



Homeless Services Update

City of Tacoma | Neighborhood and Community Services

City Council Study Session
December 13th, 2022



Overview



- Inclement Weather Response
- Implementation of Tacoma Municipal Code 8.19
- Shelter Update
- Strategy Update
- Next Steps

Inclement Weather Response



	Cold Weather	Supplies	Shelter
Tier 1	32 Degrees or 35 degrees with rain/wind	Supplies provided or Reimbursement depending on Need and Shelter Type; Heat events – Water for distribution; Air events – masks for distribution	Existing Shelters overflow during Inclement weather with additional seasonal weather beds as needed.

Inclement Weather Additional Capacity



Type	Shelter	Number of Beds	Opening Date
Seasonal	Tacoma Rescue Mission- Holy Rosary	50	November 29 th , 2022
Inclement Weather	Tacoma Rescue Mission- Holy Rosary	20	November 29 th , 2022
Inclement Weather	Tacoma Rescue Mission- Forging Path Community	15	December 2022
Inclement Weather	Catholic Community Services- Nativity House	40	November 1 st , 2022
Inclement Weather	Life Enrichment Group- Beacon Youth Shelter	20	November 1 st , 2022

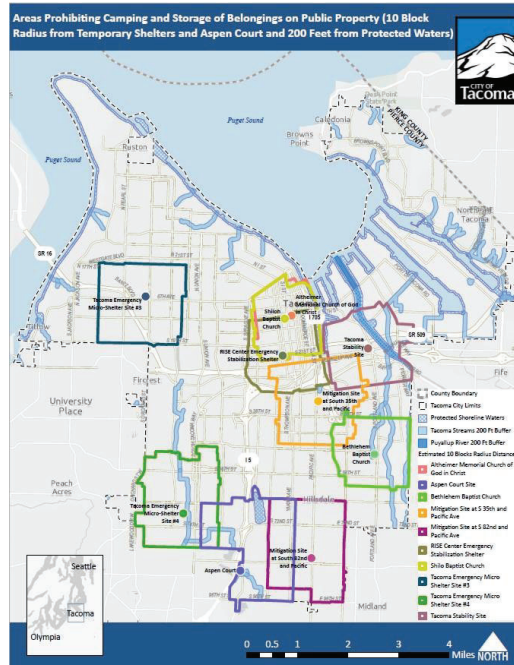
Total beds 145

Implementation of TMC 8.19

- Schedule available at cityoftacoma.org/encampments

Areas currently sufficiently noticed:

- Mitigation Site at 35th and Pacific Ave
 - Sufficiently Noticed on November 18th
 - Cleanup at STW near TRM
 - Cleanup at I-705/38th
 - 26th and Pacific Avenue
- Tacoma Stability Site
 - Sufficiently Noticed on December 2nd
- Bethlehem Baptist
 - Sufficiently Noticed on December 9th



Shelter Update

Forging Path Community, Tacoma Rescue Mission

- Opened on November 16th, 2022
- 50 beds

Freedom Project, Brotherhood RISE

- Expected to be opened in February 2023
- 16 Units

Safe Parking

- Expected to be opened in January 2023
- Community Meeting on January 4th, 2023
- 20 vehicles and not to exceed 40 people





Shelter Update



SHELTER TYPE	SHELTER	NUMBER OF BEDS
Temporary	Bethlehem Baptist Church	40
Temporary	Alzheimer Memorial Church	32
Temporary	Shiloh Baptist Church	40
Emergency	Stability Site- Catholic Community Services	100
Emergency	Tacoma Emergency Micro-Shelter Site #3- Low Income Housing Institute	60
Emergency	Veteran's Village- Forward Operating Base Hope	35
Emergency	Tacoma Emergency Micro-Shelter Site #4 - Low Income Housing Institute	85
Emergency	Aspen Court- Low Income Housing Institute	100
Emergency	Forging Path Community-Tacoma Rescue Mission	50
Permanent	Nativity House- Catholic Community Services	167
Permanent	The Rescue Mission Adams Street Family Shelter	120
Permanent	The Rescue Mission Adults Shelters	160
Permanent	The Salvation Army	76
Permanent	Beacon Young Adult Shelter- Life Enrichment Group	50
Permanent	Youth Crisis Residential Center	12
Permanent	YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter	56
Permanent	Korean Women's Association Domestic Violence Shelter	18
Total beds		1201



Shelter Update (County)



Status	Type of Shelter	Location	Number of Units
Newly Operated	Micro-shelter	Fife	10
Newly Operated	Hotel Voucher	Puyallup	5
Newly Operated	House-Base Shelter	Scattered	50
Newly Operated	Congregate Shelter	City of Tacoma	15
Pending	Micro-shelter	Unincorporated Pierce County	65
Pending	RV Safe Parking	Unincorporated Pierce County	20
Pending	Hotel Voucher	Fife	20
Pending	Hotel Conversion	Lakewood	80
Notice of Funding Available	Micro-shelter	TBD	65
Notice of Funding Available	Shelter Access Hub	TBD	30
Notice of Funding Available	Micro-shelter	Parkland	65
Notice of Funding Available	Respite	TBD	100
Total			525



Homeless Strategy

Ensure Affordable Housing

Goal 1 Objectives

- Objective 1.1: Create more housing for more people
- Objective 1.2: Preserve existing affordable housing
- Objective 1.3: Help people stay in their homes and communities
- Objective 1.4: Reduce barriers for people who often experience them

Previous

- Leveraged publicly and partner-owned land for affordable housing (AHAS 1.4)
- Increased prevention services and funding for people who are on the verge of homelessness (PCCP 3.1)
- Integrated culturally competent and trauma informed practices into new and existing programs (AHAS 2.5)

Immediate (<1 year)

- Create flexibility in contracting so providers can address various barriers

Access Services and Support



Goal 2 Objectives

- Objective 2.1: Provide access to hygiene, outreach, and seasonal weather shelter for unhoused residents of Tacoma.
- Objective 2.2: Streamline access to services through improved tracking and coordination to support unhoused residents in Tacoma.
- Objective 2.3: Deploy targeted strategies to reduce barriers and increase access for priority populations to shelter, treatment and permanent housing.
- Objective 2.4: Collaborate with community and businesses to mitigate the impacts of homelessness.

Previous

- Hire additional Program Development Specialists for the HEAL Team.
- Eliminate known barriers to accessing shelter.

Immediate (<1 year)

- Coordinate internal and external partners before people exit facilities into homelessness.
- Establish strategic outreach schedule with HEAL Team and service providers.
- Collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data from those with lived experience.
- Develop a targeted approach for BIPOC populations from homelessness into sustainable housing
- Visual Dashboard to track fluidity of services and shelters access (PCCP 5.8)

Short-Term (1-2 years)

- Create a "By-Name List". (PCCP 5.1)
- Create and implement outreach processes and capacity that allows for on-demand services
- Directly fund expansion of detox for immediate access to treatment facilities.
- Implement protocol to strengthen the referral process to shelter and services (PCCP 2.3)
- Continue to work with local stakeholders to collaborate and develop solutions for supportive housing units in Tacoma/Pierce County.

Shelter system offers a safe and dignified experience



Goal 3 Objectives

- Objective 3.1: Ensure adequate shelter capacity through diversity of shelter models.
- Objective 3.2: Support Faith-based and non-profit organizations shelter capacity and ability to provide access to everyone.
- Objective 3.3: Reduce barriers to shelter for all individuals experiencing homelessness including Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC); Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual/Allies, and more (LGBTQIA+); Youth and Young Adults, and those that are differently abled.

Previous

- Contracted with new providers and implemented new shelter models that targeted priority populations and reduced barriers to accessing shelter.
- Modified existing temporary shelter regulations to allow for more Faith-based and Non-profit organizations to provide additional shelter beds.
- Supported Faith-based and Non-profit organizations with the permitting process and funding for homeless shelters.
- Published weekly reporting on shelter bed utilization, capacity, and availability (PCCP 2.6)

Immediate (<1 year)

- Coordinate shelter providers to create accessible intake services in partnership with HEAL Team (PCCP 4.2)
- Prioritize access to behavioral health services by including it in all shelter provider contracts (PCCP 5.4)
- Increase shelter staff workforce by prioritizing funding for training academy
- Published daily and month reporting on shelter bed utilization, capacity, and availability (PCCP 2.6)

Short-Term (1-2 years)

- Expand permanent shelter capacity with existing providers and shelters
- Continue to engage with targeted populations to identify needs and find alternative solutions and providers.
- Standardize training with providers in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Continuum of tailored supports



Goal 4 Objectives

- Objective 4.1: Ensure access to services that feel welcoming and dignified and reflect the City's commitment to ensuring evidence-based models that are antiracist and trauma informed.
- Objective 4.2: Ensure the system of supports includes welcoming and culturally appropriate mental and behavioral health services, including substance-use supports.
- Objective 4.3: Ensure the system of supports includes transportation, education, financial, employment, and recreational services that empower individuals to thrive.

Previous

- Collaborated and align with Pierce County on MHSUD tax system and interventions.
- Built in training and technical assistance for funded providers and NCS Department staff.
- Established rental assistance program that targets BIPOC residents facing economic hardships (AHAS 4.1)
- Address residents who entered the therapeutic mental health court and have become homeless while incarcerated.
- Increased food access program.
- Support a Housing Navigator program (AHAS 4.1)

Immediate (<1 year)

- Prioritize funding that provide tailored interventions that reduce racial disparities (PCCP Goal 2).
- Prioritize programming to direct trauma-informed care treatment and interventions.
- Collect data and disaggregated racial demographics and collaborate with systems (PCCP 4.5)
- Invest in direct MHSUD interventions that meet best-practice standards.
- **Coordinate and centralize outreach service during encampment removals.**
- **Increase Temporary Financial Assistance**
- Enhance Housing Navigation programs

Access to permanent, stable housing



Goal 5 Objectives

- Objective 5.1: Increase the number of permanent and stable housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness.
- Objective 5.2: Ensure adequate supportive services for permanent and stable housing opportunities.
- Objective 5.3: Streamline access and reduce disproportionalities to permanent and stable housing placement with targeted strategies that address barriers experienced by priority populations*.

Previous

- Acquisition of Aspen Court to use for Permanent Supportive Housing long-term

Short-Term (1-2 years)

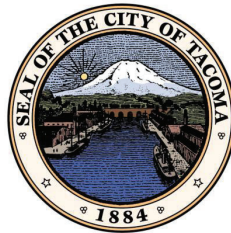
- Rapid rehousing programs to help quickly find permanent housing through a tailored package of rental assistance (PCCP 6.2)
- **Support existing service and shelters providers transition into providing housing and housing services to maintain continuum of care.**
- Increase services to enhance life skills and maintain adequate housing.



Next Steps



- Community meeting on safe parking site
- Continued collaboration with community stakeholders
- Continued work to address immediate action steps
- Continued implementation of Tacoma Municipal Code 8.19



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