Committee**
PRESENTERS: Caleb Carbone, NCS, Community Resources Analyst, Principal
SUBJECT: Inclement Weather Response
DATE: August 28, 2025

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Neighborhood and Community Services will present the City of Tacoma collaborate approach to the county's tiered activation thresholds and response protocols for severe weather events, including extreme cold, heat, and poor air quality.

BACKGROUND:

Throughout March of 2025, an Inclement Weather Taskforce that was made up from regional jurisdictions, human service provider, and community organizers came together weekly with a primary focus to coordinate access to additional temporary shelter beds, day centers and other supplies, such as water, food, transportation for people who are living unsheltered. Additionally, to the coordinate access, recommendations were established on specific tiered thresholds on when areas in Pierce County should respond and what services they should offer. This approach allows residents and service providers to understand one approach throughout the region and give them confidence on when they should expect to respond during an inclement response regardless of where they are providing services.

ISSUE:

Pierce County Human Services established a document that outlines criteria for escalating interventions and coordinated actions with partner agencies to safeguard vulnerable populations, particularly individuals experiencing homelessness. These measures ensure timely resource deployment, public communication, and service provision during periods of elevated environmental risk.

During inclement weather events, daily conference calls will be coordinated by Pierce County Human Services Homeless Services staff and include other local jurisdictions and all partner agencies and any other stakeholders.

Lastly, the City has reviewed the regional response and will align as much as possible with how it supports existing and new services, communication plan, thresholds, requirements for warming and cooling center, and identifying eligible activities in our contract negotiations.



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.